

How the Animals Got Their Color

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

How the Animals Got Their Color Series V

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This is a story that was told a long time ago by the elders and was passed down through the ages. It uses imaginary people and an imaginary monster to tell how all the animals originally got their colors.



Keep in mind that a long time ago all the animals were one color. They were all a greyish color, like the color of the clouds on a stormy day.

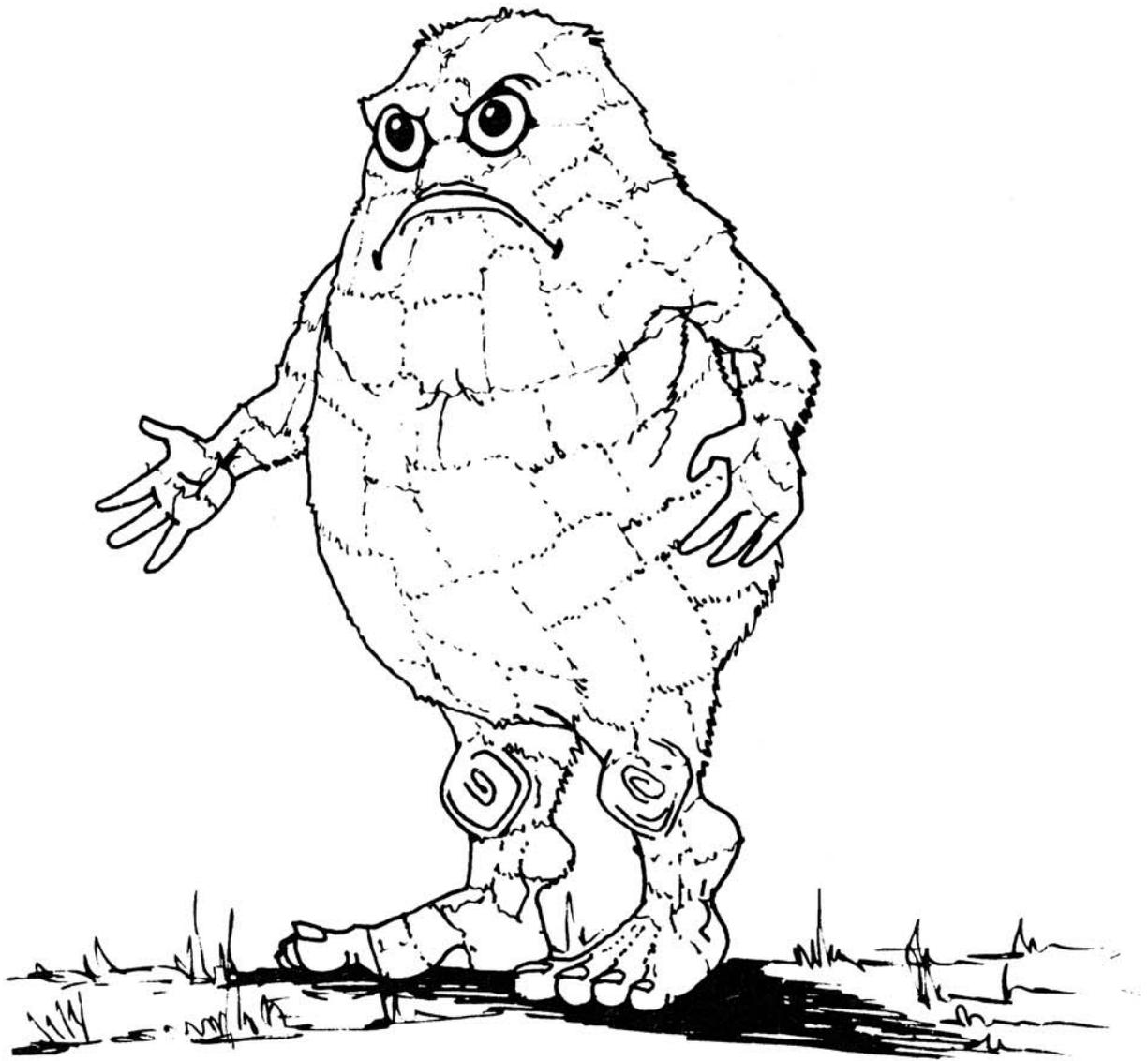
The name of the chief used in this story is Jalydiums (July-Dee-Umps), and the name of the monster is the Ganoks (Ga-Nox).



