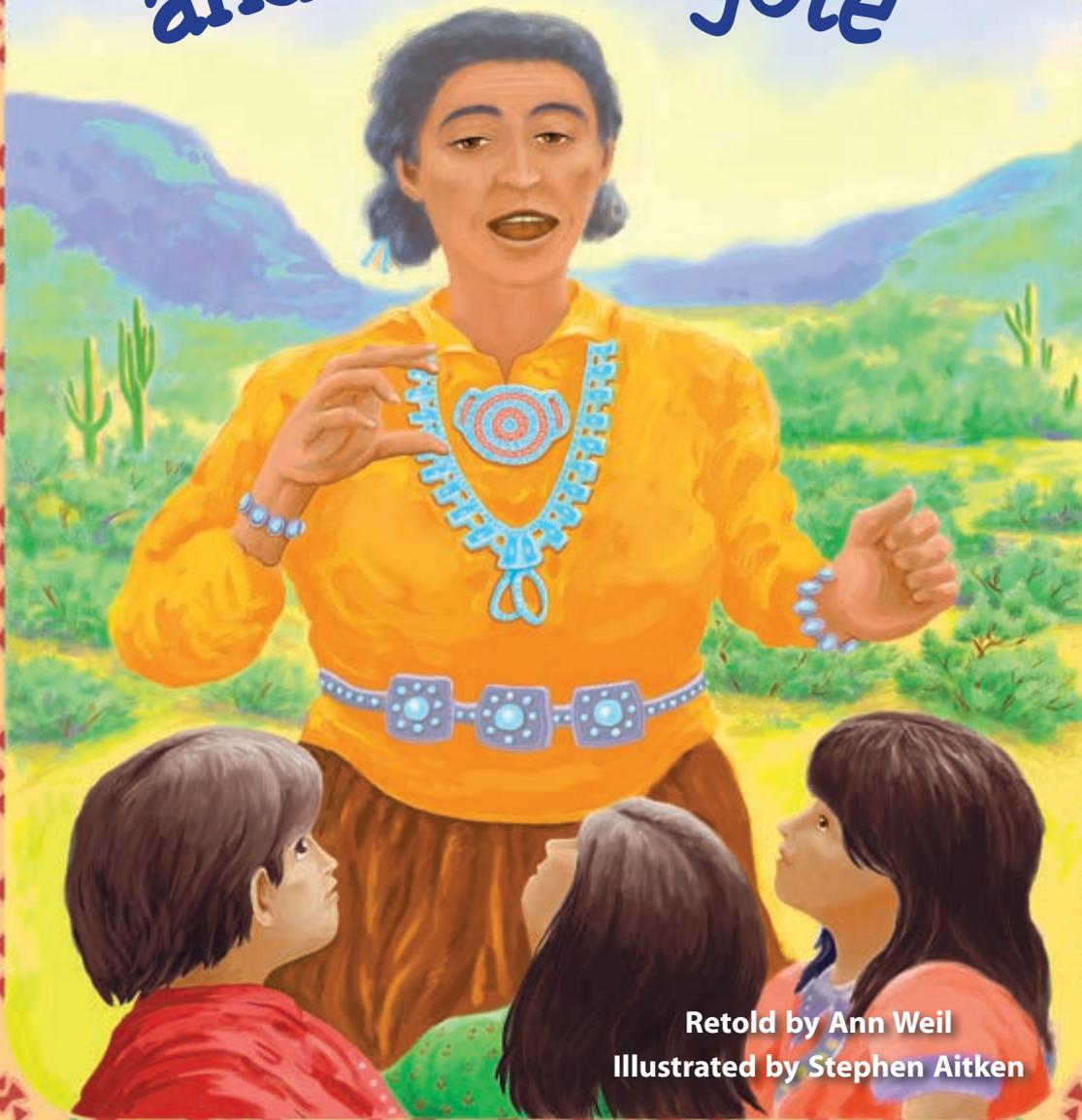


# The Fox, the Dog, and the Coyote

E-BOOK  
SAMPLE  
(Selected Pages)



Retold by Ann Weil

Illustrated by Stephen Aitken

## Introduction

Storytelling is a Native American tradition. Parents and grandparents tell many stories to teach the beliefs of their people to young children. In this way, the stories, which were not written down in the past, were told from one generation to the next.

Many Native American stories tell how things came to be in the world. The three stories in this book explain how things in nature came to be. You'll read an Apache story about how people got fire for the first time, a Cherokee story about how some stars came to be in the sky, and a story from a tribe in the Pacific Northwest that tells how a great river was created.



