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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
1998 Volume II: Cultures and Their Myths

Native American Myths: Creation to Death

Guide for Curriculum Unit 98.02.02
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The topic of this unit is Native American Myths: Creation to Death. The unit is designed for a fourth grade class. It can be tailored for a third grade class or elaborated upon for a fifth grade class. It opens with a speech given by Chief Seattle of the Pacific Northwest to President Franklin Pierce in 1854 in response to the government's request to purchase 2 million acres of land in the Northwest region. The myths that are included deal with creation, earth, the moon, corn, the first man and woman, the first horses and death. Included are four lesson plans which target listening and reading comprehension, organizational skills, expository writing and poetry. The unit is followed by a student's resource list, a teacher's resource list, and a bibliography.

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