

RESOURCE TRANSCRIPT

Title: Mason Presents: Abenaki Stories: Creation

Date: circa 1995

Caption: Abenaki storyteller Joseph Bruchac tells the story of how Gluskabe was created.

Credit: Produced by the New Hampshire Historical Society

[sound of wind whooshing]

Joseph Bruchac: Kwai kwai, nidôba [hello my friend], this is the story of how creation came to be.

Long ago Gici Niwaskw [Creator] made the world and all things, but when Gici Niwaskw got finished with this he looked and there upon his hands was some of the dust of creation. So Gici Niwaskw brushed off that dust, and as it trickled down and touched the earth, the earth began to move and shape itself. It shaped itself into a person. It shaped itself into Gluskabe. Gluskabe's head was toward the winterland; his feet toward the summerland. One hand reached toward the dawn, and one hand reached toward the sunset. But he was not yet complete. Because in Gluskabe's head there were no openings for him to perceive the world around him.

So the Creator caused the lightning to strike seven times, and where the lightning struck it made two ears, so that he could hear the world from both sides. It made two eyes, so that he could see the world in depth. It made two nostrils, so that he could smell that which was good and that which was not so good. But it made only one mouth. Because like all of us, Gluskabe was meant to hear and see and smell twice as much as he was to talk. And now Gluskabe stood up and began to walk around. [sound of leaves crunching]