

Continuing Learning

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Level: Grades K -7

Category: Literacy/Art

Title of Lesson:

Storytelling: The Mountain of SGaana

Content/Objective:

Traditional Indigenous oral storytelling portrays Indigenous people's relationships to land and to animals, usually taking characters into supernatural realms where animals live. Chris Aucter's animation, *The Mountain of SGaana* uses aspects of traditional oral storytelling. We will: find out how Chris tells this Haida story; retell it orally and by drawing it.

Materials and Technology Needed:

- Access to the internet with the ability to stream video.
- ***The Mountain of SGaana***, by Christopher Aucter, Haida Animator National Film Board Webpage. **Free Viewing Link:**
https://www.nfb.ca/film/mountain_of_sgaana/
- Paper, Pencils/Pens, Pencil Crayons/Crayons

Task Instructions:

1. **Explain to the students:** Indigenous cultures pass knowledge and history from generation to generation through oral traditions. Look for ways that the animation tells the story visually.
2. **Watch:** *The Mountain of SGaana*.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/mountain_of_sgaana/
3. **Ask:**
 - How does Chris Aucter tell this Haida story?
 - What happened in the story? Retell what you remember.
 - What did you notice about time and place in the story?
 - What was your favorite part?
4. **Make a story web:**
Make a story-web. Put *The Mountain of SGaana* in the middle of the page and circle it. Create a web of characters and plot connecting it out from the title. Use it to re-tell the story to a family member or friend.

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5. Use the story web to make an **art piece**. With a pencil, draw what you put in your story web on a piece of paper. Take time over the next few days to color it after you are finished drawing it.

Adaptations/Adjustments: (consider different environments)

Retell as much of the story you can remember. Share whether you liked it or not.

Extensions (Optional):

Ask an adult family member about a story that was told to them when they were a child. Will they share it with you? Do they have a favorite story? Are there any that relate to your culture or someone else's?

My favorite Haida stories are: Raven Steals the Sun, and Raven and the Big Fisherman - which leads into Raven and the Broken Beak.

Lesson by:

Robin Roberts

Indigenous Resource Teacher

Central West Zone