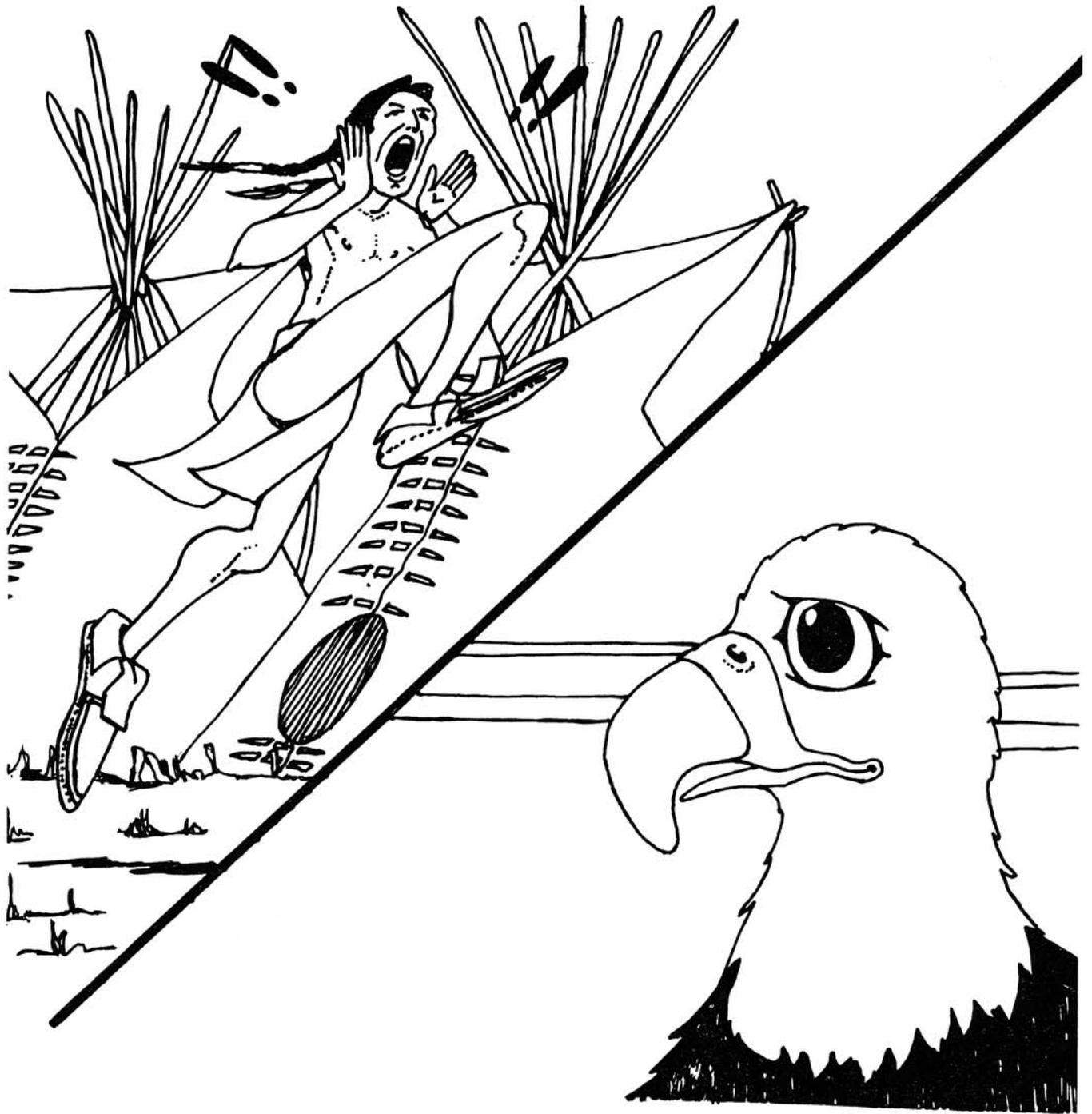
A long time ago all the animals were a greyish color. They lived together with the people and they could talk with each other and the people.



These people and animals all lived in a village that had a chief named Jalydiumps. This chief was a great leader of both people and animals.



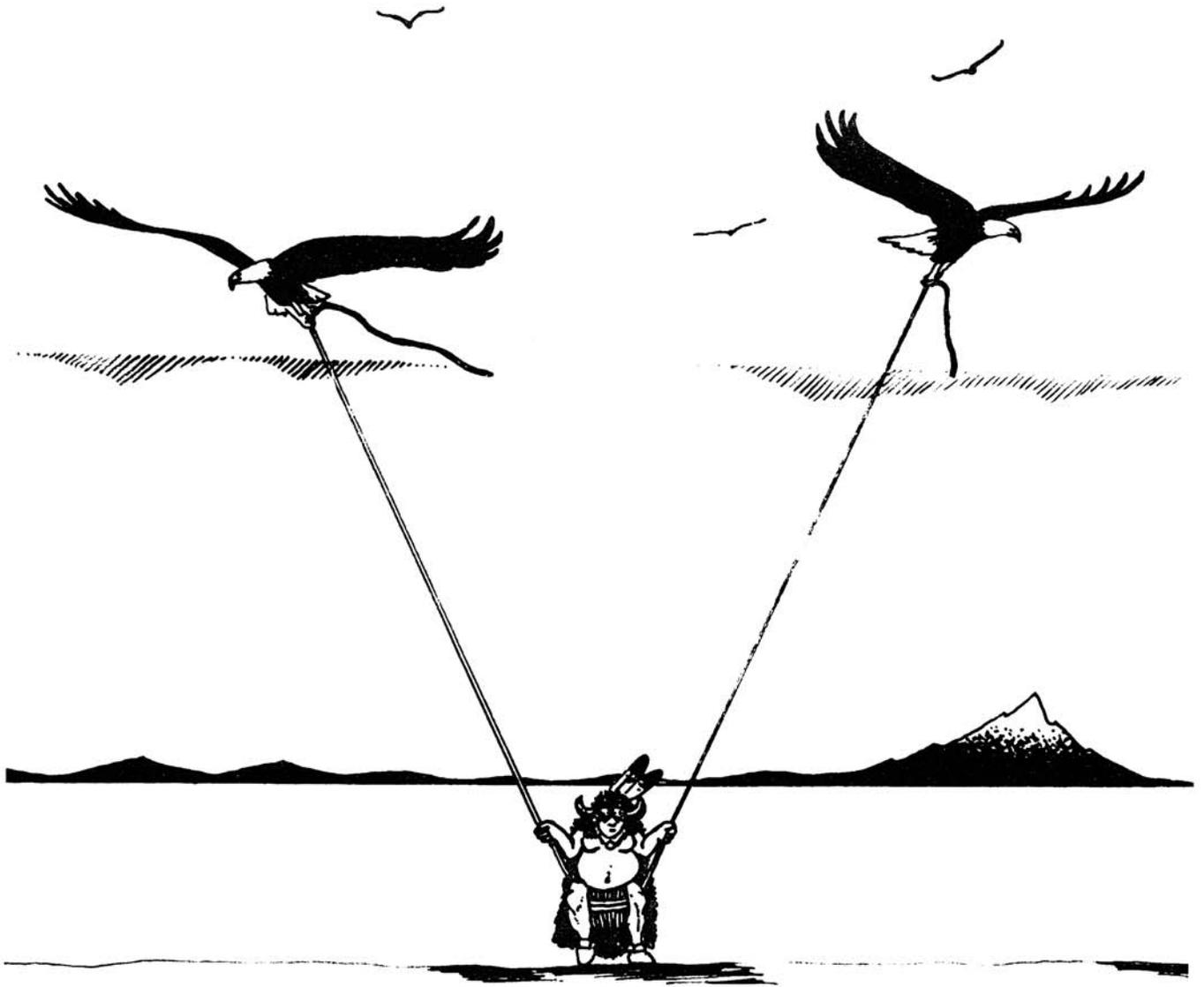
At that time there was also a monster who they called the Ganoks. This great beast always roamed around living on people and animals which he could find. The Ganoks was covered with fur of many different colors.



