Teacher's notes and answer key

Coyote and the Theft of Fire

Subjects: English · Ethics | recommended from age 10 (A2) | Video: 9:16 min

Answers B

1. Only one suspicious group (in some versions wasp-like beings) had fire; they guarded it day and night and shared it with nobody.

2. He came back with singed feathers and no fire.

3. A relay: he placed fast animals along the escape route (cougar, fox, squirrel, frog), stole a burning branch himself and passed it on.

4. The squirrel pressed the glowing branch so close to its back that its tail curled up in the heat; the frog left its tail in a pursuer's grip.

5. How to rub two dry sticks together to bring the ember hidden in the wood back to life.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Coyote – plan, theft, first stretch; cougar and fox – carry it on; squirrel – curled tail; frog – swallows the ember, loses its tail (tadpoles still have one), spits the ember into wood.

D2: teamwork instead of a lone hero; nobody is punished. Term: aetiology (an origin explanation inside a story).

Content note and age

Recommended from age 10. No disturbing scenes.

Sources of the retelling: Coyote stories of Indigenous peoples of northern California and the Plateau region; there are many versions.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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