Origin myths are considered the first piece of true American Literature. Passed down through oral tradition, Native American tribes used origin myths to explain creation, the world around them, and to teach moral lessons. Much like the myths of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, origin myths also expressed the traditions and values of their respective tribes. Origin myths often include references to the immediate environment in which the tribes resided, as they depended upon these resources as a means to their survival.

Step 1: Understanding the Lifestyle of Native American Tribes
Answer the following questions about your tribe, using the appropriate links below.
1. Where is your tribe from?
2. What would the landscape in this area be like?
3. What animals would be present in this area?
4. What customs and traditions were important to your tribe? (activities, arts and crafts, worship, etc.)
5. What is the belief system of your tribe or spirituality? (warriors, peaceful, hunters, etc.)
6. What were the primary food sources for your tribe?
7. How did your tribe dress?
8. Name at least 1 famous Native American Indian from your tribe.
9. What types of homes did your tribe live in?
10. List the different type of oral traditions passed down in tribes.
11. Why did animals play such a significant role in Native American myths?

Step 2: Reading an origin myth from your tribe
Find the link below that will take you to the origin myth of your tribe. After reading the myth answer the following questions about your tribe. You will find these questions on the handout you were given in class.
1. Summarize your myth.
2. What animals were in your myth?
3. What human qualities did the animals possess (loyalty, bravery, courage, leadership, etc.)?
4. Describe the landscape in your myth.
5. How did the landscape play a role in your myth?
6. Describe the gods or goddesses in your myth.
7. What did the gods or goddesses control?
8. Was your myth a creation myth? A moral lesson?
9. Why do animals play such a prominent role in your myth?
10. What was the moral lesson in your myth?

Step 3: Create your presentation
Your group will need to create a poster that includes the following information:
1. Short Summary
2. Name of the tribe
3. Location of the tribe
4. Animals that lived in the region
5. Customs and Traditions of your tribe
6. Clothing
7. Beliefs and Values (warriors, peaceful, etc.)
8. At least 1 famous Native American Indian from your tribe
9. Human qualities of the animals, gods, or spirits
10. The moral lesson

Step 4: Oral presentation
Each group member will be responsible for presenting at least one part of your tribe or myth.
1. Create a summary of your myth that you will share with the class.
2. Name of the tribe
3. Location of the tribe
4. Animals that lived in the region
5. Customs and Traditions of your tribe
6. Clothing
7. Beliefs and Values (warriors, peaceful, etc.)
8. At least 1 famous Native American Indian from your tribe
9. Human qualities of the animals, gods, or spirits
10. The moral lesson

See the rubric below for information on how your group presentation will be scored. Your individual grade will be based on response work sheets. You will receive 2 grades for this assignment: 1 for group presentation and project.2 for individual response sheets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Your summary is vague and short. It is missing some of the key elements of your story including animals, plot, moral.</td>
<td>Your summary is concise (5-7 sentences) and includes some of the major elements of your myth including; animals, plot, moral lesson.</td>
<td>Your summary is concise (5-7 sentences) and includes most of the major elements of your myth including; animals, plot, moral lesson.</td>
<td>Your summary is concise (5-7 sentences) and includes all of the major elements of your myth including; animals, plot, moral lesson.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category and Score</td>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Exemplary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Background Information</td>
<td>Your group correctly answers few of the 11 questions required for the presentation.</td>
<td>Your group correctly answers some of the 11 questions required for the presentation.</td>
<td>Your group correctly answers most of the 11 questions required for the presentation.</td>
<td>Your group correctly answers all of the 11 questions required for the presentation.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Your presentation is contains some of the information required in directions, but is missing several key elements.</td>
<td>Your presentation is somewhat neat and organized. The poster is visually appealing, may or may not have graphics. Your poster contains some of the required information listed in directions.</td>
<td>Your presentation is neat and organized. The poster is visually appealing, includes graphics, and is well organized. Your poster contains most of the required information listed in directions.</td>
<td>Your presentation is neat and organized. The poster is visually appealing, includes graphics, and is well organized. Your poster contains all of the required information listed in directions.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>The majority of the group presentation is led by 1-2 group members. Other members are not aware of their role or do not give accurate information.</td>
<td>Some group members contribute in the oral presentation, most are aware of their speaking role, some information is not correct.</td>
<td>Each group member contributes equally in the oral presentation, most are aware of what their speaking role is, and conveys information correctly.</td>
<td>Each group member contributes equally in the oral presentation, is aware of what their speaking role is, and conveys information correctly.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**

**Teacher Page**

Standards

Credits

Other