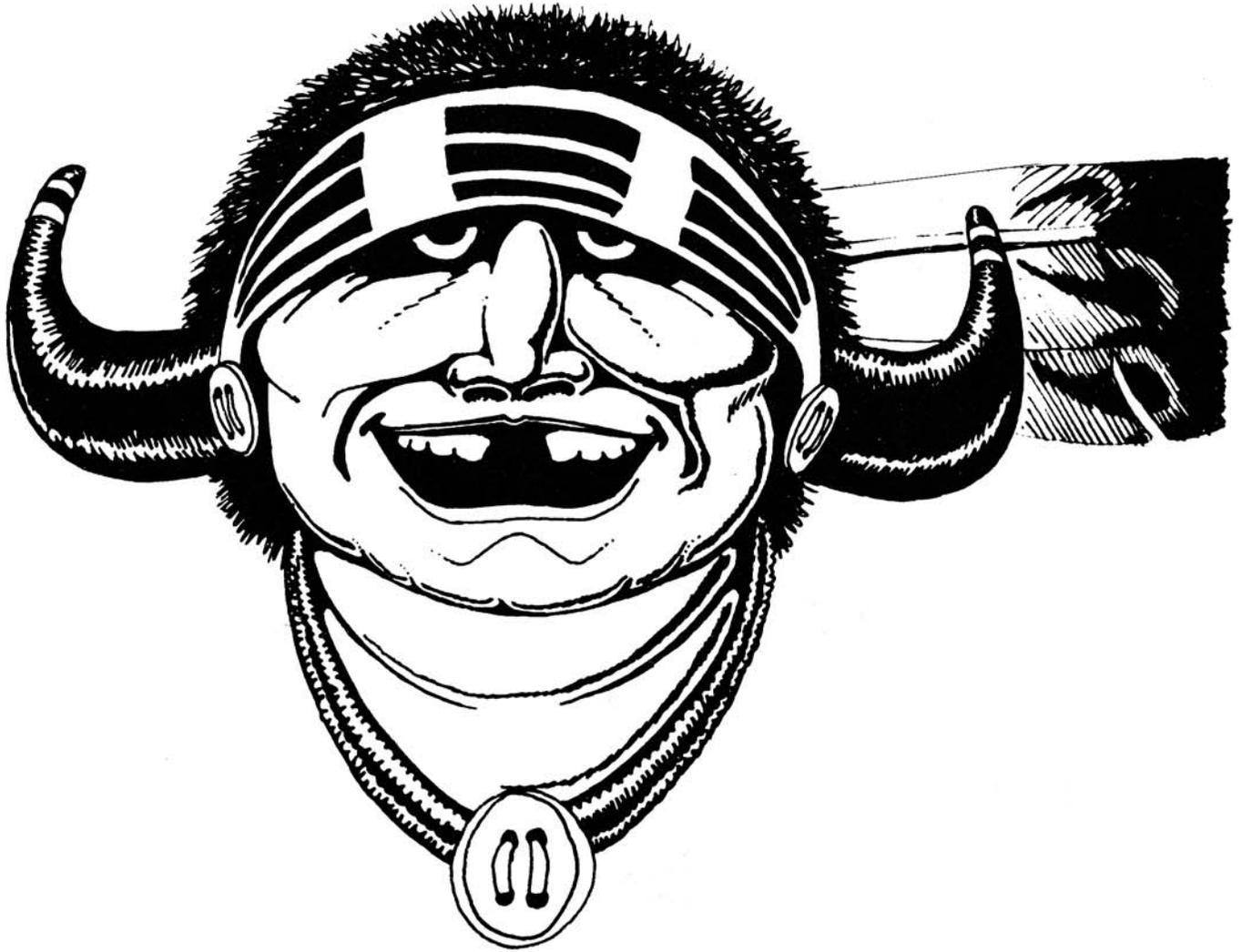
One day in their quiet little village one of the scouts came running back into camp. He was yelling, "The Ganoks is coming! The Ganoks is coming!" So all the people and animals called on the big birds to carry them away from the Ganoks.



The birds agreed to do this and let the people and animals climb onto their backs. The birds carried all the people and animals up into the sky, except for Jalydiumps who was a big fat man.



Jalydiumps was so huge that one bird couldn't lift him off the ground. Two big birds even tried to lift him with the same result, nothing.



Finally, Jalydiumps told everyone to leave, "Go on!" he said. "Go on and save yourselves! I'll be all right!" All the people and animals left.



Jalydiumps who was wearing a robe made of fur just stood and watched everyone as the big birds carried them away to safety up in the sky. He then turned and entered his wickiup and built a small fire. After the fire burned for a little while he began to heat up some rocks.



A little while later here came the Ganoks. He came into the village and began to rip apart all of the wickiups looking for people and animals to eat.



The Ganoks came to Jalydiumps' wickiup, and found Jalydiumps sitting by his small fire heating up rocks. He entered Jalydiumps' wickiup and seated himself across the fire from the chief Jalydiumps.

