How Wild Horses Were Captured

The Indian Reading Series

Level I Book 2
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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

How Wild Horses Were Captured
Level I Book 2

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This publication is not printed at the expense of the Federal Government.

Published by Educational Systems, Inc., 2360 Southwest 170th Street, Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Printed and bound in the United States of America
This is the story of a horse roundup.
Horses have been on this land for many, many years. Long ago there were many, many horses.
Horses are many different colors.
Some are black, brown, white or gray.
Some are two colors.
Some are spotted.
Can you think of more?
A long time ago, the fathers and uncles and big brothers would go out in the spring to catch the wild horses.
They built new trap corrals out of poles from juniper, fir or willow trees.
Then dried trees were cut down and put in a row near the gate of the corral.
These were called wing lines.
After that was finished, the older men went out to start the wild herds of horses toward the corral. The younger men and boys were told to hide behind the trees and rocks. These people were called the short stops.
When the wild horses came galloping through, the short stops came out from their hiding places to help turn the wild horses toward the trap corral.
Sometimes the horses got away.
Then the men would go out again after the horses.
This time they would chase the horses to the trap corral
and right in through the gate of the corral.
After the horses had been captured,
they were separated.
The horses that had owners were branded.
Some were tied up to be taken home later.
All the young boys who took part in the wild horse chase were given a young colt.
The boys were to take care of the colt, train it and break it for riding.
The horses were all kinds and sizes.
There were good ones and mean ones.
That is how wild horses were captured long ago.
Today the chase is just about the same. 
The corrals are more modern. 
They use wire for the corrals, 
and the wing lines are also wire. 
Saddles are used today. 
Long ago they did not have saddles or bridles. 
And braided hair and rawhide strings 
were used for halters.
There are still many wild horses.
The young colts, when caught,
are still given to the young boys
who give the colts names.
VERBENA GREENE

Verbena Greene, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, is the mother of eight children. She attended Warm Springs Boarding School until the 11th grade and later earned her G.E.D. She has served as Local Coordinator for the Warm Springs Curriculum Development Committee and was the Tribal Education Program Liaison for more than seven years. She presently is serving as Culture Resource Person for the Tribes, providing classroom cultural instruction (legends, values, songs, etc.) on a consultant basis to schools and community colleges. She enjoys working with young people and is pleased that students are now forming culture clubs and holding powwows in the school environment.
Booklets available in the Level I sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use as outlined in the Teacher's Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest will appear in the Levels II and III sequence.

1 Coyote and the Stars  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

2 How Wild Horses Were Captured  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

3 School  
Blackfeet Tribe

4 Philene and Buttons  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

5 Insects Off to War  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

6 Why Bluejay Hops  
Skokomish Tribe

7 Indian Festival  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the  
Fort Hall Reservation

8 Helpers  
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9 Far Out, A Rodeo Horse  
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10 Tales of Coyote and Other Legends  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
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11 Birds and People  
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12 Chipmunk Meets Old Witch  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

13 My Name Is Pop  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural  
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14 Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation  
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural  
Commission

15 How Cottontail Lost His Fingers  
The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

16 Friends  
Blackfeet Tribe

17 How Daylight Came to Be  
Skokomish Tribe

18 A Little Boy's Big Moment  
Blackfeet Tribe

19 Skunk  
Muckleshoot Tribe

20 Raven Helps the Indians  
Skokomish Tribe

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the Teacher's Manual, contact the publisher:

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