## How Fox Stole Fire



Long, long ago, all of the fire in the world belonged only to the fireflies. They lived in their own village with a high wall around it. Fox wanted to give fire to the world. This is how he did it.

Fox thought he could trick the fireflies and steal some of their fire. But first he would need to get inside their village. Fox asked the geese if they would teach him to fly. The geese agreed. They gave Fox special wings so he could fly, but warned him that he must always fly with them.



The tree bent down at Fox's command and lifted him over the village wall. "Stop!" cried the fireflies.

Fox ran as fast as he could with the fireflies flying close behind him. When Fox was tired, he gave the burning bark to a hawk. The hawk flew high in the sky with it. Sparks from the burning bark scattered all over the earth, and soon people had fire, too.

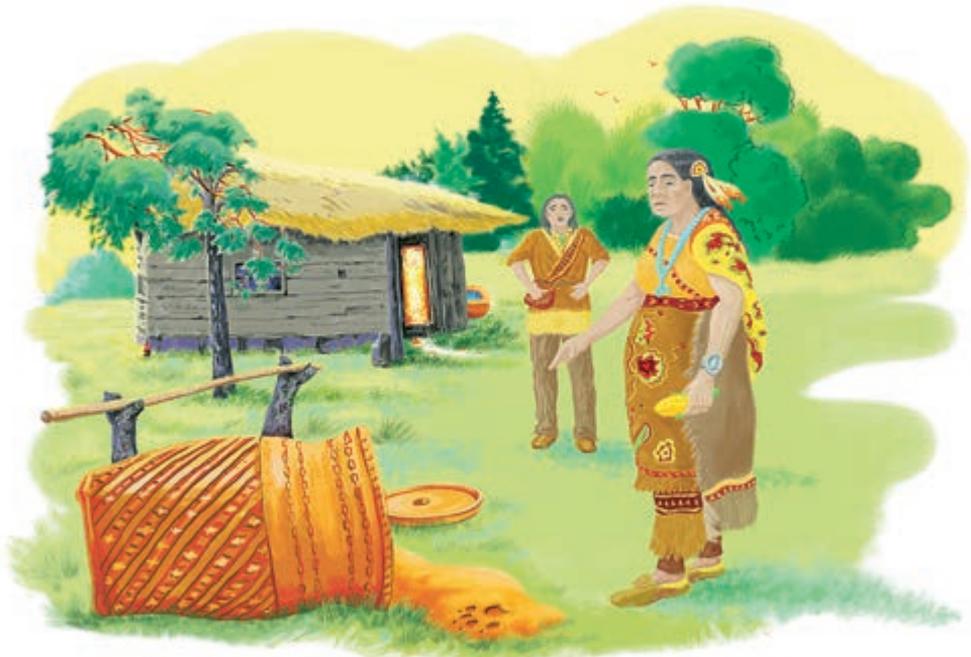
Finally, the fireflies caught up to Fox. "Fox," they said, "your punishment for stealing fire is that you and the other animals can never use it for yourselves."

Now you know the Apache story of how we came to have fire.

## The Story of the Milky Way

Long, long ago, people needed corn to live. They planted corn, dried the corn, and then pounded it into cornmeal. They used cornmeal to make bread, and they ate the bread all winter when there was no fresh food. People kept their cornmeal in large baskets outside their homes.

One morning, an old woman went to her basket to get some cornmeal. The basket was tipped over and cornmeal was all over the ground. “Look,” she said to her husband, as she pointed to a large footprint in the cornmeal. “That looks like the paw print of a dog.”







## Think About It

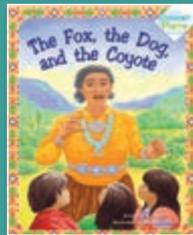
- 💡 What do all of these stories try to explain?
- 💡 In what ways are the stories similar?
- 💡 Why do you think Native Americans retell these stories to their children?
- 💡 What do you learn about folktales from this story?

# Social Studies

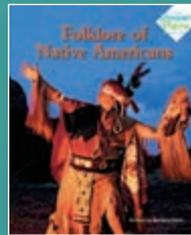
## Culture: How Folklore Reflects America's Culture

Some Native American stories tell about clever animals. Read about how a fox found fire, a dog made some of the stars, and a coyote created a mighty river.

### Power Pair



Fiction



Nonfiction

<b>Genre</b>	Folklore, Fiction
<b>Subject/Strand</b>	Social Studies/Culture
<b>Key Words</b>	folklore, storytelling
<b>Vocabulary</b>	village, surround, command, gigantic, startle

<b>Level</b>
GRL 0
Lexile 690L



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