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Before Reading

Meet Duane



Hello. I'm Duane and I'm 13.
I'm a Native American.

I come from the Lakota tribe. I've got an American name.

But I've also got a Native American name.

It's Fast Wind. Can you guess why?

Easy! Because I love running fast like the wind!

1 Now you make your Native American name.
Match the words from the two columns below.

Fast

Slow

Big

Small

Strong

Wise

Deep

Quiet

Black

White

Water

Horse

Sky

Moon

Sun

Wind

Buffalo

Foot

Owl

Smile

My Native American name isbecause.....

 **2** Now find one for your friend. Share your new names.

3 This story is a Native American legend.

What is a legend?

Choose the answer below.

- a) A legend is a story from another country.
- b) A legend is an old and popular story.
- c) A legend is a comic story.

4 Match the characters from the story with the descriptions.



- 1 I'm Chief Wise Owl. I've got an owl headdress. How many feathers have I got?
- 2 I'm Dark Eyes. I'm a young Indian boy. I love horses. Do you?
- 3 I'm Blue Feather. I'm a young Indian girl. I've got long dark hair. What are you like?
- 4 I'm Chief Strong Buffalo: I'm very proud of my buffalo headdress. Do you like it?

5 Now answer the questions in 4 above.

2 It's a quiet evening in the prairie. Chief Strong Buffalo and Chief Wise Owl are sitting round a fire. "My people are great hunters. They can find fish in the river and animals in the woods and on the prairie. They speak the language of the trees and the flowers. And they know the names of all the stars," says Chief Strong Buffalo.

For a long time, the two men don't speak. Chief Wise Owl looks up at the sky. He can see the stars and the moon and the silver clouds. He can feel the wind on his face. He can hear the distant cry of a coyote. Then he looks into Strong Buffalo's eyes for a long time. "My people," Wise Owl says, "always tell the truth".



Glossary

- **coyote**: small animal like a wolf
- **distant**: far
- **hunters**: people who catch animals for food
- **prairie**: large grassy area (in the US)

"Ha! Ha! Ha! Your people always tell the truth? Do you really think so, Wise Owl? Do you think that they never tell lies?" laughs Strong Buffalo. Wise Owl is quiet. Again he looks up at the sky. Then he looks at a tree on the other side of the river. "Yes, I think so. Do you see that young man over there," he says. "His name is Dark Eyes. He looks after my horses. He always tells the truth! My people tell the truth - all the time! Like Dark Eyes!"



Glossary

- **lies:** things that are false/not true

Dark Eyes does not know that Strong Buffalo and Wise Owl are talking about him. He is gathering wood for a fire. When he is ready he lights the fire. He sits down by the fire and warms his hands and feet and looks at Chief Wise Owl's horses.

One of the horses is tall and black. His name is Fireball and he is very fast. Fireball is the best horse on the prairie. Dark Eyes likes Fireball a lot. Fireball is Wise Owl's favourite horse.



- **gathering:** collecting; getting together

"I don't believe that your people tell the truth all the time," laughs Strong Buffalo. "And I don't believe that Dark Eyes never tells lies! Let's have a test. Let's meet again in a week's time. If Dark Eyes tells a lie during the week, you give me half of your tribe's horses. If he tells the truth, I give you half of my horses!"

Wise Owl is quiet. He can hear the sound of the river and an owl in a tree nearby. Then he gets up. "Alright," he says. "Let's meet again in a week's time!"



Glossary

• **owl:** night bird



• **tribe:** group of people

Native Americans

The Native Americans are many tribes of people. The most famous tribes are Apache, Sioux (Lakota), Blackfeet and Cheyenne. Each tribe has its own language and culture. Now all Native Americans speak English too. In the past they used sign language to talk to people from different tribes.

Read what Chief Wise Owl says about his people.

My people are nomads. We move six to eight times every year. We live in tepees. They are easy to move. They are also cool in the summer and warm in the winter. We always move to follow the buffalo. Buffaloes are important for us. We eat buffalo meat and we use their skin to make clothes and tepees. We make knives from their bones and cups from their horns. We believe that nature belongs to everyone.



2 Write what you do every day.

3 In pairs find out about Chief Sitting Bull, another famous Native American. Tell the class.