



Old Man Napi

The Indian Reading Series

McEwen


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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Old Man Napi

Level III Book 18

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

Written by Joan Kennerly, Carmen Marceau, Doris Old Person, June Tatsey

Illustrated by Melvin Tailfeathers

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
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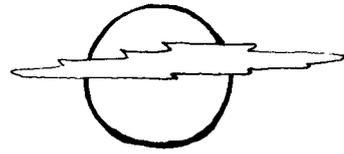
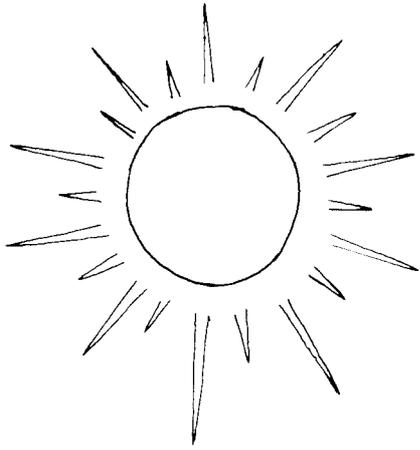
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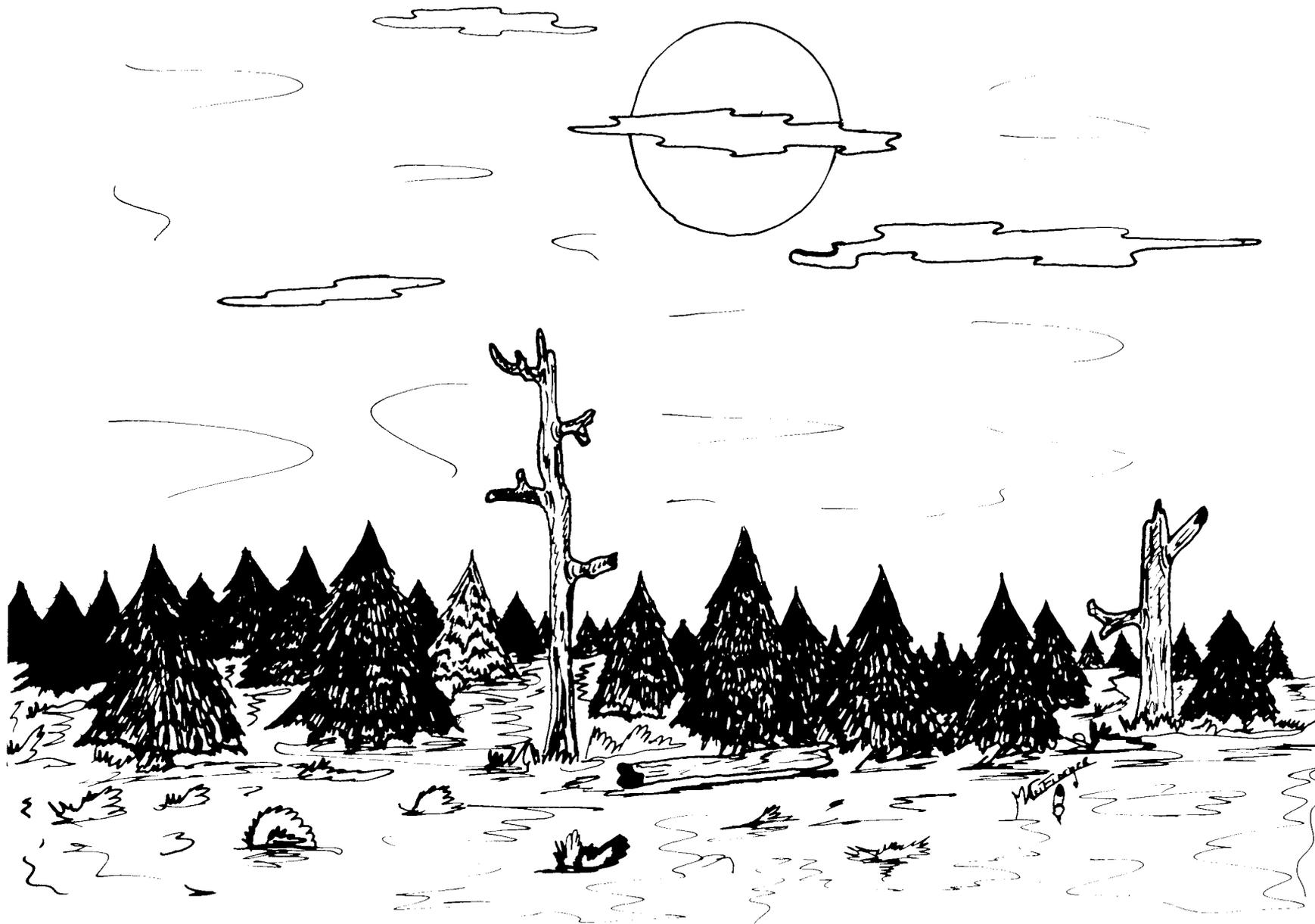
**The following story, *Old Man Napi*,
is based on a legend told over and over
by many of our Blackfeet Indian people
about the creation of the world.**



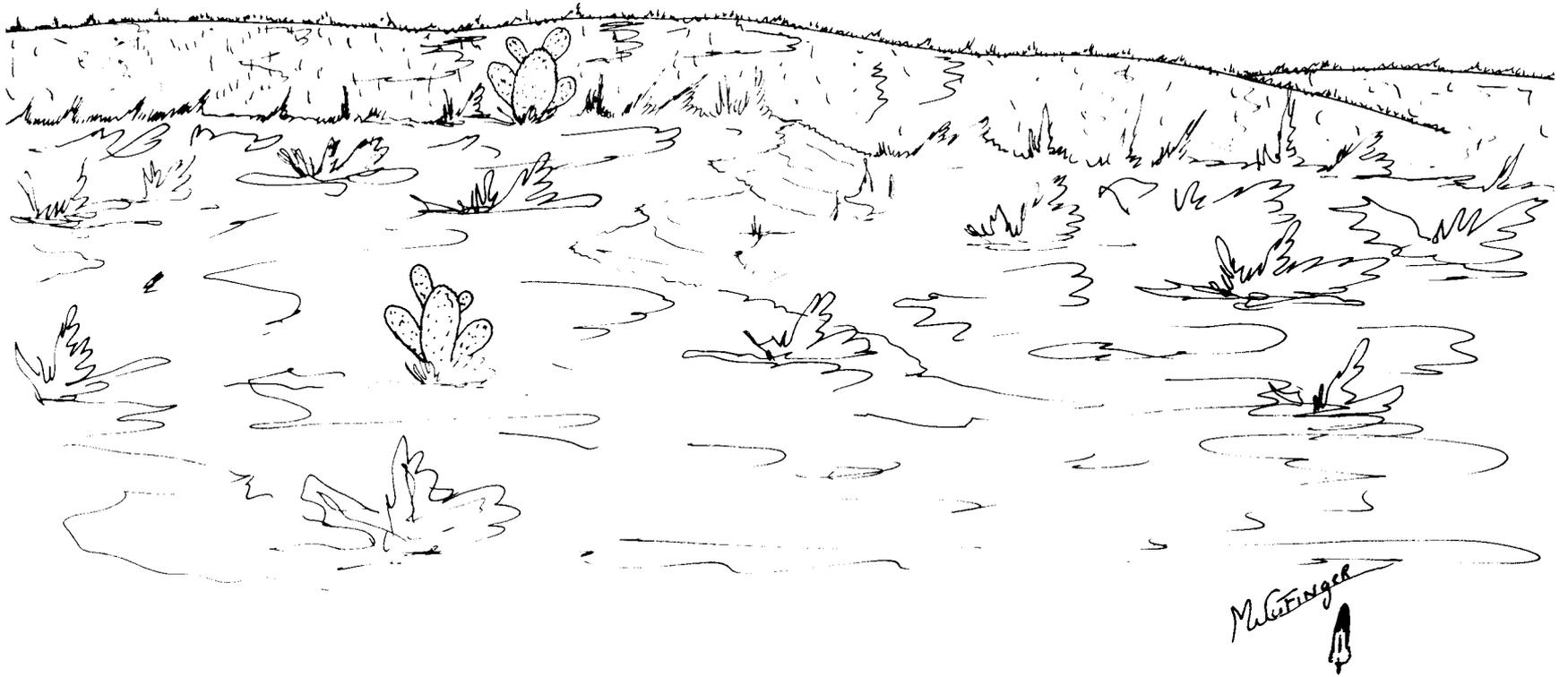
The father of Old Man Napi was the Sun.
His mother was the Moon.



