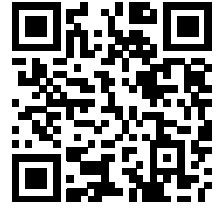


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Native American Oral Lore



Long ago, the Native _____ developed a rich tradition of oral storytelling. These stories were not just tales, but a way to pass down _____, history, and values. Each tribe had its own unique stories, often told by a respected _____. These narratives were more than entertainment; they were a vital part of _____ life.

A common theme in these stories was the relationship with _____. They often featured animals with human-like qualities, teaching lessons about life and _____. For example, the coyote was a popular character, known for being cunning and _____. These stories also explained natural phenomena, like how the _____ brought light to the world.

Another important aspect was the use of _____. These stories were not meant to be taken literally. Instead, they offered deeper _____, guiding the listeners to understand complex concepts about life, death, and the _____ world. Young members of the tribe learned important lessons through these captivating _____.

Storytelling events were special. They usually happened during _____ or ceremonies. Everyone, from the youngest _____ to the oldest adult, listened intently. These stories were not written down; they were memorized and passed on _____. This made each storytelling session unique, as the teller might add their own flair or slightly alter parts of the _____.

These oral traditions have significantly influenced American _____. Many early American writers were inspired by these rich narratives, integrating them into their own works. Today, these stories are not only a window into Native American _____ but also a cherished part of America's literary _____.

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