

Today you will read and think about the folktales “Coyote and Fire” and “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky.” As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about how the illustrations help you understand the folktales so you can write an essay.

Read the folktale “Coyote and Fire.” Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Coyote and Fire

A Folktale from the Pacific Northwest

by D.M. Souza

- 1 Long ago when the world was young, people did not have Fire. They ate their meat and salmon raw. When cold winds blew, or snow covered the ground, they could not warm their houses. Only the skookums had Fire. These three evil sisters lived high on a mountain and would not share with anyone.
- 2 One icy cold winter, the people met Coyote on the road. “Please, Coyote,” they begged, “capture Fire from the skookums or we will freeze.”
- 3 “I will do what I can,” he said.
- 4 That night Coyote climbed the snow-covered mountain where the skookums lived. When he reached the top, he spotted Fire in the distance. Moving closer, he saw one of the skookums sitting in front of a house, warming herself by Fire.
- 5 For a long time Coyote watched until the skookum went to the door and called, “Sister, sister, get up. It’s your turn to guard Fire.”
- 6 The second sister appeared and took her place. After a while, she called the third sister. Coyote could hear the sleepy one yawning and groaning loudly inside.
- 7 “She is taking so long to come out, maybe I could seize Fire now,” Coyote whispered to himself. “But the skookums are swift. They would surely catch me before I got very far. I must think of a good plan.”
- 8 Coyote thought and thought, but his mind was foggy. So he asked his sisters, the three huckleberries who lived in his stomach. They were wise. They would surely know what to do. And they did.
- 9 Carefully, Coyote listened to their plan. Then he went back down the mountain and called together all the animals to tell them what they must do.
- 10 The next evening Coyote trudged up the mountainside again. Patiently he watched while the first two skookums took their turns in front of Fire. When the last sister was called, again only yawns and groans drifted outside.
- 11 Quick as an arrow, Coyote raced into the open, seized a burning stick, and ran across the snowy field.
- 12 “Aieeee, a thief!” Two skookums began chasing Coyote and throwing ice and snow at him.

GO ON ►

- 13 Coyote's legs moved faster and faster. His feet barely touched the ground. Still, the skookums came closer. He could feel their fiery breath on his fur. One of the skookums grabbed the tip of his tail. Her hot hand burned it black. (Even today all coyotes have black tips on their tails.)
- 14 At last Coyote reached a thicket of shrubs and fell to the ground exhausted. Just at that moment Cougar jumped out, seized the burning stick, and disappeared down the mountainside. For a minute the skookums were confused. But soon they were racing after Cougar.
- 15 When Cougar reached a grove of trees, Fox was waiting. She took the burning stick and ran until she came to a tall tree. There Squirrel grabbed the flaming torch, raced up the trunk, and jumped from branch to branch. She leaped along even as the flickering flame burned a black spot on the back of her neck, and her tail curled forward. (Even today squirrels have black spots on their necks and their tails curl forward.)
- 16 At the forest's edge, the skookums almost caught up with Squirrel. That's when Antelope took the stick of Fire, sped across a meadow, and handed it to Deer. One animal after another passed Fire on, keeping it just out of reach of the skookums, until it became a tiny hot coal.



- 17 Frog swallowed the coal and hopped away, but he wasn't quick enough. A skookum grabbed hold of his tail. So Frog took the biggest leap he had ever taken and left his tail in the skookum's hand. (Even today frogs do not have tails.)
- 18 Finally Frog slipped into a river and swam to the other side. By now he was too tired to jump again. He spit out the coal, and it landed on Wood. Wood swallowed it.
- 19 The skookums looked at one another. Neither one knew how to take Fire from Wood. With a heavy sigh and a shrug of their shoulders, they turned back and returned home to their still sleeping sister.
- 20 Meanwhile, Coyote told all the people to stand in a circle around Wood. He gathered branches and leaves and piled them high. Then he began rubbing two pieces of Wood together.
- 21 Minutes passed. The people watched. Suddenly sparks flew up. Coyote blew and blew as Fire slipped out of Wood. The flames danced higher and higher, and the people came closer, smiling when they felt Fire's warmth. Now they could cook their food and warm their homes. (Even today people know how to draw Fire out of Wood.)

