

Student Activity #9

Historical Sites

Land markers were placed on the land by Coyote and the Creator to mark out the territory of the Secwepemc and to serve as reminders of proper behavior.

One example of a land marker is the red markings on the rock face on Copper Island (near Salmon Arm). Coyote tricked Grouse's children by putting pitch on their eyes. When their parents returned and saw them, they found out it was Coyote who did it. They were very angry with Coyote and pushed him over a cliff. Coyote fell over the cliff and his blood spilled on the rocks. You can still see the red markings on the rocks which is Coyote's blood.

Activity

Think of a legend and what lesson is being taught in it.

Design a marker which will remind people of the teaching in the story.

For example, seeing the red on the rocks (Coyote's blood) teaches the Secwepemc not to be foolish and believe everything one tells them.

You can research other Coyote stories and find some examples of how Coyote was transformed into something or how something came about because of Coyote's actions.