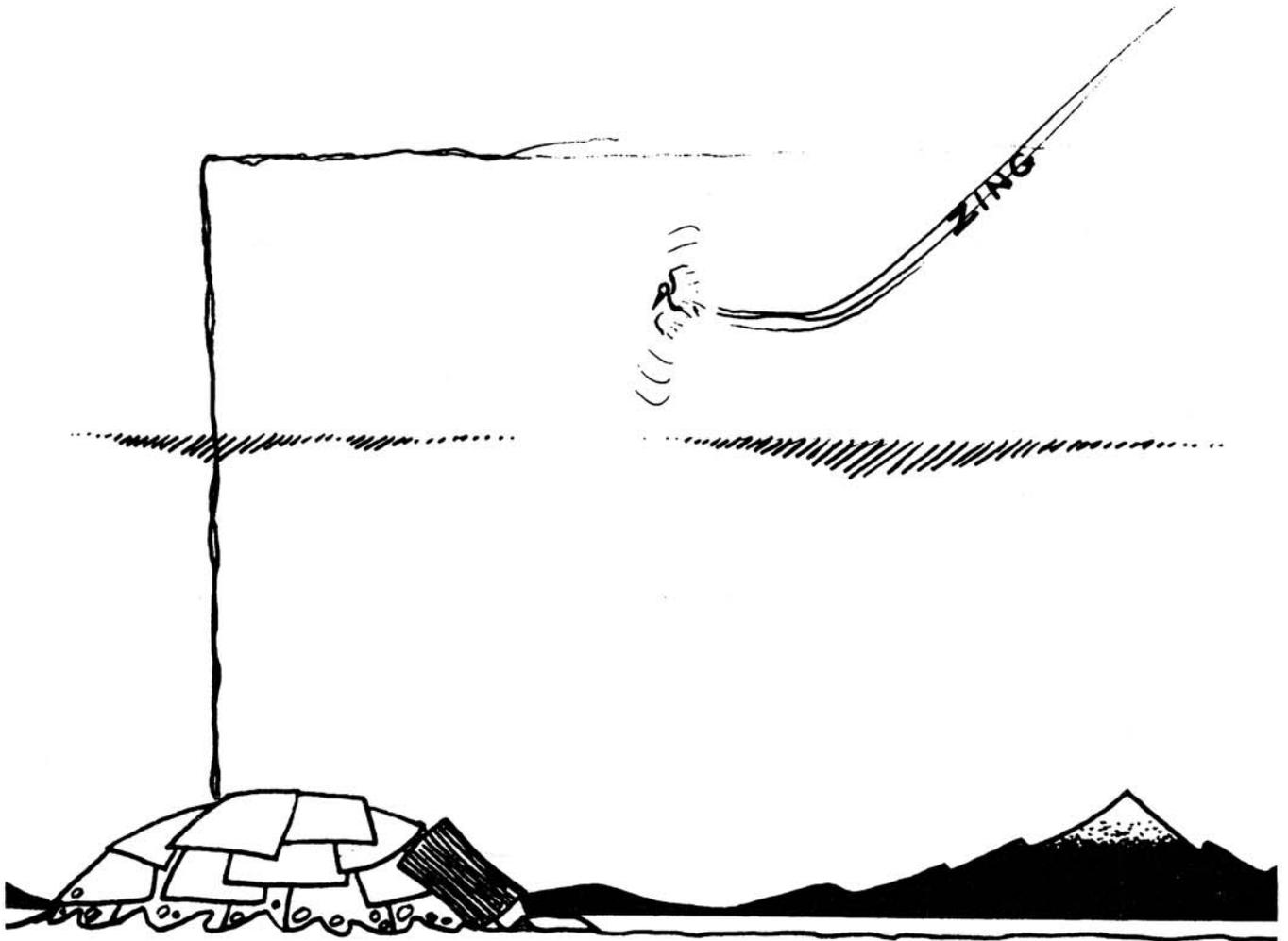
The Ganoks asked Jalydiumps, "Why are you not afraid of me?" The chief replied, "I am not afraid for I feel that I am stronger than you, oh mighty Ganoks. And to prove this we will see who can eat the most hot rocks!" The Ganoks agreed. They were now ready to see who was the stronger of the two.



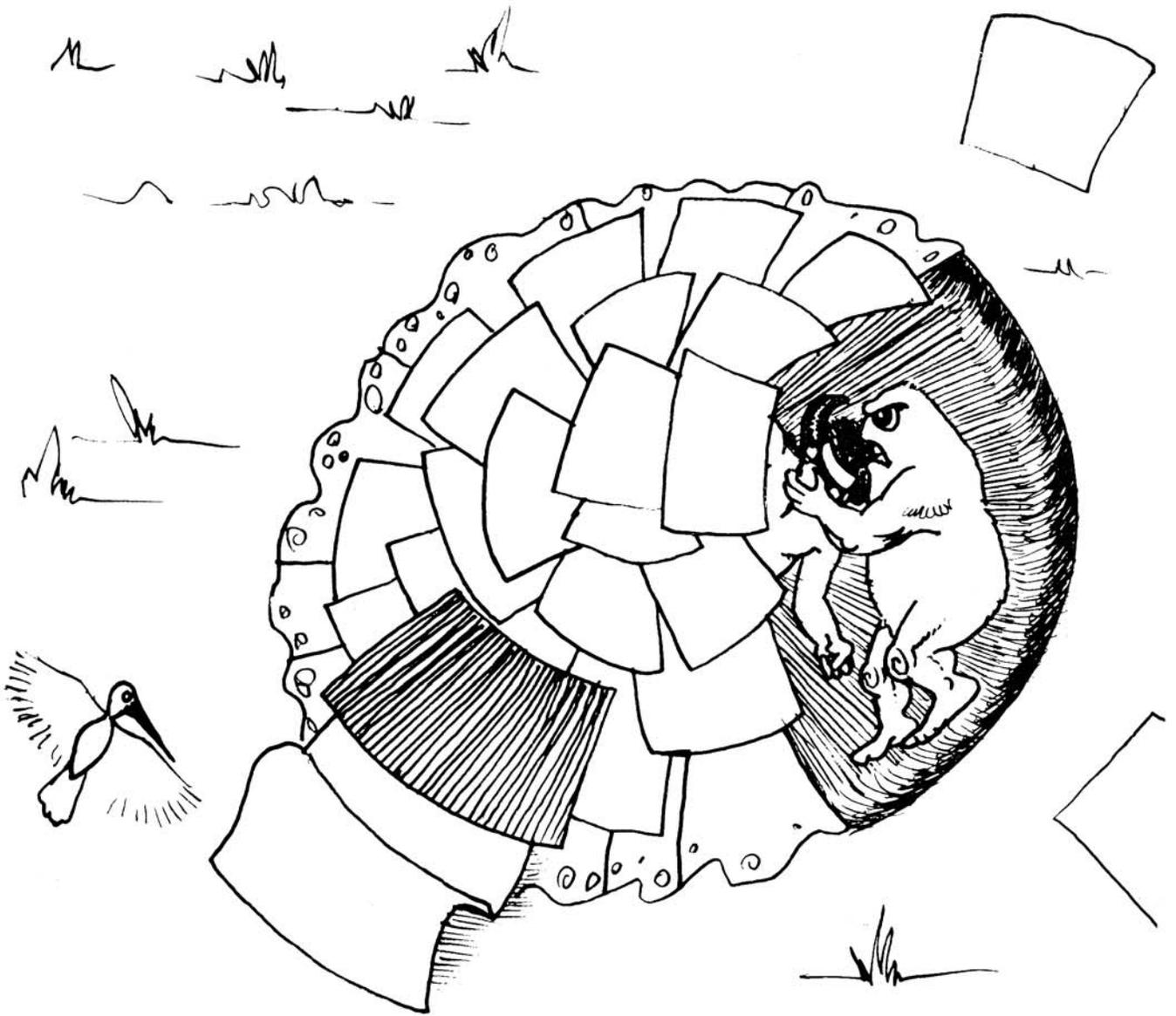
Jalydiumps took a hot rock and turned his head to one side. He opened his mouth and tossed the rock which to the Ganoks looked like Jalydiumps had swallowed the hot rock.