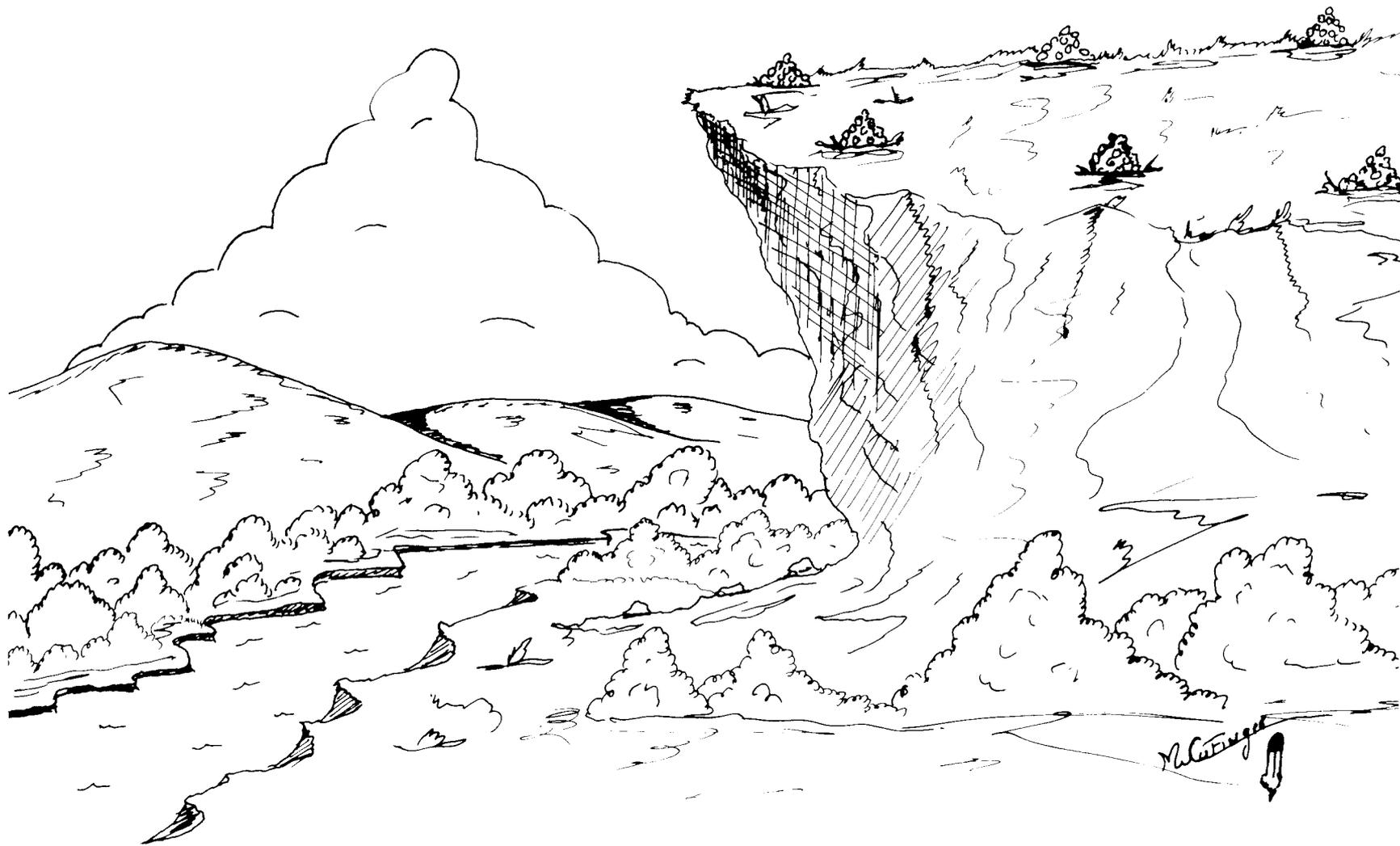
Old Man Napi began making the world.
He began in the South.
He made the mountains.



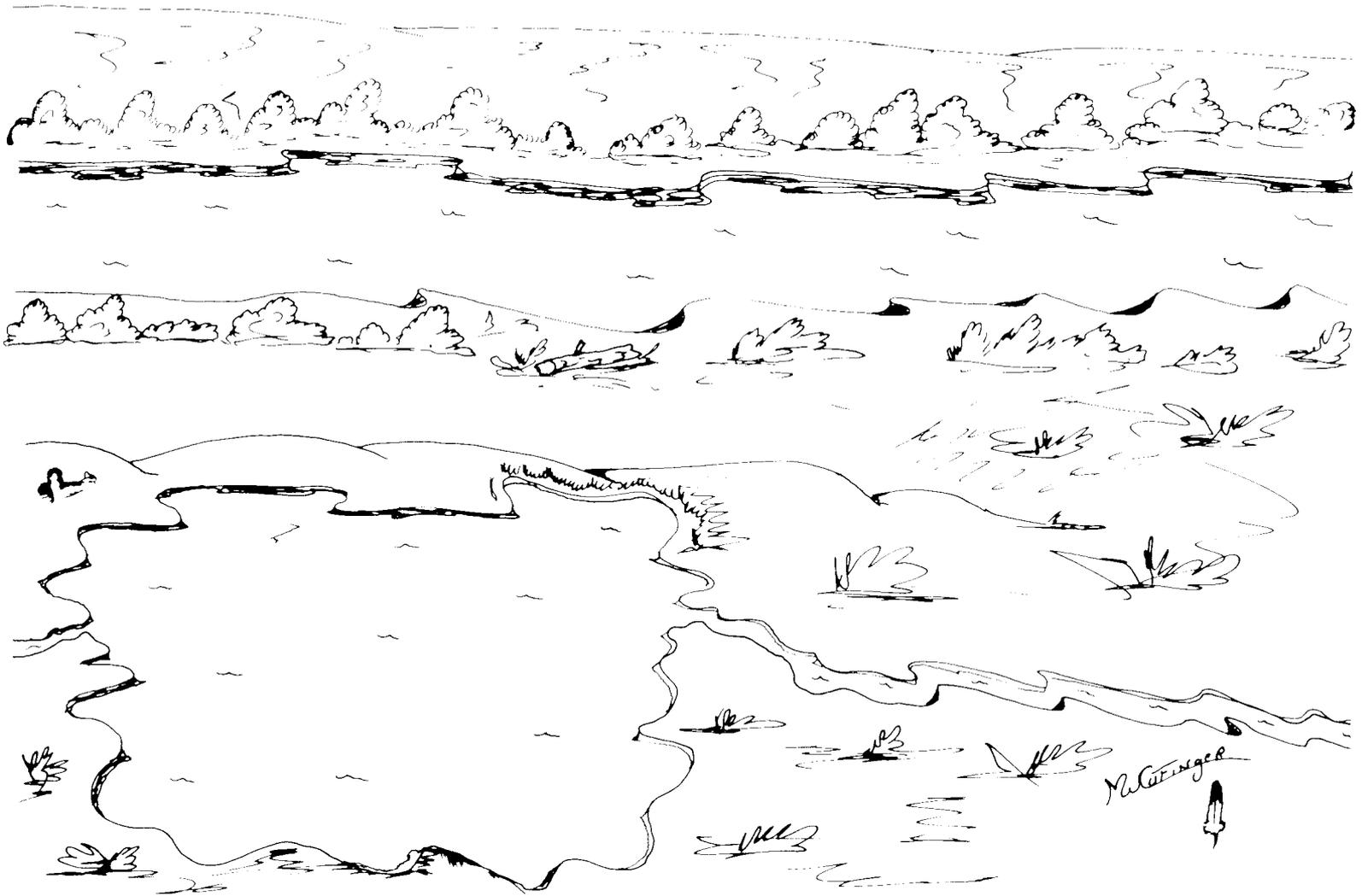
Old Man Napi made the forests.



