

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

PK-2

Subject

**English
Art**

Lesson Title

**The Oneida Legend of Why
the Owl Has Big Eyes**

Activity Description: In this activity, students will learn about the Legend of Why the Owl has Big Eyes. Students will then talk about times in their lives they were angry, and what the consequences were of that anger, and how they could have better handled that anger or expressed how they were feeling in a better way. Students will then have the opportunity to visualize those emotions by creating an imaginary animal that represents these emotions, while telling a story of how that animal came to be.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Wifi access (optional)
- ["The Legend of Why the Owl Has Big Eyes"](#) from the Oneida Nation
- Paper
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, or Markers
- Optional Items:
 - Glue
 - Paint
 - Tissue Paper
 - Scissors
 - Construction paper
 - Googly Eyes

STEPS

This activity is for children to do with a person from the family or community, or by the children themselves. It is advised the younger children have an adult to supervise the activity, but older children can do this along if they wish.

1. Read ["The Legend of Why the Owl Has Big Eyes"](#) from the Oneida Nation with your child.
2. Ask your child to tell you a story of a time that they were angry or upset, and/or didn't listen.
3. Ask them to share with you why they were angry, upset and/or didn't listen, and what the consequences were.
4. Encourage your child to talk through how they could have handled the situation better, or expressed themselves in a way that was more appropriate.

Animal Expression Activity

1. Ask your child to visualize that moment they just shared with you.
2. Encourage your child to draw or create an imaginary animal that represents the emotions they were feeling at that time. Think about how each moment or feeling can change the way the animal might look or act.
3. Once your child has finished drawing this animal, ask them to describe this imaginary animal.
4. Point out the various characteristics of that animal, and what these characteristics mean.
5. Encourage your child to share how the animal might act in different situations, or how its characteristics might change depending on how it is feeling.

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

PK-2

Subject

**English
Art**

Lesson Title

**The Oneida Legend of Why
the Owl Has Big Eyes**

HELPFUL TIPS

Parents and caregivers: This activity gives children a glimpse into an Oneida legend, and how Native Americans saw the creation of the Owl, and its big eyes. Through this legend, children will gain a better understanding of the consequences of one's actions, and encourages children to use their imagination, and learn about healthier outlets for expressing their emotions.

While your child is reading the story, prompt them with the following questions:

- What was the Owl doing wrong?
- What made the Creator so angry?
- What were the consequences of the Owl's actions?
- What could the Owl have done differently?

If your child is having a difficult time envisioning how they could have handled their emotions differently, consider talking them through it, or creating actionable steps they could have taken. This is also a great opportunity for your child to imagine and draw different emotions and feelings in a creative way. Encourage them to draw imaginary animals for each emotion, or for different experiences. Talk through each emotion with your child, and consider tying each emotion to specific events in their life.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Families and Educators: This activity may open up other talking points about managing and exploring emotions.

- Consider reading through this guide with your child on "[Recognizing and Managing Emotions](#)".

You may want to try other activities with your child to support them in exploring their emotions. Consider these suggestions below:

- [10 Activities to Help Students Explore Emotions](#)
- [Exploring Emotions through Activities eBook](#)
- [Teaching Feelings and Emotions: 30+ Best Resources to Use With Kids](#)

Perhaps, you may want to use additional Oneida legends to help your children learn different life lessons.

- Consider visiting the [Oneida "Legends and Lore"](#) page to explore more stories.

Activity Resource Links:

- "The Legend of Why the Owl Has Big Eyes" from the Oneida Nation: <https://www.oneidaindiannation.com/the-legend-of-why-the-owl-has-big-eyes/>
- "Recognizing and Managing Emotions": <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ps/managing-emotions.html>
- 10 Activities to Help Students Explore Emotions: <https://www.apperson.com/teach-talk/10-activities-to-help-students-explore-emotions>
- Exploring Emotions through Activities eBook: http://www.dannypetry.com/ebook_emotions.pdf
- Teaching Feelings and Emotions: 30+ Best Resources to Use With Kids: <https://childhood101.com/managing-big-emotions-best-resources-to-use-with-kids/>
- Oneida "Legends and Lore": <https://www.oneidaindiannation.com/category/legends-lore/>