They both did this for awhile until the Ganoks grabbed Jalydiumps. The Ganoks was mad because he was in so much pain from all of the hot rocks that he had eaten. Chief Jalydiumps was in no pain at all.



Meanwhile, all of the animals and people began to worry about their chief. They sent a hummingbird down to see if their chief was all right. The hummingbird left and went, zing, downward over the village.

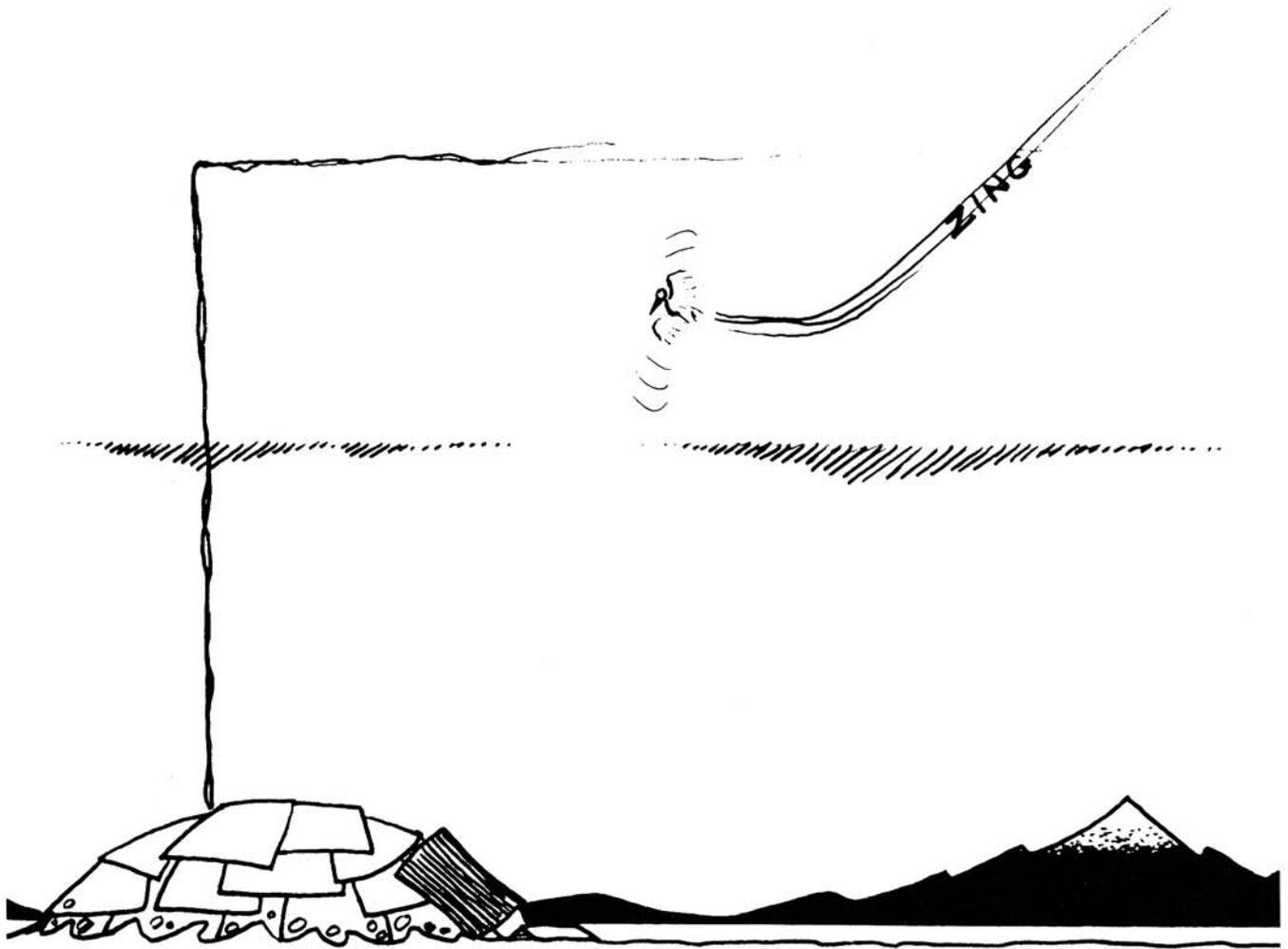


All that the hummingbird could see was Jalydiumps and the Ganoks rolling around on the ground. He flew, zing, back up to where the rest of the people and animals were to give them his report. He told the people and animals that it looked like their chief was being attacked and killed.