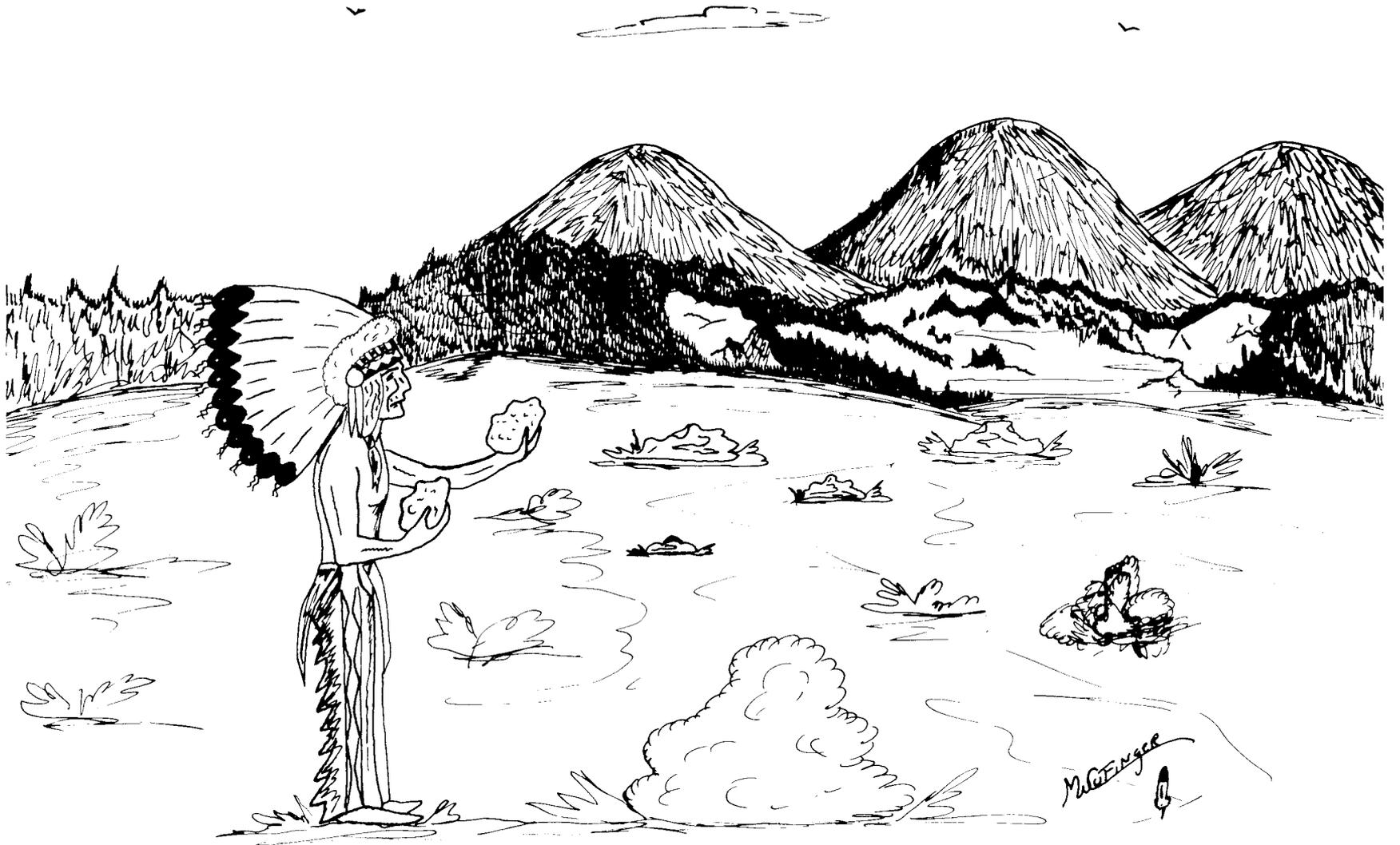
Old Man Napi walked north.
He made the prairies.



Old Man Napi made other things as he traveled north.



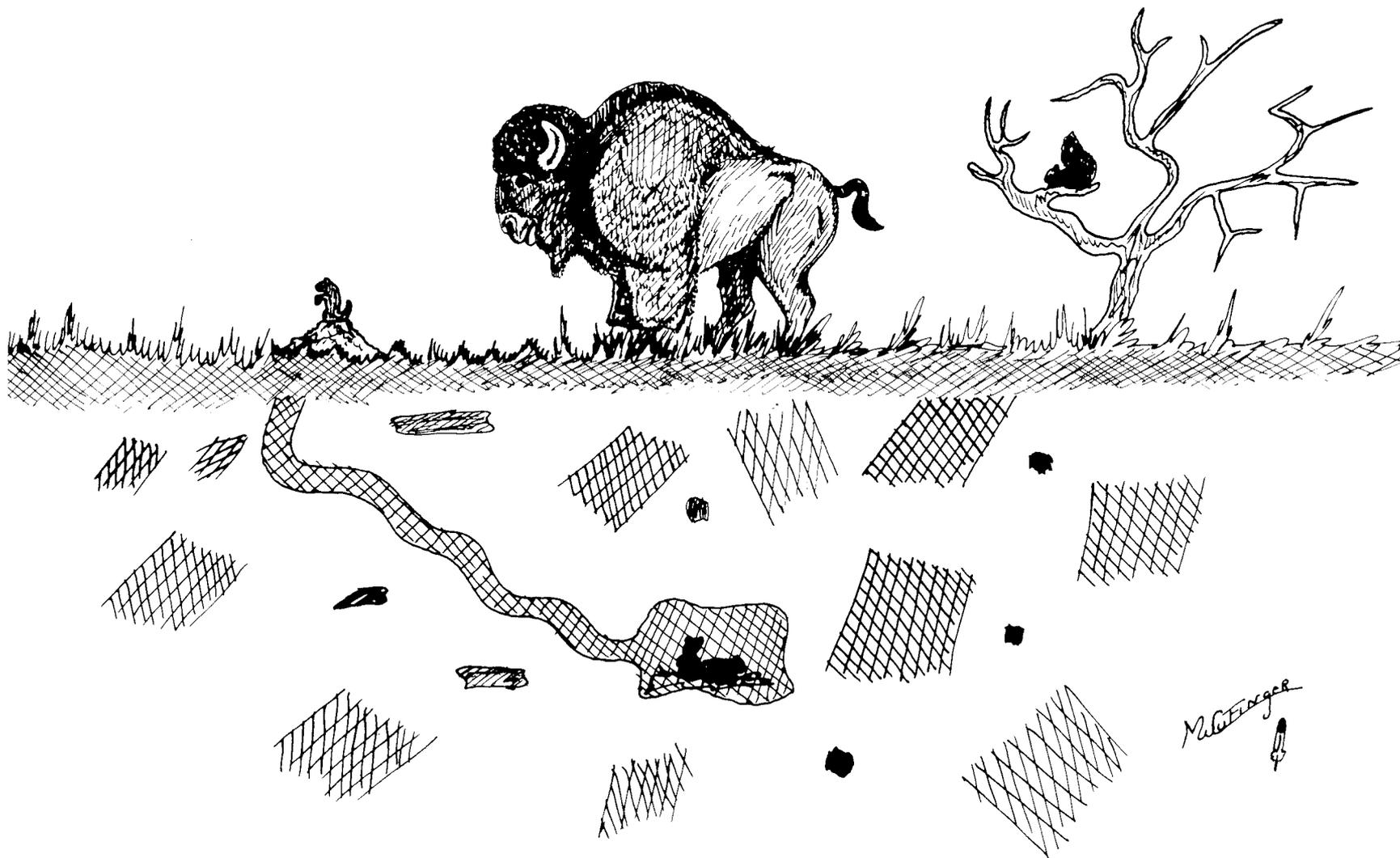
Old Man Napi made the rivers and streams.
He made the lakes.



