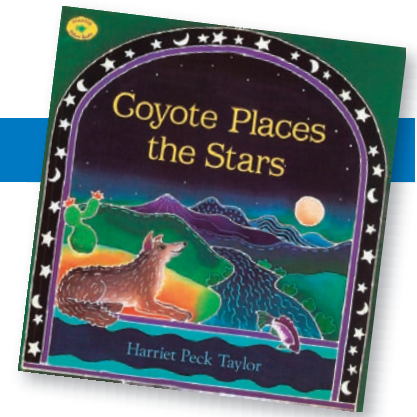


Coyote Places the Stars



A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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

TIME TO READ!

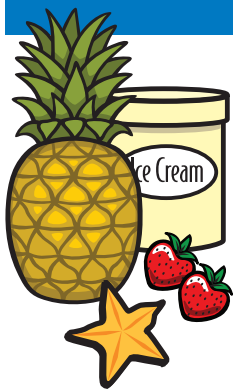
Before reading, make connections: Look at the cover and the first few pages. Where does the story take place? How is this place different from where you live? What does the title tell us?

While reading, look at the pictures: How do the illustrations help you to understand the story? Point out the constellations in the pictures.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Coyote want to climb to the heavens?
- ◆ How did he get there?
- ◆ What did he do to the stars?
- ◆ What are these star shapes called?
- ◆ What do you dream about when you look at the stars?

RELATED ACTIVITIES



STAR FRUIT SALAD

Ingredients: pineapple slices, star fruit, strawberries, or any other fruit that your child likes

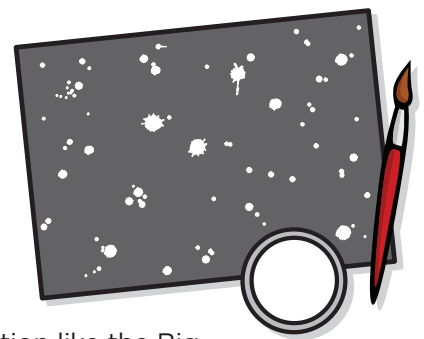
Slice the fruit into bite-sized pieces. Mix the fruit together into a glass bowl. Spoon into smaller bowls to serve. Add yogurt or ice cream if desired.

PAINT SPECK CONSTELLATIONS

Materials: black construction paper, white or silver paint, paint brushes or old toothbrushes and popsicle sticks

Dip paint brush in paint. Move brush over paper and tap lightly to shake off specks of paint. Try to make a pattern that looks like the night sky. Older children can try to

make a real constellation like the Big Dipper or Draco. If you use an old toothbrush, run bristles over a popsicle stick to flick off the paint like stars. (A good source for star charts is www.spaceplace.nasa.gov.)



OUT AND ABOUT

Go outside on a clear night and look at the stars. Try to find some of the constellations. A long time ago, people made up stories about the sky to explain these constellations. Go online to print out a star map for the night you choose: www.kidsastronomy.com/astroskymap/constellations.htm.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Coyote and the Laughing Butterflies (1996), *Secrets of the Stone* (2000), *When Bear Stole the Chinook* (1997), *Brother Wolf: A Seneca Tale* (1996).



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