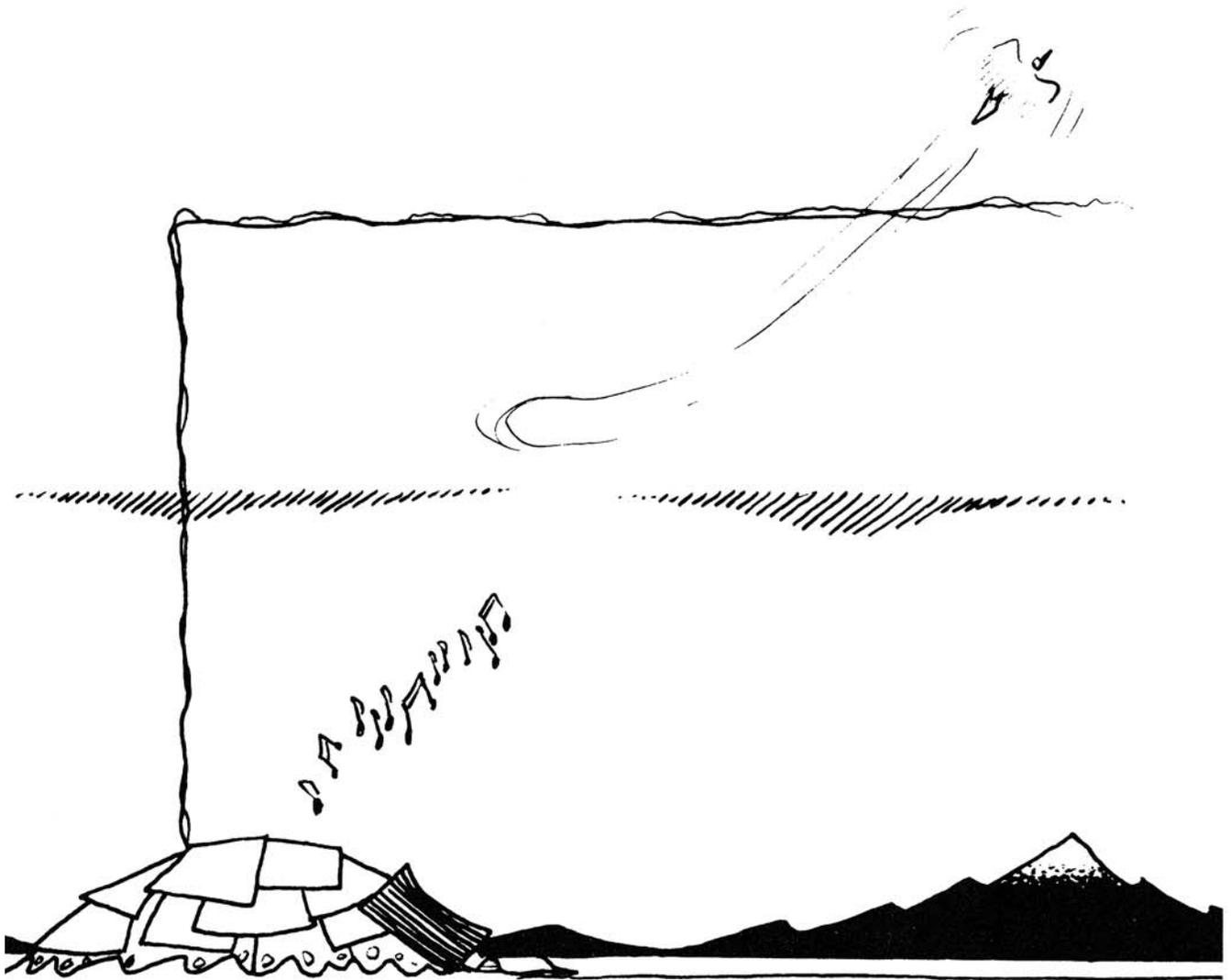
But what the hummingbird didn't know was that the Ganoks was dying.

After the Ganoks died Jalydiumps skinned him. He then took the Ganoks' great fur and put it over himself. He then placed his own robe over the Ganoks.