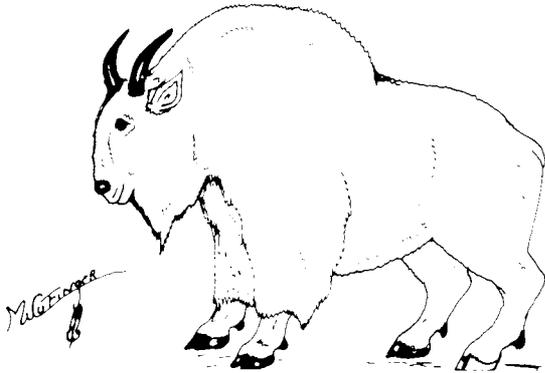
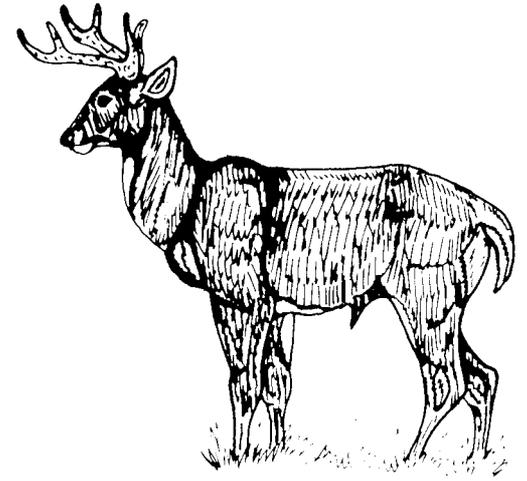
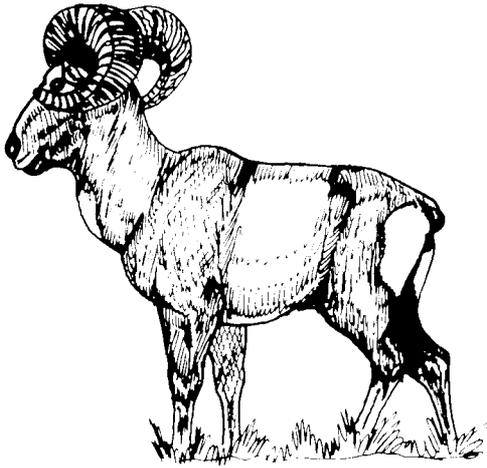
Old Man Napi carried rocks with him.
He made the Sweet Grass Hills.

Old Man Napi kept traveling north.
He covered the plains with grass.
He made all kinds of roots.
He made all kinds of trees.
He made all kinds of berries.





Old Man Napi made animals.
He made animals that live under the ground.
He made animals on the prairie.



He made animals that live in the forest.
He arranged the world as it was
before the coming of the people.



Old Man Napi made many birds.



One day, Old Man Napi decided he would create
a woman and a child.

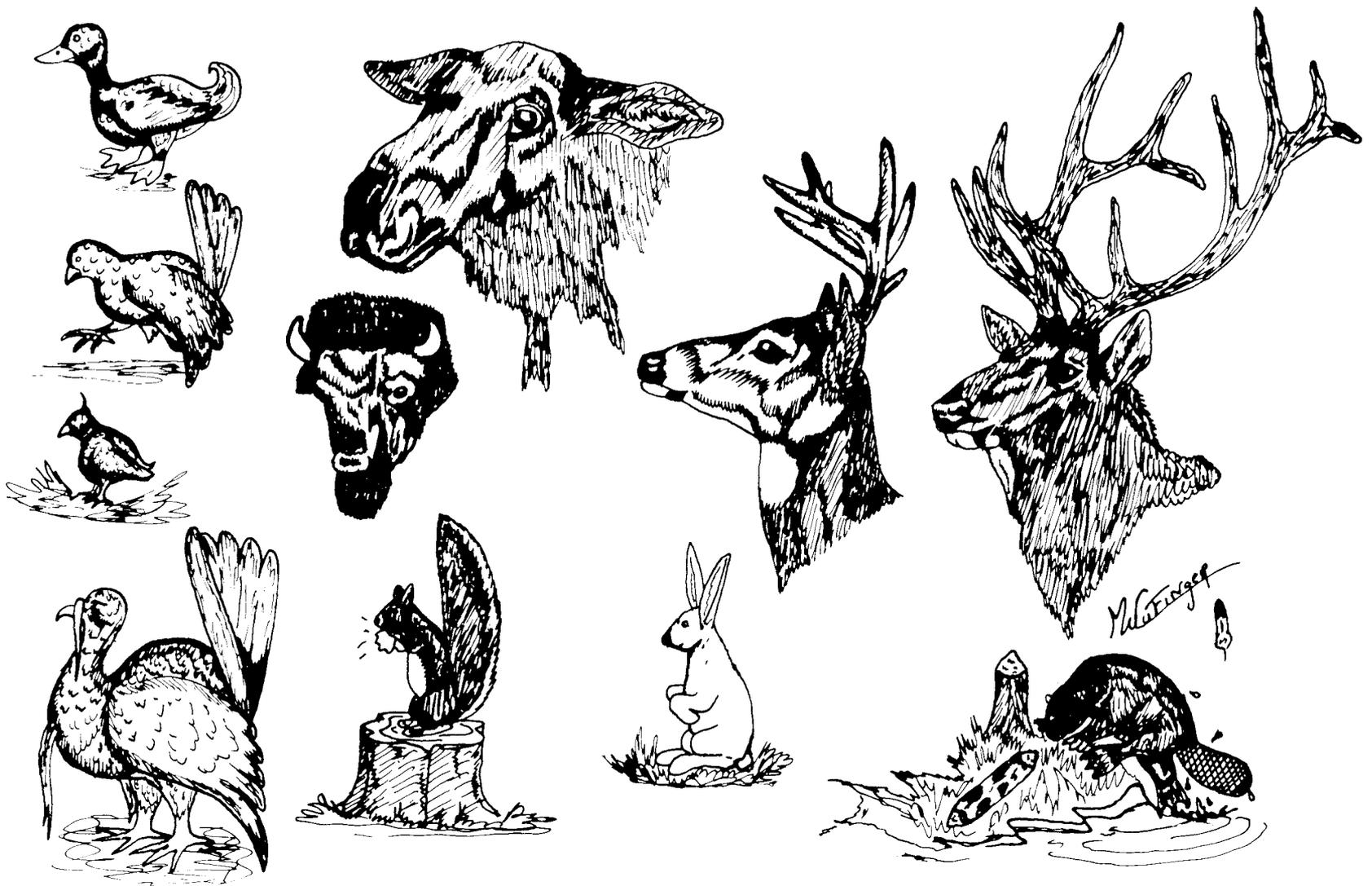
The woman and child walked down to the river
with Old Man Napi.

The woman and child did not know how to do anything.

