

Native American Storytelling Notes

Indigenous (originating where it is found)

1. Honors all life -plants and animals we depend on, and our human ancestors
2. Stories talk about the living beings within a tribe's homeland (example: Raven of the Pacific Northwest, Coyote from the desert, Buffalo of the plains)
3. Prayers, songs, and dances are all types of stories
4. Circular – each Native story is a part of a bigger story, might not be a clear beginning or end.
5. Told by elders

Types of Native American Stories

1. Lessons – describes how and why things are the way they are
2. Descriptions of Nature – water cycles, animal relationships, life cycles of plants and soil
3. Instructions from spirit mentors – how to conduct ceremonies
4. Survival accounts – hunting, gathering, preparing food
5. Oral maps for travel
6. Magical tales of transformation
7. Adventures in love, romance, and marriage