



Lesson: Forest Stories

Grade Level: K-12

Activity Duration: 1 hour

Objectives:

- Students will learn about the location of different Montana Indian reservations and the tribes that inhabit them
- Students will identify that each tribal nation has a distinct cultural heritage

Kit Materials:

- *Montana Indians: Their History and Location* booklet
- Story: "How Porcupine Got Quills"
- Animal skulls

Classroom Materials:

- Writing paper
- Blank paper
- Art supplies

Lesson Procedure:

1. Depending on grade level, either read the traditional story provided in the kit to your students or have them read it independently/in groups.
2. Guide a discussion about the story, based on the language arts standards that you would like to cover. These stories are particularly good for discerning a message or moral. Use the list provided for suggestions on which groups of standards are most applicable.
3. Ask students to contemplate the degree to which the story addresses elements of the Yellowstone ecosystem. Is the animal the only character? What do you know about the other living things in the story?
4. Place the skulls on a desk or table and review what your class knows about each of the animals. Are they a predator? What do they like to eat? What kind of habitat do they have?
5. Ask students to construct a story about one of the animals. Their story should include information about the animal's habitat, behavior, and place on the food chain.
6. Illustrate the stories, using the skulls for guidance :)