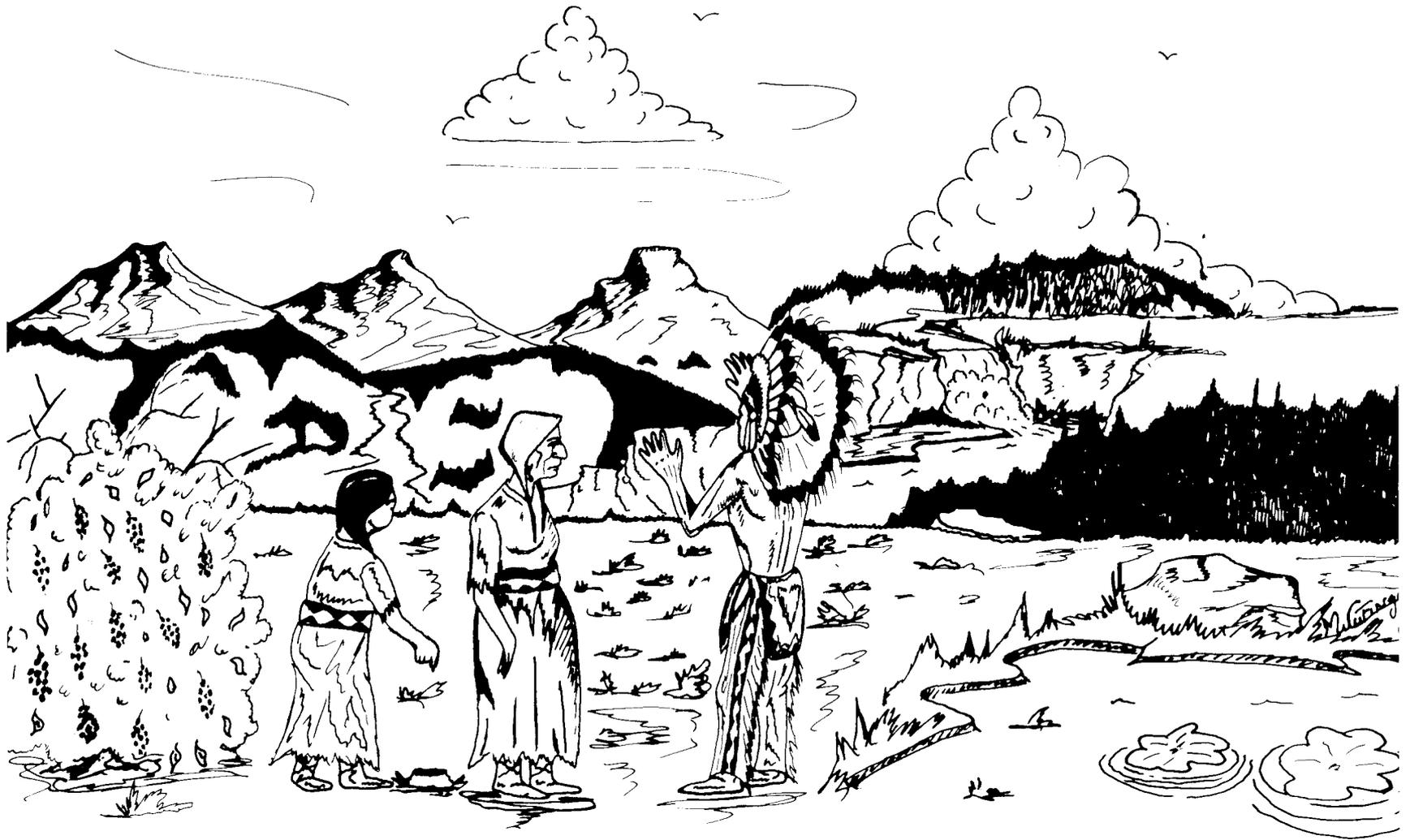
Old Man Napi pointed to the river.

He told them there would be fish for them to eat.

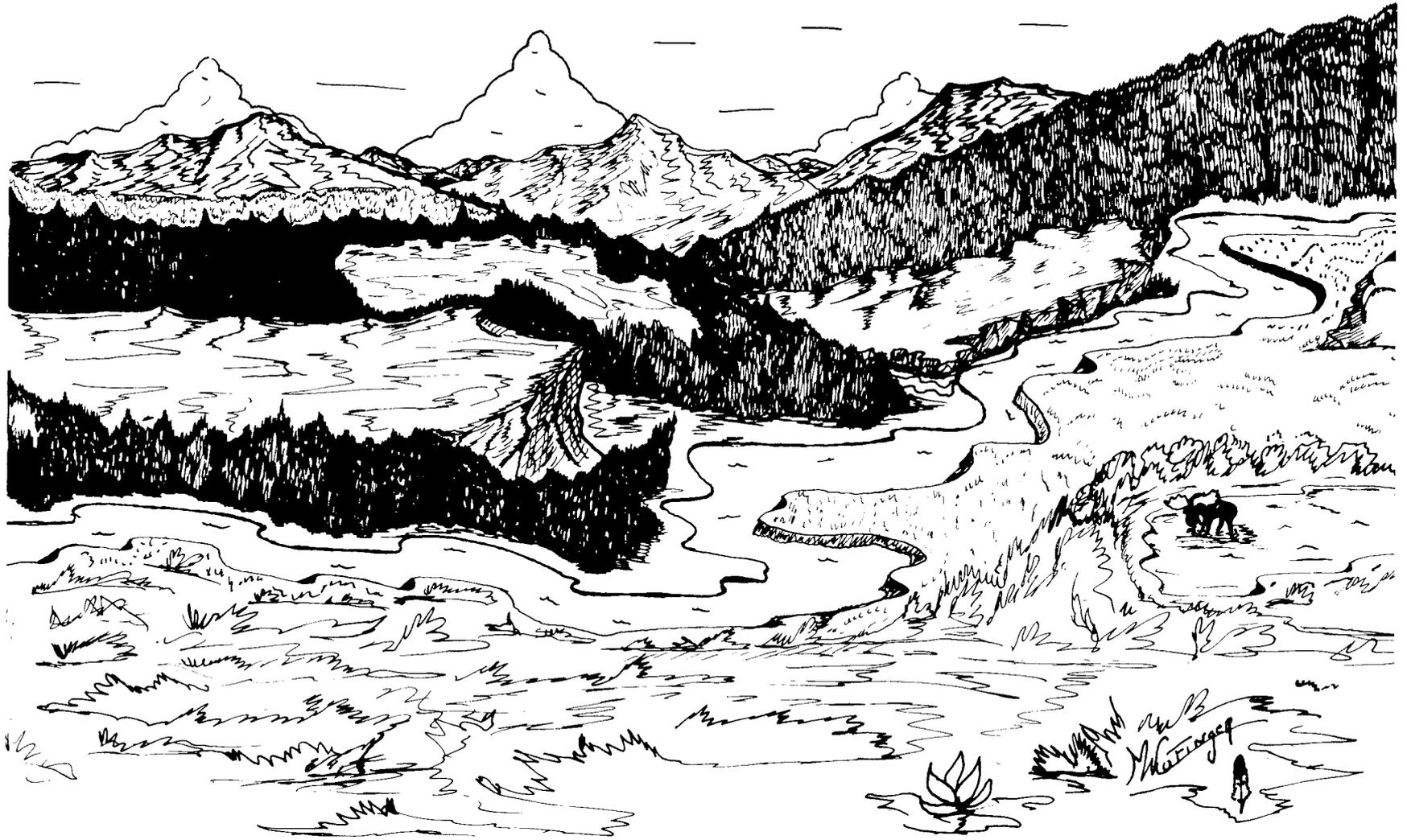




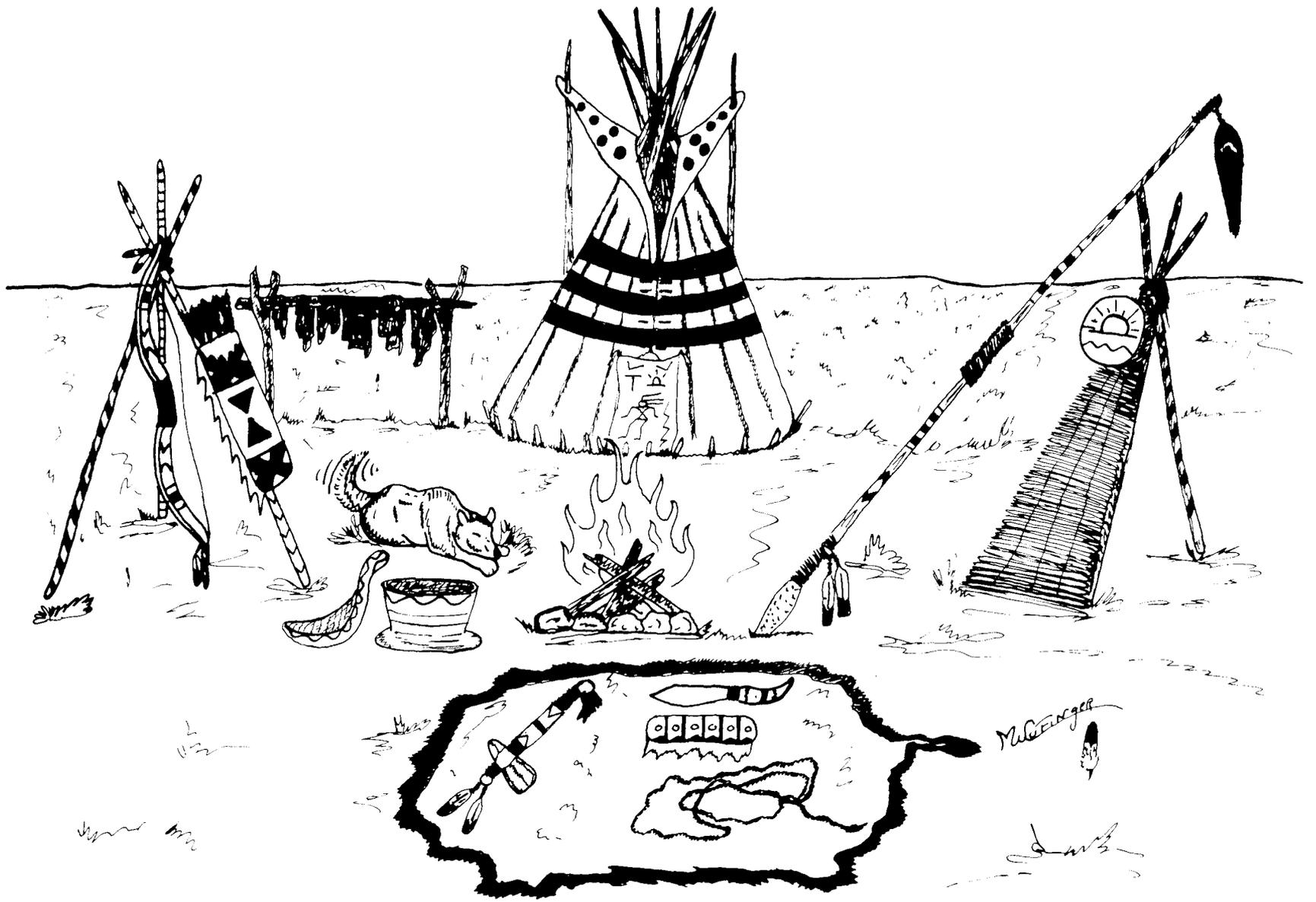
The animals would also be their food.
“You need not fear to eat their flesh,” he said.
“The birds that fly have been made for you.”



