MOOSEHIDE ROBE WOMAN
Sioux Stories and Legends

Developed by members of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
of the Fort Peck Reservation
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region
STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values

Summary:

Moosehide Robe Woman had her choice of many suitors but decided to
marry Star Boy because of the good way he treated his mother. However,
before she could make her decision known, he rode off to battle. Star Boy
was wounded and captured. Moosehide Robe Woman followed the warriors
even though it was a very dangerous thing to do. She was able to help
Star Boy escape and brought him home.

In addition to showing the type of valor exemplified by many Indian
women, Moosehide Robe Woman valued kindness to relatives. If one does
not show kindness and respect at home, it is unlikely that he or she will
show it elsewhere.

Teacher Guided Activities:

1. This story offers a good opportunity
to study the status of Indian women (or
women in general) in your community.
What kinds of jobs do women perform?
Where do they work? What are some
traditional Indian women’s roles? Why
were these roles established? How or
why have any of these roles changed?

Suggest that students interview various women in your school or the com-
community. Have them write a newspaper article devoted to the common ex-
periences of women and their achievements or highlight individual women
and their accomplishments.

Some students may want to go to the library and read about other famous
Indian women. It is important to remember that few contemporary biogra-
phies are available but those that exist are generally of a better quality
content wise than those of historical leaders.

Last but not least, female personages are extremely limited. Historical
figures (i.e., Pocahontas or Sacajawea) exclusively dominate this area
and are so poorly done as to obscure any relative identity of Indian women.
Most often these biographies are characterized by sensationalism and
romanticism. An objective profile can rarely be found. The recent develop-
ment of cultural materials are producing more acceptable, relevant stories
of Indian women. A good resource to consider is the Native American
Women: A Bibliography by Dr. Rayna Green which may be located
through the Ohoyo Resource Center at 2301 Midwestern Parkway - Suite
214, Wichita Falls, Texas 96308.
2. Discuss ways to show respect for others. How do we show kindness? Have students keep a weekly log of all the helpful kind things they have done for others.

Student Activity Card(s):
See Writing Script Card (13A-13B).

Have students think of types of jobs women apply for and select one not often chosen. Using the Writing Script Card have the Four Winds groups write an interview for the job. Afterward, have students role play the interview.