How Birds Learned to Fly

The Indian Reading Series
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How Birds Learned to Fly
Level II Book 16

By members of the Yakima Reservation Curriculum Development Committee
Dolores Buck
Tony Colwash
Florence Haggerty
Bernice Jim
Sam Jim
Lena Owens
Elmer Schuster
Leona Smartlowit
R. A. Swanson
Beverly Tallman
Jeanne Thomas

Written by Tony Colwash, Bernice Jim, Sam Jim
Illustrated by Beverly Tallman

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 710 Southwest Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204
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Long ago, when birds were like people,
Crane was very tall and had long legs.
His legs were so long
that he towered over all the other birds.
Crane bet that the other birds could not jump over him.
Crane knew he was tall and that Crow, Swallow and Hummingbird were too short.
But one day Crow said, "Crane, I bet I can jump over you!"
"I bet you can't!" said Crane.
This went on and on.
For the fifth time Crow said, "I bet I can jump over you!"
And he did!
Then Crow laughed at Crane.
"Caw, caw, caw," he said.
And so he does to this day.
But Crane did not know that Crow had been given the power to fly.
"Caw, caw, caw!"
Crow had used this power to fly over Crane.
This is why, the Yakimas say, birds can fly.
Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the Teacher’s Manual. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

1 End of Summer
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

2 Thunder and the Mosquito
Muckleshoot Tribe

3 Why the Codfish Has a Red Face
Skokomish Tribe

4 How Wildcat and Coyote Tricked Each Other
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

5 Pat Learns About Wild Peppermint
Blackfeet Tribe

6 Picture Writing
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

7 Grandma Rides in the Parade
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

8 The Bob-Tailed Coyote
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

9 The Great Flood
Skokomish Tribe

10 The Rainbow
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

11 The Time the Whale Came to Jackson’s Bay
Skokomish Tribe

12 Coyote and the Man Who Sits On Top
Salish Cultural Committee of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

13 The Crow
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

14 Tepee, Sun and Time
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

15 Water Story
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural Commission

16 How Birds Learned to Fly
The Fourteen Confederated Tribes from the Yakima Nation

17 Napi and the Bullberries
Blackfeet Tribe

18 How Cottontail Lost His Tail
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

19 Being Indian Is
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

20 Why Animals and Man Can No Longer Talk to One Another
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

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

Educational Systems, Inc.
2360 Southwest 170th Street
Beaverton, Oregon 97005
(503) 649-7516