



Coyote and the Fish Trap - Past Tense Verbs

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- Time Immemorial
- History
- Identity
- Language

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to recognize a language that is not their own.
- Students will be able to identify if the story is from the past, present or future.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

- Connecting to the lives of students
- Preserving and honoring cultural history
- Student talk, working together and individually

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on their participation in group discussions and the group activity.

Overview

In this lesson, students will hear a Traditional Grand Ronde story about how Willamette Falls was made and be able to identify that the story is from the distant past. Students will work together to identify past-tense verbs and eventually hear the story in chinuk wawa, the Native language of the Grand Ronde people.

MATERIALS

- Coyote and the Fish Trap [Text](#) or [Read Aloud](#)
- Mini whiteboards (or clipboards with paper)
- Coyote and the Fish Trap [read aloud in chinuk wawa](#)

LOGISTICS

- Where does this activity take place?
Classroom
- How are the students organized?

Whole Class Teams: 3-5

Pairs Individually

TIME REQUIRED

45 minutes

STANDARDS

Oregon Social Science Academic Content Standards

Geography 2.13 Identify the cultural characteristics of my group identity, (including race, culture, and gender) and of the local community.

Historical Knowledge 2.16 Identify the history and narratives of traditionally included and excluded individuals, groups, and circumstances, that impact the local community including individuals who are American Indian/Alaska

Native/Native Hawaiian or Americans of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, or Middle Eastern descent; individuals from all religious backgrounds; and individuals from traditionally marginalized groups.

Historical Knowledge 2.17 Identify and describe community celebrations, landmarks, symbols from a variety of traditions and explain why they are significant to the cultural heritage of members of the community.

Historical Thinking 2.18 Differentiate between events that happened in the recent and distant past.

Background for Teachers

Coyote and the Fish Trap is a traditional Grand Ronde story of how Coyote created Willamette Falls to benefit tribal people. Today, Willamette Falls is an important place to the people of Grand Ronde and they continue to return there to fish and harvest lamprey.

The illustrations in this book were inspired by basket designs from tribes along the Columbia River. The basket design illustrations demonstrate how Grand Ronde stories are woven through our history and have survived through Termination and still thrive in our community today.

The language seen in the book is called “chinuk wawa”. Chinuk wawa is Grand Ronde’s traditional language and is still spoken today.

VOCABULARY

- **coyote** - a wild member of the dog family known for his cleverness and nighttime howls
- **waterfall** - a place in a river where water spills suddenly downward
- **harpoon** - a barbed spear used especially in hunting large fish or whales
- **salmon** - a large salmon of the northern Pacific Ocean that has red flesh and is used as food

Opening

Before starting this lesson go over past and present tense with students. If students have not been introduced to past and present tense verbs then go over some examples. To help demonstrate these verbs you could have students act the verb out and then make sentences for them and have students tell you which sentence is correct.

For example: Say the word dance. Have students get up and act out the verb. Now write the sentence, “I just danced.” on the board and circle the ending -ed. Explain to students that when a verb changes from present tense to past tense, we add an -ed to the end of that word. We do this to show that something has already happened. For example, “yesterday we dance a lot at our dance party” or would you say, “yesterday we danced a lot at our dance party.” Which sounds better?

Activity

1. Explain to students that they will hear a traditional Grand Ronde story about how Willamette Falls was made.
2. Before reading the story, read the back cover of the book so students have some background information about the story.
3. Teachers may also want to point out that Willamette Falls is in Oregon City and still exists today. Use the included map of Oregon to show students where they live in relation to Willamette Falls today.
4. Pass out the mini white boards to each student.
5. Explain to students that as they hear the story, the teacher will stop and ask them if the sentence is in past or present tense. They will have to write PAST or PRESENT on their boards. The teacher may want to write these two words on the board for them to help speed up the process in case students don't know how to spell those words yet.
6. Begin reading the story. After the first page, ask students if they think the story is going to be about the present or past. Have students write their answers on their boards.
7. Ask students to share with a partner and explain why they think their answer is correct.
8. Share with students that this story is in the past. The word myth tells us that this story is from the distant past or a long time ago.
9. Continue reading the story.
10. Stop at words like arrived, traveled, fixed, etc. And have students write their answers of PAST or PRESENT on their boards to share.

Closure

To close the lesson, play the recorded version of the story that is in chinuk wawa. While students listen to the story, have students draw and color a picture of Coyote at Willamette Falls.

Differentiation

- Teachers may use this lesson as an activity for small-group work.

Extension

- This lesson can be paired with 2.ELA.Coyote and the Fish Trap - Writing to create a small unit.

Notes/Other

Jan Michael Looking Wolf's or Grand Ronde Canoe Family audio tracks can be played as background music while students are working. These audio tracks can be found on Spotify or Apple Music.

Jan Michael Looking Wolf: [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#)
Grand Ronde Canoe Family: [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#)

Appendix

- Coyote and the Fish Trap text: Available online at the link below or in hard copy by request to the CTGR Curriculum Specialist :
 - PDF: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h34sVLD6_tfh9TtkZtKaKNB5hgDuycSN/view?usp=sharing
 - Hard Copy: <https://forms.gle/Nsj41Eh7RRrM3zGNA>
 - Read Aloud: <https://youtu.be/rzSLcfyl1GE?list=PLA33xEMg9mbqQFEHKsyocT3YRdmzZlneX>
- Coyote and the Fish Trap read aloud in chinuk wawa
 - <https://youtu.be/nDRxgCbLPKQ?list=PLA33xEMg9mbqQFEHKsyocT3YRdmzZlneX>