

2.3 How are Animals Represented in Myths and Legends?

Story Extension for This Lesson:

In the story, Sam and Alex meet a few different creatures, including the wolf and the coyote. These animals, along with many others, often appear in myths and legends, particularly in those related to First Nations.

Grade: 2

Strand: Growth and Changes in Animals

Inquiry Skills:

Inferring, Inventing

Instructions

Part 1:

As a class, think of an animal such as a bear or a wolf, and think about how it might be described if it had human characteristics (e.g. if a bear could talk and act like a human, what might its personality be?). How are the wolf and the coyote portrayed in Sam and Alex's story? Sometimes, an animal's perceived character traits are inferred from their behaviours, which is a topic that you could explore with students.

Part 2:

Have students choose an animal of their choice, and use their imagination and/or inferences to describe the animal as if it had human characteristics. They could use blank paper and draw a picture of the animal, along with words to describe the animal.

Part 3:

Share some of the animals that were important for aboriginal people, and how what human traits they were perceived to have. An excellent resource can be found at:

inquiry.noii.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/aboriginal-animal-traits

Part 4:

You can look at how animals have been portrayed in popular media, such as Yogi Bear, Bambi, The Lion King, etc.

Materials List:

- blank paper
- pencil crayons

Connections:

Language, Visual Arts **Subject**

Area:

English, Art

Connects to:

Grade 2

Assessment Strategy:

This is primarily a Language or Visual Arts investigation, so expectations from Language (e.g. vocabulary) or Visual Arts could be used to assess this work.