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1. **Part A**

What is the meaning of **trudged** as it is used in paragraph 10?

- Ⓐ leaped high
- Ⓑ curled tightly
- Ⓒ walked slowly
- Ⓓ floated around

Part B

Which sentence from the folktale helps the reader understand the meaning of **trudged**?

- Ⓐ “That night Coyote climbed the snow-covered mountain where the skookums lived.” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓑ “His feet barely touched the ground.” (paragraph 13)
- Ⓒ “Just at that moment Cougar jumped out, seized the burning stick, and disappeared down the mountainside.” (paragraph 14)
- Ⓓ “That’s when Antelope took the stick of Fire, sped across a meadow, and handed it to Deer.” (paragraph 16)

2. **Part A**

What does Coyote do in order to steal Fire from the skookums?

- Ⓐ He learns how to outrun them.
- Ⓑ He waits until they are asleep inside the house.
- Ⓒ He tricks the other animals into getting Fire for him.
- Ⓓ He asks his wise sisters to help him create a successful plan.

Part B

Which detail from “Coyote and Fire” supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “Carefully, Coyote listened” (paragraph 9)
- Ⓑ “. . . called together all the animals to tell them what they must do.” (paragraph 9)
- Ⓒ “. . . yawns and groans drifted outside.” (paragraph 10)
- Ⓓ “Quick as an arrow, Coyote raced” (paragraph 11)

3. **Part A**

Which statement explains why Coyote steals Fire from the skookums?

- Ⓐ The skookums are evil, and Coyote wants to trick them.
- Ⓑ Coyote seeks power and wants to rule all the people and animals.
- Ⓒ The people are cold, and Coyote agrees to help them.
- Ⓓ Coyote enjoys challenges and can do things that no one else can do.

Part B

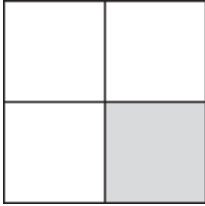
Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- Ⓐ “‘Please, Coyote,’ they begged, ‘capture Fire from the skookums’” (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ “When he reached the top, he spotted Fire in the distance.” (paragraph 4)
- Ⓒ “He could feel their fiery breath on his fur.” (paragraph 13)
- Ⓓ “One of the skookums grabbed the tip of his tail.” (paragraph 13)

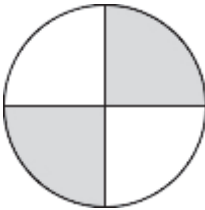
1. Each model equals one whole divided into equal parts. Which models show $\frac{1}{4}$ shaded?

Select the **three** correct answers.

(A)



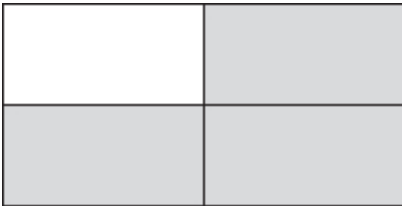
(B)



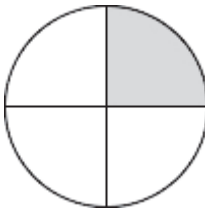
(C)



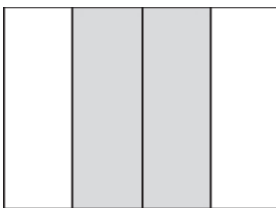
(D)



(E)



(F)

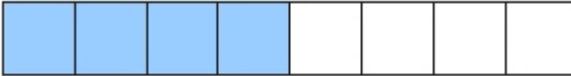

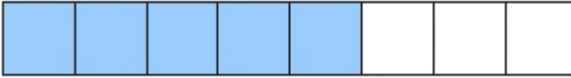



GO ON ►

2. A tablet has a rectangular screen with a width of 7 inches and a length of 9 inches. Select the **three** ways to calculate the area of the screen, in square inches.

- (A) 7×7
- (B) 7×9
- (C) 9×7
- (D) 9×9
- (E) $7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7$
- (F) $9 + 9 + 9 + 9 + 9 + 9 + 9$

3. A model is divided into 8 equal parts. Which model shows the correct shading of $\frac{5}{8}$?

- (A) 
- (B) 
- (C) 
- (D) 

Read the Native American folktale “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky.” Then answer questions 4 through 6.

