

COYOTE'S DEAL WITH THE WIND

This story comes from the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene area of Eastern Washington.

A long time ago the wind would blow through the land going across the hills. The wind would travel very, very fast. The wind would travel very fast and when he came to the villages, he would knock the houses down. He would knock their houses down. And because of this, the people were always frightened. The wind would come every day, come very fast and sometimes blow so strongly, tear up plants and trees and knock their houses down. Coyote saw this and Coyote said "I have to stop the wind from doing this. This is too much destruction, too much damage." So, coyote was determined that he would make a trap and he would capture the wind in the trap. So, he made a trap. He tied a rope to a tree, bent the tree down and set a peg in the rope so it was a trap that could catch many, many things. Well Coyote went to sleep. When he woke up, he looked at his trap and there was the wind. The wind was held by the rope in that trap and could not get away. Coyote got his bow and arrow and aimed it at the wind and said, "I'm going to have to kill you, you cause too much damage." The wind said "Please don't kill me. I haven't done anything wrong." Coyote said "Yes you have. You've been coming through very quickly, tearing up trees and knocking down houses. I have to kill you to stop you from doing this." The wind said "Please don't kill me, I'm not a bad person, I'm not a bad being. I'll do anything." Coyote said "All right. I tell you what. If you promise you will not come through here every day, I will let you live. If you promise you will not come so quickly, so fast, so strongly that you knock down trees and houses, I will let you live." So, the wind agreed to Coyote's demands. So now the wind, when it comes, comes every few days and doesn't blow so strong and knock down your houses. And that is all.