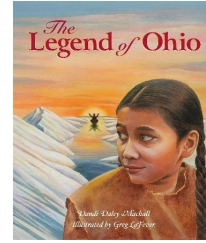


THE LEGEND OF OHIO

by Dandi Daley Mackall; illustrated by Greg LaFever
published by Sleeping Bear Press
ISBN: 1-58536-244-1



The Legend of Ohio is a story rich in regional history and culture and can be utilized in a variety of classroom settings, from language arts to social studies and beyond.

Story Synopsis: Thousands of years ago, young Dikewamis and her family journeyed south, keeping ahead of the Great White Stone Mountains (glaciers). Chief Tarachiawagon led his people to the Grandfather Mountains (Appalachians), where the people struggled for life and began to lose faith in their chief. In this legend, it was his sacrifice that would ultimately bring about their safety in the rich land of Ohio.

Possible areas of study:

History

1. Which animals in the story are still around? Which ones aren't? What happened to them?
2. Why were the rivers so important to the First People?
3. List all the things you've heard and thought about "Native Americans" or "Indians," even things you've seen on TV. Discuss. Then list all the things you'd like to know about the culture. Explore together.

Social Studies

1. Who are your ancestors?
2. Did you ever have to move? What are some of the problems with moving to a new place?
3. What wild animals have you seen where you live?
4. Why are rivers so important to us still?
5. Have you ever planted something? Was it easy to grow your plant? Plant seeds and observe how much care is required for plants to grow.
6. Dikewamis had to trust her parents and Chief Tarachiawagon. Is it ever hard to trust grown-ups?
7. When were you the coldest? What did you do to keep warm?
8. How hard was it for Dikewamis to leave her home? Make a connection to the homeless victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Geography

1. Trace Dikewamis' journey on a map.
2. Then trace the journeys of students who have moved.

Art

1. Draw pictures of what you think the animals looked like: bison, sharp-nosed shrew, short-faced skunk, giant tortoise, sloth, dire wolf, woolly mammoth, musk ox, mastodon. Plan to visit a museum of natural history to further explore this subject.

English/Language Arts

1. What stories have you heard about your grandparents? great-grandparents?
3. Ask grandparents to come in and tell a family story (oral tradition).
4. Bring in an old family picture and a story to go with it.
5. Interview your parent or grandparent and ask questions about their past and how they ended up here.
6. Some myths, or legends, try to explain how certain things came to be. Make up your own legend that explains:
 - a. How the zebra got its stripes.

- b. How the elephant got its trunk.
- c. How the skunk got its smell.
- d. How your school got its name.
- e. How you got your name.

A Deeper Look—Oral Tradition

Source: Iroquois Oral Tradition:

- A. Oral Tradition: History, traditions, culture, morals, religion—all passed orally, from generation to generation.
- B. Keeper of Old Things—historians, one or two elders who had all history and knowledge in their heads. Stories so valued that not everyone could be trusted to tell them.
- C. Three Components of Native American storytelling
 - 1. To provide entertainment through stories of history & culture
 - 2. To teach lessons of survival
 - 3. To pass on spiritual teachings

Background:

A. First People-- Ice Age, Pleistocene Era

Theory: Native Americans came across Beringia from a homeland in Siberia around 10-15,000 years ago. The Bering Land Bridge was created when the sea level dropped 330 feet lower between two ice sheets during the Late Glacier Period. The land was rich, until it grew overpopulated.

B. Iroquois customs

The Iroquois developed an economy based on agriculture, including corn, squash, beans, tobacco, later orchard fruits; cocoa and chocolate from Native American origin; 60 percent of food eaten in the world is of Native American origin.

Our government may be indebted to the *League of Iroquois* for borrowing many concepts from the *Five Nations*, including:

- the equality of women;
- leaders ruling with consent of the governed;
- and, people choosing their own leaders;
- ideas foreign to most Europeans at the time the Iroquois nation thrived.

Further study: Iroquois, Algonquin, Haudenosaunee, Five Nations, Ice Age, Pleistocene, Ohio rivers & geography, archaeology, ancient tools, lacrosse, oral traditions, storytelling

For School Visits & Conference Speaking

Dandi has given over 100 Young Author Assemblies in schools across the U.S. She speaks to elementary, middle, & high schools, entertaining, inspiring, and teaching about stories and writing. She's published about 400 books for every age.

All-school assemblies generally last 45 min. Visits to individual classrooms include exercises geared to age group. Author's Fee: \$900, plus expenses.

Call: Dandi 419-945-2497 dandi@dandibooks.com Visit www.dandibooks.com