How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky

A Native American Legend

Retold by Kathleen Muldoon

- 1 Once upon a time when Earth was young, Winter ruled. Snow and ice covered mountains and rivers, fields and forests. So hard was the floor between Earth and Sky that Sun could not peek through to warm the ground.
- 2 Animals that survived this harsh cold hunted to provide what little food they could for their young. A big bear, called Fisher because the magic in his tail helped him catch fish, decided it was time to bring Summer to Earth.
- 3 So Fisher invited all of Earth’s creatures to a meeting.
- 4 “We will find a way to warm Earth,” he said. “Sun will bring grass and flowers and birds. We must reach the Great Spirit and ask for help. Who will go with me to the place where Earth is closest to Sky?”
- 5 Otter, Lynx, and Wolverine agreed to accompany Fisher on his journey. They traveled across frozen lakes and rivers. Icy twigs snapped as they tramped through snowy woods. They climbed hills and slid through valleys.
- 6 Fisher swished his magical, stubby tail in the frigid waters and caught fish for them to eat along the way. After many days, he led them to the top of the tallest mountain on Earth, so high it almost tickled Sky.
- 7 There Fisher stood on his back paws and stretched, swiping his front claws on Sky’s floor. But he made only a tiny scratch. He could not break through to Sky.
- 8 “Let me try,” cried Otter.



GO ON ►

- 9 He jumped so high his head thumped the sky floor. Otter fell back to Earth and WHOOSH! Down the mountain he slid, riding on his belly all the way to the bottom.
- 10 Next Lynx took a step back and pounced at Sky. THUNK! She hit her head so hard that she fell unconscious¹ to the snow. Wolverine pushed her aside.
- 11 “I am the strongest,” he growled.
- 12 Wolverine leaped against Sky’s floor, once, twice, three times. Finally, he caused the tiniest of cracks to appear. He jumped again and again, widening the crack into a hole. Soon Wolverine climbed through the sky hole, followed by Fisher.
- 13 All at once, birds of every color and size surrounded them. Some swooshed through Wolverine’s hole and flew over Earth, spreading Sky’s warmth with each flap of their wings.
- 14 Soon Sun sent its rays through the hole, and Fisher and Wolverine watched as snow on the mountain-top began to melt.
- 15 “We must make the hole bigger,” Fisher said. He twitched his magic tail. Then, using his sharp teeth, he gnawed off more pieces of the sky floor.
- 16 Suddenly a band of Sky People ran toward them.
- 17 “Stop, thieves,” they cried, brandishing² bows and arrows. “Stop stealing our warmth!”
- 18 Wolverine escaped through the hole and tumbled down the mountainside back to Earth. But Fisher kept working. By the time the Sky People reached him, he’d widened the hole enough so that Sun could warm Earth for half of every year.



¹unconscious—not awake because of an injury

²brandishing—waving something in anger or excitement

- 19 Fisher ran from the Sky People's arrows and climbed to the top of a tall tree. But one arrow struck Fisher's tail and he began falling. Before he could hit Sky's floor, the Great Spirit, admiring Fisher's persistence³, took pity on the bear. He adorned⁴ Fisher with stars, and set him in a place of honor in the sky. If you look to Sky on a starry night, you will see him there still.
- 20 The Great Bear constellation, also called Ursa Major, is one of the largest and easiest star groupings to find in the sky. This is because one group of stars within it looks like a soup ladle and is called the Big Dipper. It forms the back end and tail of the whole constellation, which resembles a bear.
- 21 On a clear night, if you study the northern sky, you will see Ursa Major if you look first for the Big Dipper. Ursa Major is highest in the spring sky and lowest in the autumn because, according to Native American legend, Bear is looking for a place to hibernate⁵ before winter.

³persistence—the quality of refusing to give up

⁴adorned—decorated

⁵hibernate—to rest or be inactive for the winter

“How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky” by Kathleen Muldoon, illustrations by Robert Meganck from Spider Magazine’s November/December 2011 issue, copyright © 2011 by Carus Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission of Spider Magazine.