The woman and child learned about roots.
They learned about berries.
They learned about wild vegetables.
They learned they could eat these things.

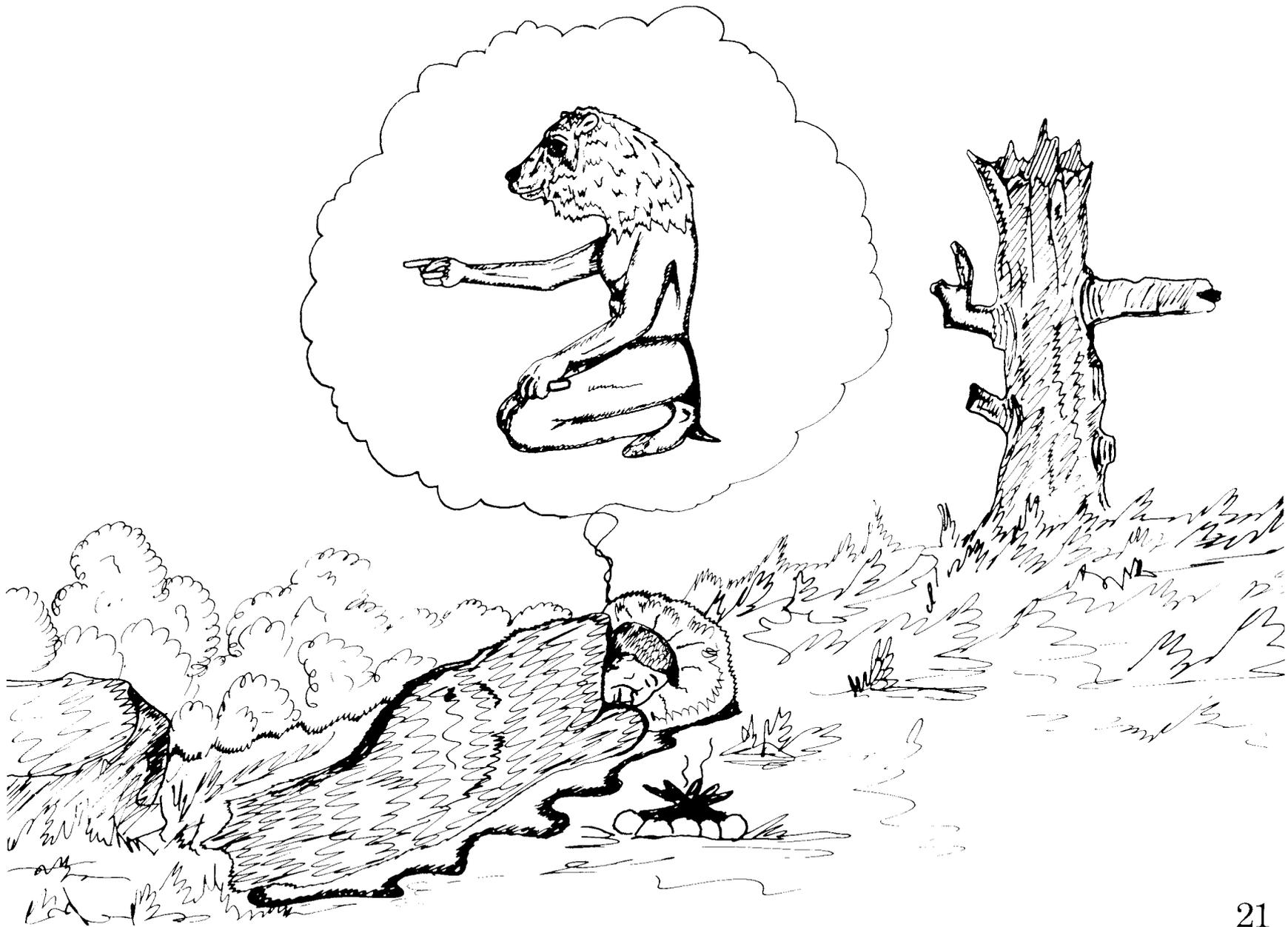


The woman and child walked over the prairies.
They walked through the forests.
They went across rivers and swamps.
They learned about different kinds of things on the earth.



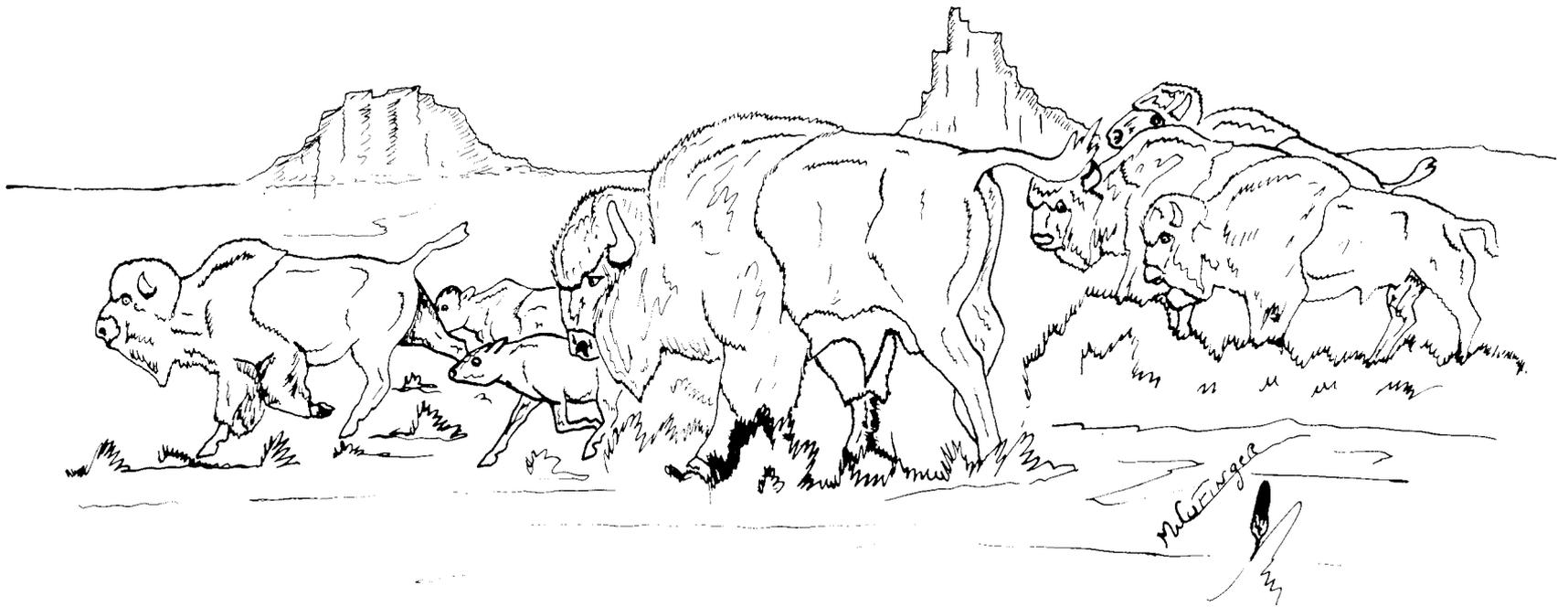
They learned how to take care of themselves.