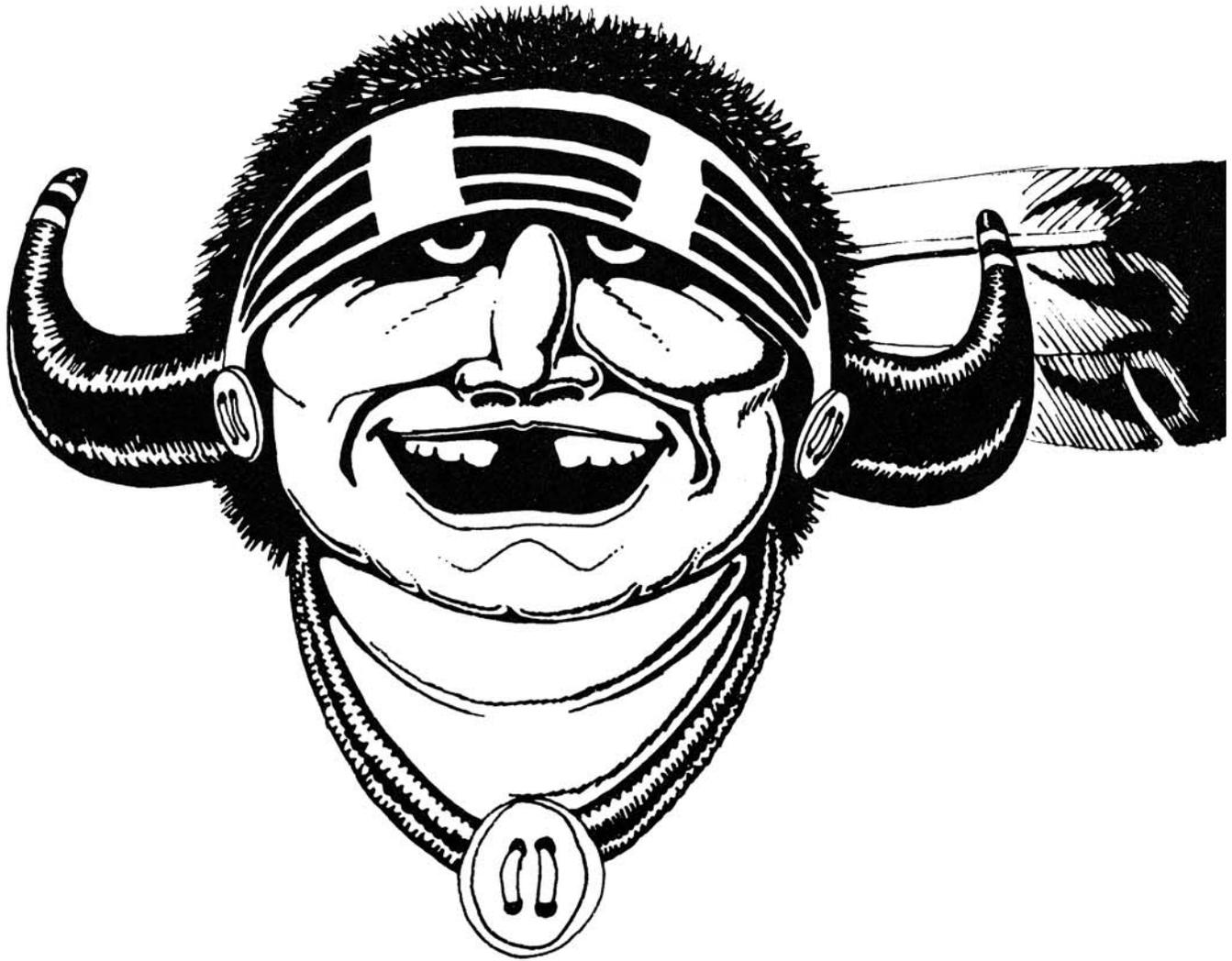


Jalydiumps began singing about the Ganoks had killed Jalydiumps. He then turned what had happened around and sang about how Jalydiumps had killed the Ganoks.

After the hummingbird's last report all the people and animals became more worried. They sent the hummingbird down to take another look. Zing, downward over the village he flew again!



But this time he saw what he believed was the Ganoks standing in Jalydiumps' wickiup singing about how he had killed Jalydiumps. The hummingbird didn't hear the rest of the song. Zing, back he flew to tell everyone of their chief's death. When the hummingbird told of the tragedy everyone began to cry.



Meanwhile Jalydiumps got up, traded the furs back again and went outside of his wickiup. He yelled up at all the people and animals. He yelled, "Come on down! Come on down! It's safe now!"