4. **Part A**

Which phrase matches the meaning of **frigid** as it is used in paragraph 6 of “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky”?

- (A) very cold
- (B) very thick
- (C) full of light
- (D) full of stars

Part B

Which detail from “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky” **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) “. . . across frozen lakes and rivers.” (paragraph 5)
- (B) “. . . caused the tiniest of cracks to appear.” (paragraph 12)
- (C) “. . . sent its rays through the hole” (paragraph 14)
- (D) “. . . you will see Ursa Major” (paragraph 21)

5. **Part A**

What is the central message of “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky”?

- Ⓐ Stealing is never the right thing to do.
- Ⓑ Working hard to complete a task will be rewarded.
- Ⓒ Real friends do not abandon each other, especially in times of need.
- Ⓓ People will fight to protect what is theirs, even if they should share it.

Part B

Which sentence from “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky” supports the answer to part A?

- Ⓐ “So hard was the floor between Earth and Sky that Sun could not peek through to warm the ground.” (paragraph 1)
- Ⓑ “He jumped again and again, widening the crack into a hole.” (paragraph 12)
- Ⓒ “Wolverine escaped through the hole and tumbled down the mountainside back to Earth.” (paragraph 18)
- Ⓓ “Before he could hit Sky’s floor, the Great Spirit, admiring Fisher’s persistence, took pity on the bear.” (paragraph 19)

6. **Part A**

Why was Fisher given a place to live in the sky?

- Ⓐ The Sky People chased Fisher and his friends into the sky.
- Ⓑ The Great Spirit rewarded Fisher for trying to warm Earth.
- Ⓒ The Great Spirit decided Fisher would look beautiful in the sky.
- Ⓓ The Sky People punished Fisher for trying to steal warmth from them.

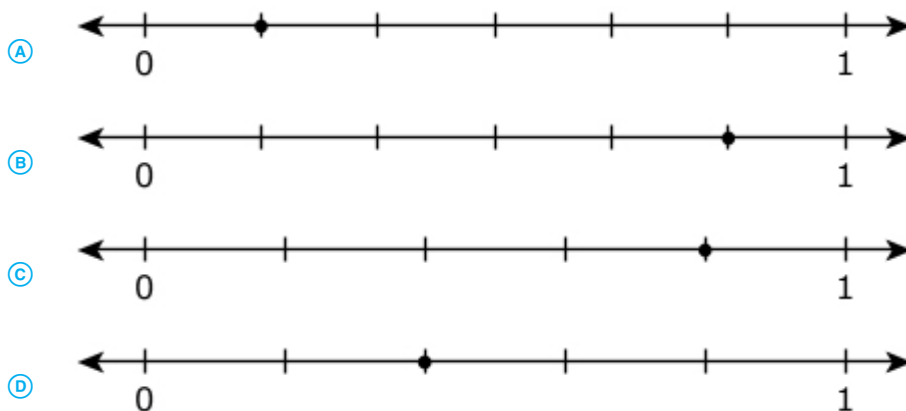
Part B

Which sentence from “How Big Bear Stuck to the Sky” supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ “There Fisher stood on his back paws and stretched” (paragraph 7)
- Ⓑ “All at once, birds of every color and size surrounded them.” (paragraph 13)
- Ⓒ ““Stop stealing our warmth!”” (paragraph 17)
- Ⓓ “But Fisher kept working.” (paragraph 18)

4. Which **two** statements can be represented by the expression 4×8 ?
- Ⓐ A teacher puts 8 chairs at each of 4 tables.
 - Ⓑ Tom buys 4 red markers and 8 black markers.
 - Ⓒ Marie shares her 8 marbles equally among 4 friends.
 - Ⓓ There are 4 rows of flowers. There are 8 flowers in each row.
 - Ⓔ There are 8 ducks in the pond. Then, 4 more ducks join them.
5. A boat ride across a lake is 49 minutes each way. How many minutes does the boat ride take to go across the lake and back?
- Ⓐ 49
 - Ⓑ 51
 - Ⓒ 54
 - Ⓓ 98

6. Which number line shows a point at $\frac{5}{6}$?



7. Enter your answer in the box.

$$3 \times 80 =$$

0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9