Old Man Napi told the people how to get spirit power.
“Go away by yourself and go to sleep.
Something will come to you in a dream that will help you.
It might be an animal.
It might be a bird.
It might be an object.
Whatever is told to you, you must do.”
That is how the first Indian people got along in the world —
by the power given to them in their dreams.





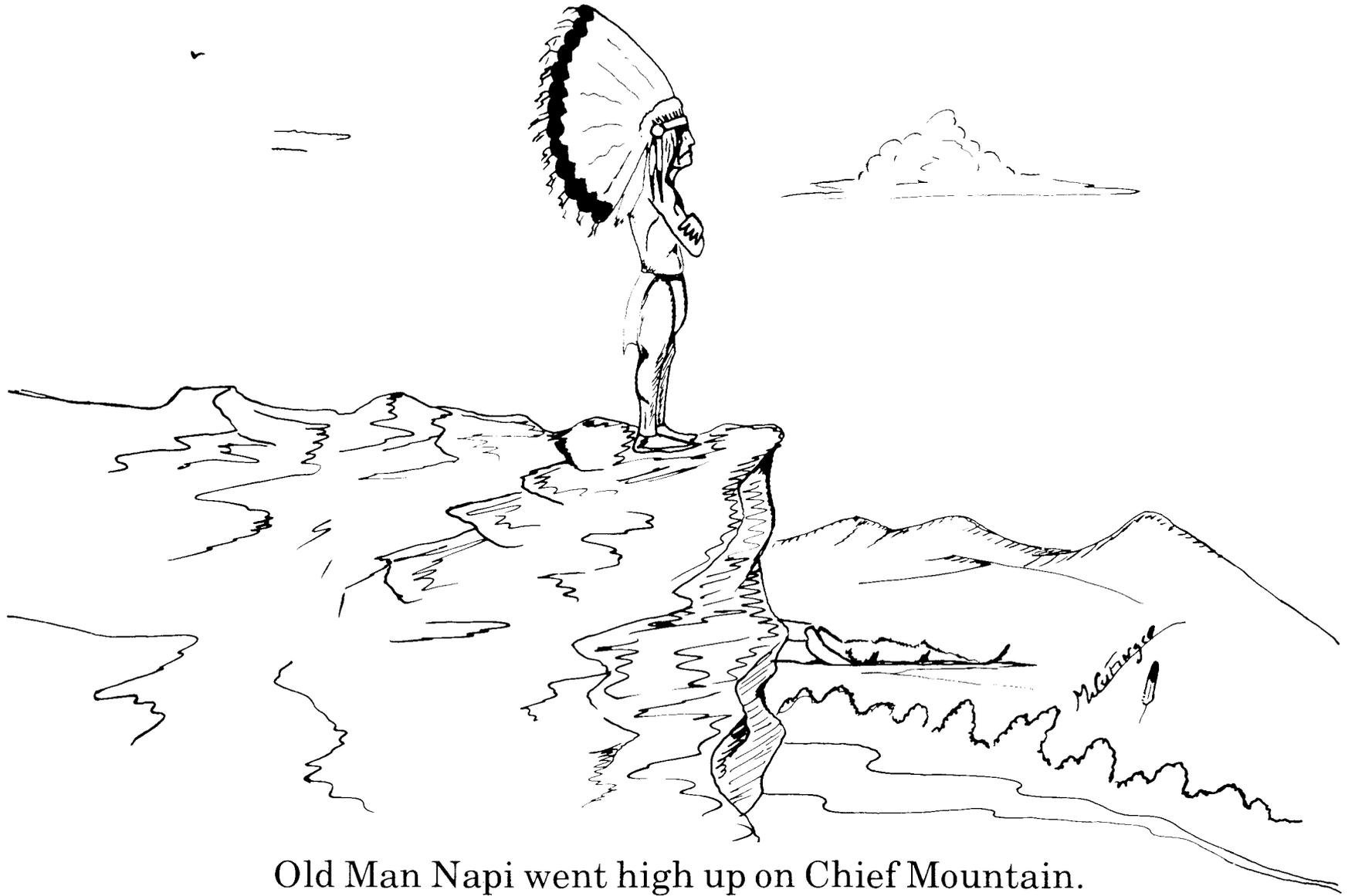
Old Man Napi created many men and women.



He made images of buffalo out of clay.
The buffalo images stood up.
Old Man Napi made signs to the buffalo,
and they started to run.



Old Man Napi said to the people,
“Those buffalo are your food.
Every part of them you will be able to use
in your life.”



Old Man Napi went high up on Chief Mountain.
He gazed down at the earth.
He was very pleased.

Old Man Napi told his people,
 “You have everything you now need.
Nature will provide shelter and food.
Many more Indian people will be born
 to live on this land.
You must live as one large family.
Be good and take care of each other.”



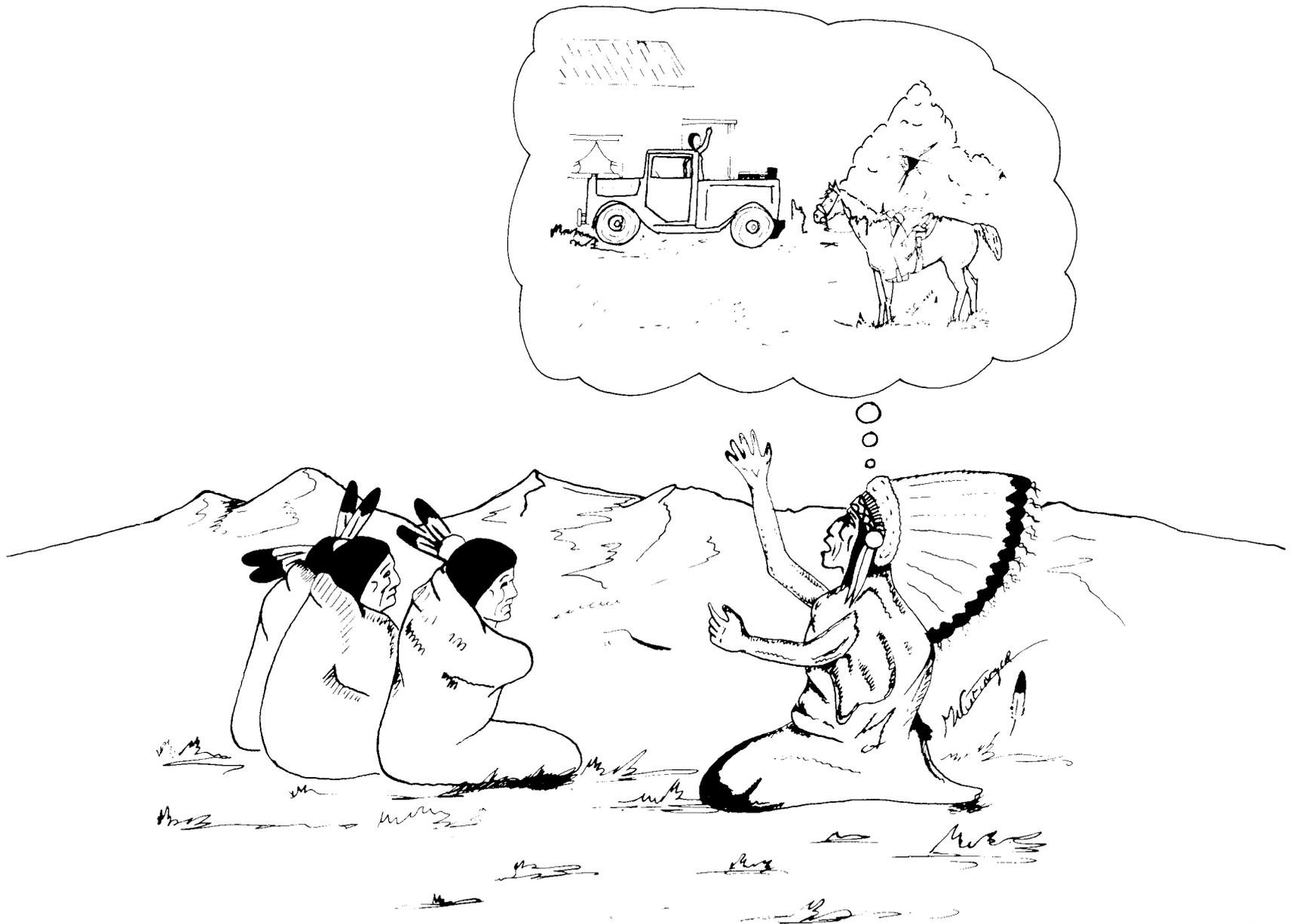
Old Man Napi said, "Our Great Maker has a plan
for all of you.