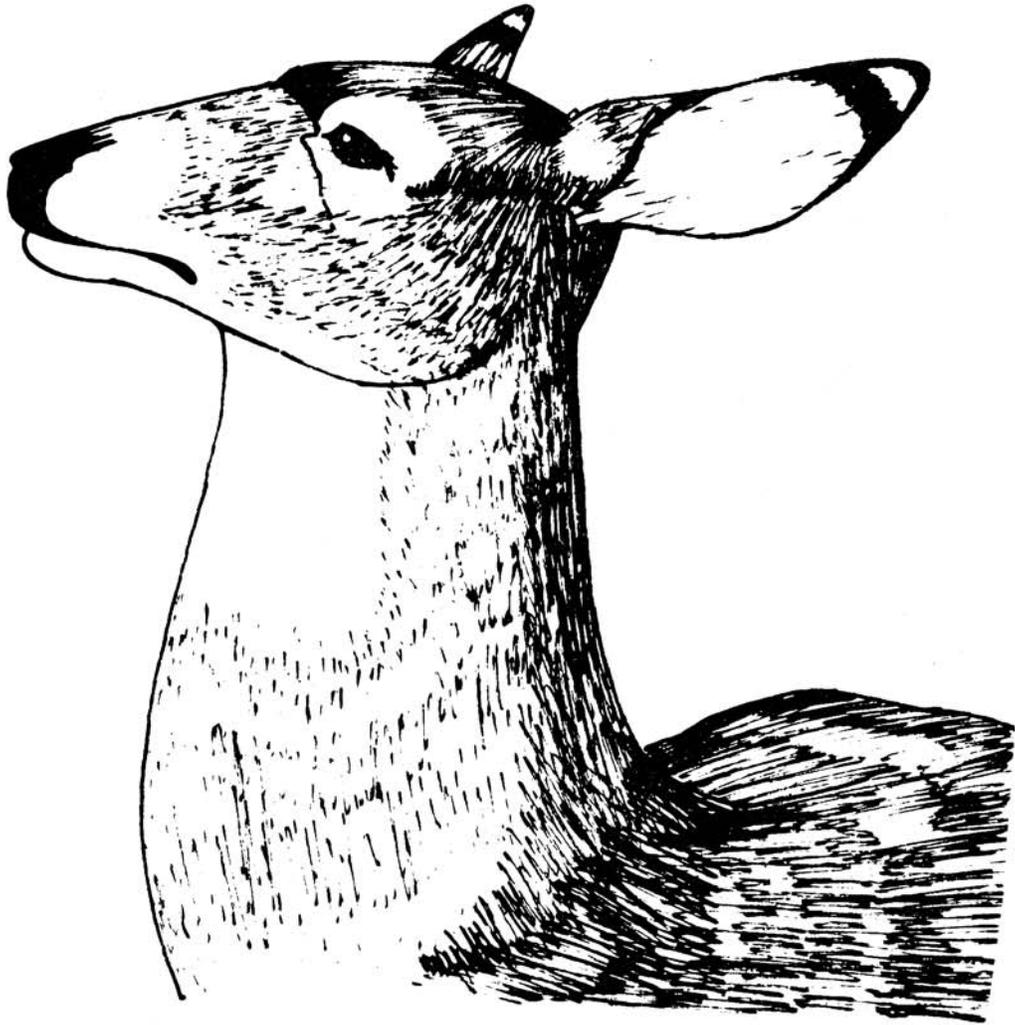


All the people and animals recognized Jalydiumps and began their descent to the village. They reached their village and everybody was happy that the Ganoks was dead and their chief was all right.



Jalydiumps then told all of the animals to line up. He said, "Get in line all of you! I'll give you each a color." So the animals lined up to receive their colors.

After all the animals lined up, Jalydiumps took the Ganoks' many colored hide and cut a piece out of it.



First in line was Deer so Jalydiumps took the piece of brown colored fur and laid it over Deer. This is why the deer are brown.



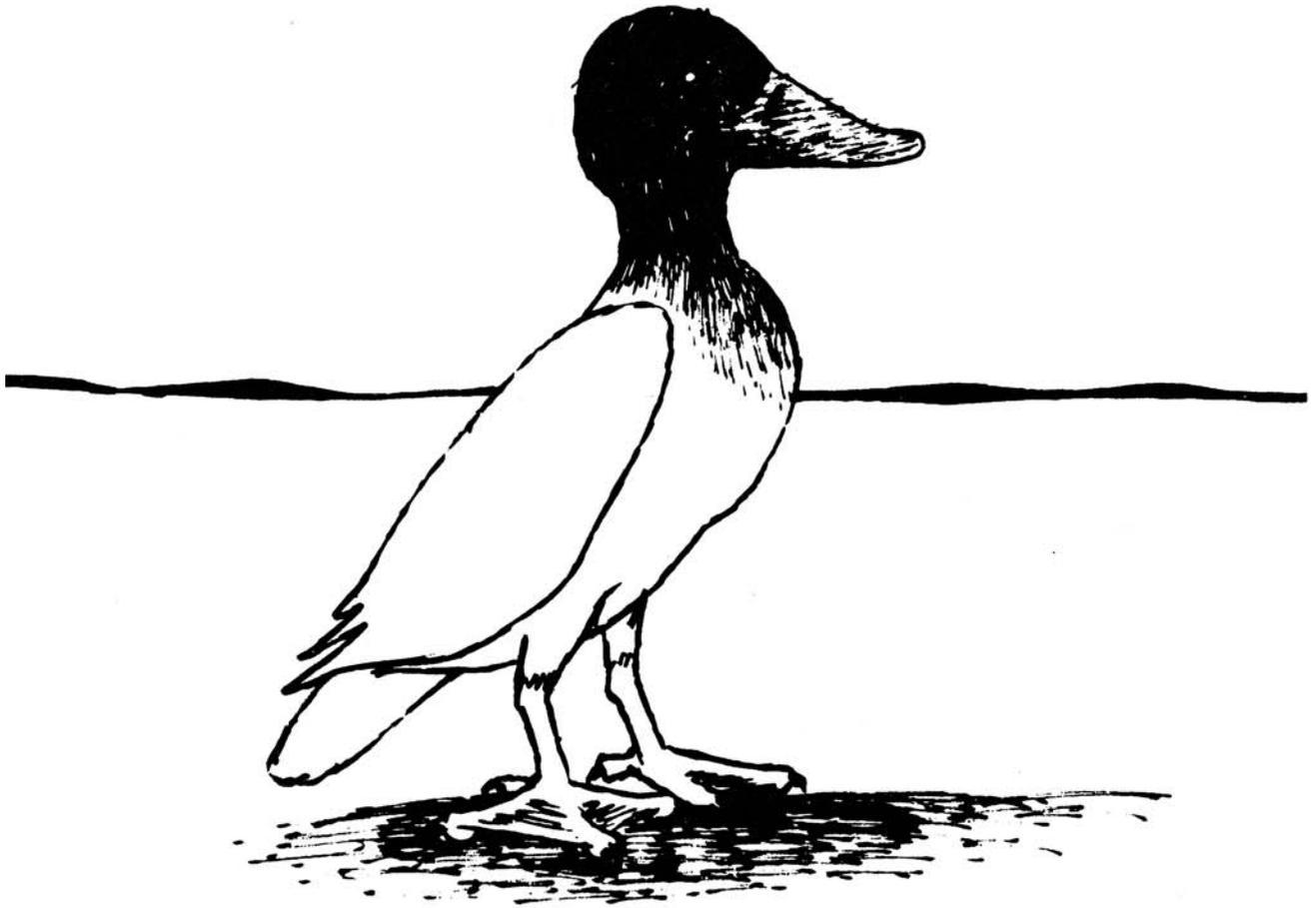
Then he took some more fur of different shades of browns and black and covered some bears. This is how the brown bears, black bears and grizzlies got their colors.



Next was Raccoon. Jalydiums cut strips of black to lay over Raccoon. This is how Raccoon got his stripes and mask.



Jalydiumps continued this for a long time until he began to run out of the multi-colored fur. Almost all of the animals had colors. Jalydiumps had only one small piece of black left. He looked down and saw a small mudhen.



Jalydiumps told Mudhen, "I'm really sorry Mudhen. This is all of the color I have left."
Jalydiumps took the small patch of black and laid it on Mudhen's head. This is why the Mudhen has a black head and the rest of him is grey.

From that day on animals have had different colors, thanks to the great chief Jalydiumps!

Booklets available in the Level IV 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, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



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