



**Why Deer Stares**  
Bella Bella

STORY CARDS: NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN TALES  
by Susannah J. Clark, illustrated by Ken Rainbow Cougar Edwards  
PRO LINGUA ASSOCIATES  
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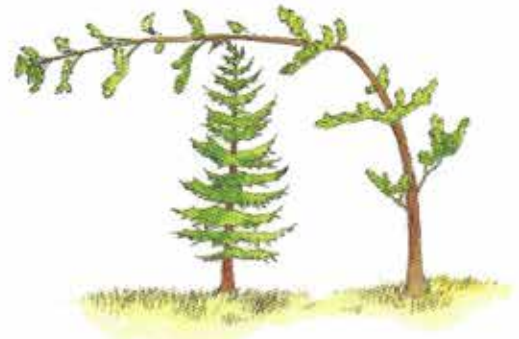
**The Creation of Strawberries**  
Concow Maidu

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**Why Buffalo Has a Hump**  
Ojibwa

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**Hemlock**  
Seneca

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## **The Creation of Strawberries**

*Concow Maidu*

The Creator was making an unusual fruit when Coyote came along. "What are you doing?" he asked.

"I am making a special fruit for old people," the Creator said. "It has no seeds to get caught in their teeth."

Coyote thought this was funny. "All fruit has seeds," he said, and just as the Creator finished making the fruit, Coyote threw a handful of small seeds. They stuck on the skin of the fruit. That is why the strawberry's seeds are on the outside.

1 (S:11)

## **Why Deer Stares**

*Bella Bella*

Deer was burning the outside of his canoe to clean it. Some people who were camped across the river started dancing, and Deer began to watch. He became so interested in the dance that he forgot to pay attention to his canoe, which caught fire. The dancers called to Deer, "Your canoe is burning," but Deer kept watching the dance, and his canoe burned to ashes. Ever since that time, Deer has no canoe, and when he sees people, he watches them and pays no attention to anything else.

2 (S:3)

## **Hemlock**

*Seneca*

The trees were arguing about which of them was the strongest. First the oak tree said it was the strongest. Then the elm tree said it was. But one young pine tree boasted louder than any of the others that it was stronger than all the other trees. A very old pine tree became angry with its nephew. "You think you are so strong?" it asked. The old pine pressed down on the young tree's head so hard that the young tree shrank, and its branches crowded together. Now we call the young tree Hemlock, and it does not grow so tall.

3 (S:7)

## **Why Buffalo Has a Hump**

*Ojibwa*

Buffalo loved to run across the prairie. One day he ran to a place where the ground birds built their nests. They screamed at Buffalo because he was trampling their children, but he kept running and did not stop.

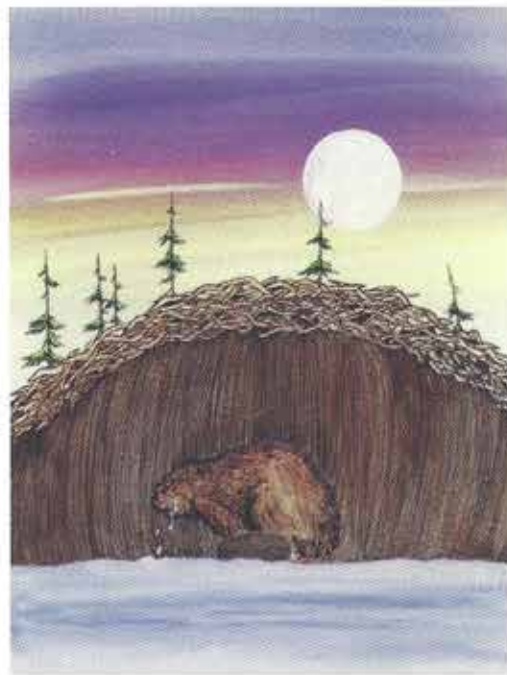
Suddenly the Great Spirit appeared. He beat Buffalo on the shoulders with a stick, but Buffalo just humped up his shoulders so he would not feel the blows. Buffalo's arrogance angered the Great Spirit, who shouted, "From now on you will always carry a hump on your shoulders, and you will carry your head low in shame for your unkindness to the birds."