Respect what he has sent me to create for you.

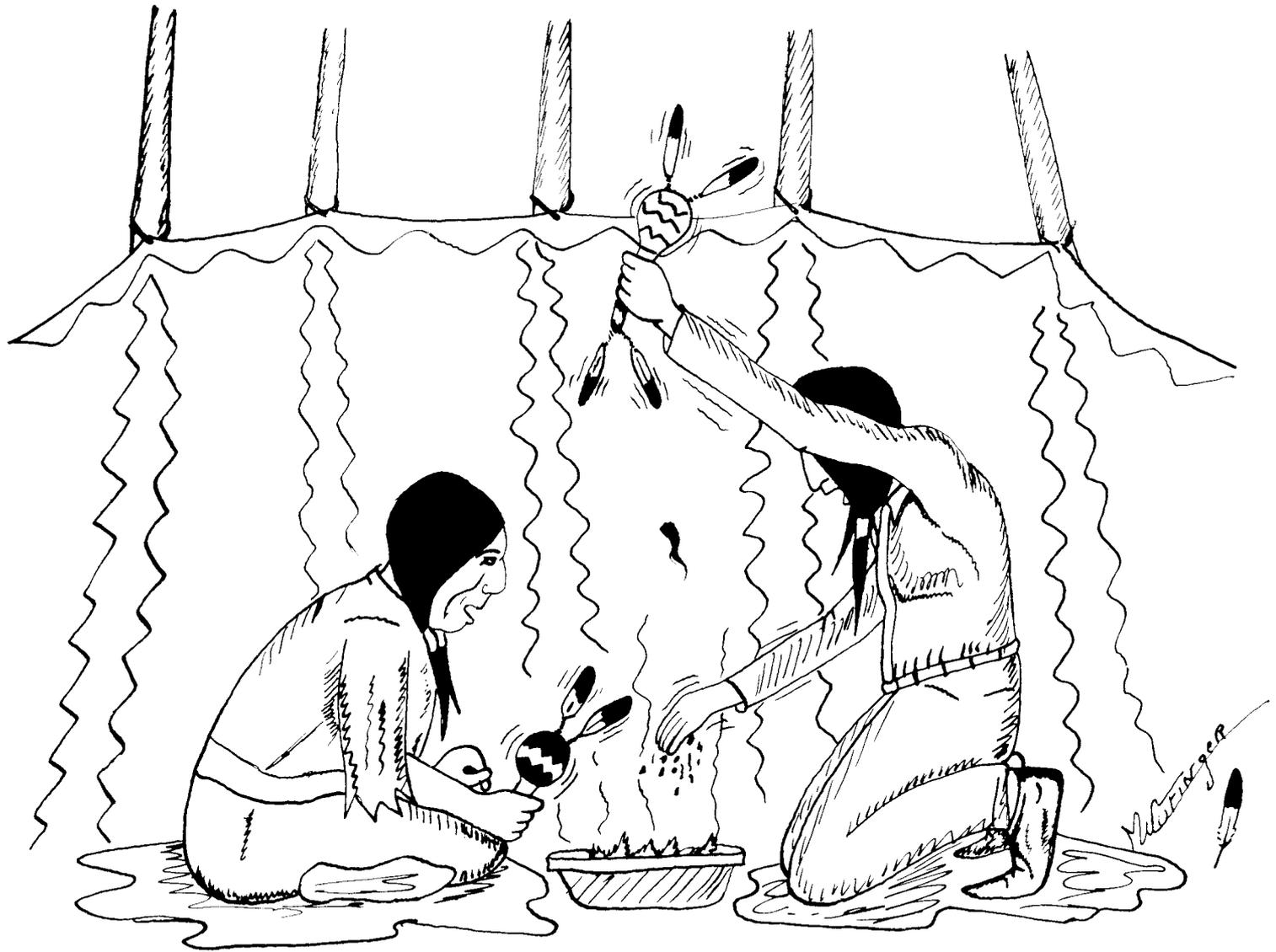
Give many thanks to him for everything you have
and everything you will get."



“Someday other people will come to your land.
You will not want to live as they do.
But in time, you will add many of the new ways
to the old ways of living.”



Old Man Napi said, "I must go now, my Blackfoot people.
I will never die.
I will always take care of you.
Someday I will return.
Always give thanks to the Great Maker
in many, many ways."





Old Man Napi turned toward the West,
disappearing in the Rocky Mountains.



JOAN BULLSHOE KENNERLY

Mrs. Kennerly has twenty years of teaching experience in the Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne public school systems and was the first runnerup for the 1972 Montana Teacher of the Year. She received her B.A. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She was responsible for establishing Native American Day for the State, and was appointed by the Governor of Montana to serve on the Commission on Post Secondary Education. She also was the Chairperson of House Joint Resolution 60, which established the Master Plan for Indian Education for the State of Montana. She has two children.



JUNE BULLSHOE TATSEY

Mrs. Tatsey is a Blackfeet Indian with sixteen years experience in teaching grades one through eight and pre-school in the public school system on the Blackfeet Reservation. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana. She was the reading supervisor and is now vice-principal at K.W. Bergen Elementary School in Browning, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.



CARMEN BULLSHOE MARCEAU

Mrs. Marceau is a Blackfeet Indian with eighteen years teaching experience. She has had one year experience in guidance and counseling on the Blackfeet Reservation and is principal of Browning Elementary School. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana.



DORIS BULLSHOE OLD PERSON

Mrs. Old Person has eighteen years experience teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System. She has specialized in remedial reading and has been Head Start Director-Supervisor for ESEA Title I and Director of the Native Song and Dance Program. She received her B.A. from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She has five children.

Mrs. Kennerly, Mrs. Tatsey, Mrs. Marceau, and Mrs. Old Person are the daughters of Lillian and Francis Bullshoe. They were raised on a ranch near Badger Creek in the Blackfeet Reservation countryside.

All four women had similar educational backgrounds. They attended Mad Plume School (a one room rural school), the Blackfeet Indian Boarding School, and all but Mrs. Tatsey attended Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota. They all graduated from Browning High School. At the present time the four women are teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System in Browning, Montana.



MELVIN TAILFEATHERS

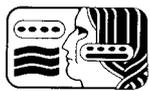
Mr. Tailfeathers is a self-taught artist who has lived on the Blackfeet Reservation all his life. His grandmother was a Blackfeet medicine woman. Mr. Tailfeathers prefers to do pen and ink sketches of Blackfeet life although he sometimes works with ceramic figurines.

Booklets available in the Level III 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 II sequences.

- 1 *Story of the Seasons*
The Confederated Tribes of the
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- 2 *The Beginning of the Earth*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 3 *The Blacktail Dance*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 4 *How Marten Got His Spots*
Kootenai Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
- 5 *Lost in the Fog*
Jamestown-Clallam Tribe
- 6 *How to Be a Friend*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 7 *How the Morning and Evening Stars
Came to Be*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
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- 8 *Raccoon's Black Eyes and Ringed Tail*
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- 9 *Coyote and Old Lady*
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- 10 *Coyote and Trout*
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- 15 *The Wild Buffalo Ride*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 16 *I Am a Rock*
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
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- 17 *The Man Who Loved Shell Money*
Skokomish Tribe
- 18 *Old Man Napi*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 19 *The Turtle Who Went to War*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
Fort Peck Reservation
- 20 *Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep*
Salish Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
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For order information and prices of the above booklets and the *Teacher's Manual*, contact the publisher:

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