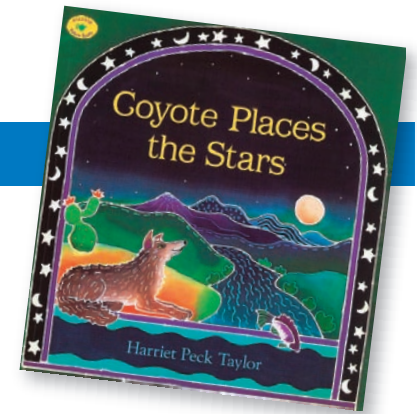


# Coyote Places the Stars



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Myths, American Indian Culture, Astronomy

**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** A Wasco Indian legend explains how Coyote put the stars in the sky.

**Author and Illustrator:**

Harriet Peck Taylor

**Content Connections:**  
Science



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Who is on the front cover? What do

you think the title means? What kind of animal is a coyote? Where do they live? What can you predict about the story based on the title?

**The Pictures:** For younger students, look through the first couple of pages. Discuss how the pictures give you clues about the setting of the story. Where and when does the story look like it takes place?

**Prior Knowledge:** Show students pictures of coyotes and explain where they live. Talk about nocturnal animals. Also explain that it is easier to see the stars

in areas like the desert where there are no artificial lights. Do any of your students live out in the country where it's easy to see the stars? Ask students what a legend is. Can they think of any examples?

**Vocabulary:** canyon, swiftly, feast, gazing, arranged

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice sequencing: "As we read today, think about the order of events in this story."



## WHILE WE READ



### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Where did Coyote want to go?
- ◆ How did he get there?

- ◆ What did he do while he was on the moon?
- ◆ What did he do when he returned to the desert?
- ◆ Why did he make the constellations he made?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: "What happened first in the story? What happened next? Why is the order of events important?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** A long time ago, people used to make up stories to explain things they didn't understand. What does this legend explain? Have students make up their own stories about how the sun, moon or stars got in the sky. Create a new legend as a class or let students work alone or in small groups.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's  
©2011 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is  
Fundamental