Lesson Question

Lesson Goals

Read “The Chenoo” from *When the Chenoo Howls* by Joseph and James Bruchac.

Explore characteristics of a

Connect the purpose of a legend to its

Story.

Words to Know

Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may also use the glossary to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a short statement of the main points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a message an author would like the reader to understand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to join or link together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a piece of cultural history that is shared through songs and spoken words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a story passed down from the past</td>
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</tbody>
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Stories over the Generations

Stories have been passed around at campfires and other gatherings for generations. These include:

- Stories about ___________ and family histories
- Local legends and ___________ stories
Caretakers of the Earth

By planting seeds and growing

By saving energy and

By keeping land, air, and water

By caring for

How do people show they care for the Earth?

Oral Traditions

An oral tradition is a piece of history that is shared through and spoken words.

Examples of oral tradition

• Legends
• Folktales
• Urban

Examples of “going viral”

• Social media entries
• Blog posts
• Videos
Legends
A legend is a handed down from one generation to the next as an oral tradition.

- : King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table
- : Alice in Wonderland

American Indian Legends
American Indian legends often:

- Connect to the Earth and
  - Sun, moon, and stars
  - Plants and animals
  - Weather and
- Teach a lesson
- Include creatures
Joseph Bruchac (b. 1942) and James Bruchac (b. 1968)

- Joseph Bruchac lives near New York's Adirondack Mountains.
- Joseph Bruchac's stories often focus on the tribe of his ancestry.
- Joseph Bruchac's oldest, James, also tells traditional American Indian stories.
- The Bruchacs tell stories together and separately in classrooms and at museums and festivals.

Theme

A **theme** is a story's about life and the human experience.

- Comes out of a broader
- Is usually stated in the text

**Theme:**

- There's no place like home.
- You should appreciate those at home.

**Not a theme:**

- Family
- Dorothy's journey to Oz
## Connecting Theme to Legends

A theme is an overall message of a story. Identifying the theme of a legend teaches can help you understand the theme of the story.

### Identifying the Theme of a Legend

To identify the theme of a legend, analyze __________ that tell:

- how characters treat nature.
- how characters __________.
- what is explained about nature.
- what the characters __________ from the story.
Analyzing Details That Point to Theme

Underline the text in the passage that points toward its theme.

On the third day, however, while out hunting, the brothers came across a very large set of footprints. Those footprints were over two feet long and ten feet apart. Kneeling down, Awasos, the older of the two brothers, carefully inspected each track.

“Great-grandfather told me of a creature that makes tracks like this. It is called a Chenoo.”

—“The Chenoo,”
Joseph and James Bruchac
Caretakers of the Earth: Examining the Legend of “The Chenoo”

Instruction

Part 2

Summarizing a Story

A summary is a [ ] version of a story. It contains only the most [ ] ideas and events.

When you summarize, you:

• [ ], or use your own words to describe the central ideas and events.

• include only those details that support the important events.

• describe events in the order in which they occur.

• keep the description [ ].

• keep the description [ ].
Thinking about Important Events

**detail:** The siblings try to keep the Chenoo occupied.

**Important detail:** Once the Chenoo is busy, the siblings can escape.

**detail:** The bucket was made of birch bark.

*Underline the important details in the passage.*

The two men and their sister piled one glowing rock after another in the center of the lodge. Then, after placing a large birch-bark bucket full of water just inside the door of the lodge, they closed the flap. Moments later, a loud hissing sound came from inside the lodge as the Chenoo began to pour water on the rocks.

“Now is our chance to make a run for it,” Nolka whispered to her brothers.

—“The Chenoo,”

*Joseph and James Bruchac*
Summary

Caretakers of the Earth: Examining the Legend of “The Chenoo”

Lesson Question

How can studying a genre help you understand the theme of a story?

Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.