4 (S:6)



## ***Night and Day***

*Iroquois*



## ***Man in the Moon***

*Lillooet*

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## ***Coyote Takes Water from the Frogs***

*Kalapuya*



## ***The Origin of Cedar Trees***

*Haida*

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## *Man in the Moon*

*Lillooet*

Beaver fell in love with the three Frog sisters. He went to the swamp where they lived. "Will one of you marry me?" he asked them. But the three Frog sisters were mean, and they laughed at Beaver and called him names. Beaver was so heart-broken that he ran home and cried for days.

He cried so much that his tears flooded the Frog sisters' swamp. They had to find a safe place from the flood, so they swam to Beaver's house and asked if they could come in. But Beaver remembered the names they had called him and told them to go away. He cried harder, and a stream of his tears carried the frogs away.

As they were floating past Moon's house, he looked out and saw them. He felt sorry for them, so he invited them in. The Frog sisters were so grateful they leaped up to kiss his face. When you look at Moon today you can see they are kissing him still.

21 (S:16)

## *Night and Day*

*Iroquois*

Once the porcupine was the leader of all animals. She gathered everyone together to ask them how long day and night should be. This was a very important question, and soon all the animals began to argue. Chipmunk thought that day and night should each be very short. Bear thought day and night should be very long. They argued for many hours, but they could not agree.

Finally, Chipmunk and Bear decided to have a contest. They each sang songs to the sun and the moon. Chipmunk sang, calling the sun and moon to come often. Bear sang about long days and nights. He asked the sun to sleep for a long time. But the sun began to wake up. Bear understood that the sun liked chipmunk's song better. Bear became very angry and chased Chipmunk all the way home. Just as Chipmunk was going into her hole, Bear swiped his huge paw down Chipmunk's back. This is why the Chipmunk has stripes on her back and why we have short days and nights.

22 (S:16)

## *The Origin of Cedar Trees*

*Haida*

After the world was made, the Creator put the Haida Indians on the land that is now called the Queen Charlotte Islands. "This is a good place. You will be happy here," the Creator said. But soon the Haidas began to quarrel and fight. The Creator came back to the Haidas and said, "If you cannot live together in peace, I will punish you." The Haidas promised they would live happily ever after, but it did not take long before they were arguing again.

The Creator came again and told the Haidas, "You knew I would punish you if you could not live in peace." Instantly He changed all the people into cedar trees. "Now when people come to these islands, they will see you and remember what happens when you cannot live in peace."

But from evil comes good. The Haidas who came later to the islands used the cedar trees to build houses and canoes. From the roots they made baskets and mats, and from the bark fibers they wove clothing.

23 (S:6)

## *Coyote Takes Water from the Frogs*

*Kalapuya*

Once the frogs owned all the water. They kept it behind a dam, and if anyone wanted to wash or drink, they had to bring a present to the frogs. Coyote went to see the frogs. "I would like a drink," he said, and he gave them a beautiful shell.

"You may drink," they answered, and Coyote put his head in the water.

After a few minutes, one of the frogs said, "You are taking a long time, Coyote."

"I am very thirsty," Coyote answered. "Let me drink."

After a while another frog spoke. "I think you should give us another shell. You are taking a very long drink."

"I will," Coyote answered. "As soon as I am through."

Finally the frogs became suspicious. "Coyote is doing something," they said. They were right – Coyote was digging a tunnel underneath the dam. Suddenly the dam collapsed, and the water rushed out. It ran into the rivers and lakes and oceans, where it remains today. And no one needs to bring a present when they want a drink.

24 (S:9)