

RESOURCE TRANSCRIPT

Title: Mason Presents: Abenaki Stories: Gluskabe Creates Companions

Date: circa 1995

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

Credit: Produced by the New Hampshire Historical Society

[sound of leaves crunching]

Joseph Bruchac: As Gluskabe walked around, he saw the world all around him was very beautiful, and he liked what he saw. But he began to be lonely. "Ah," said Gluskabe, "I must make some people to share this with me." He looked around for something to make people from and he saw the stones. And he made people out of stone. They were tall and strong but their knees would not bend and their necks would not bend, and so they could not bend down and touch the earth. And their hearts were also made of stone. Because of this they were hard-hearted. They crushed everything beneath their feet. They killed the animals, they pulled up the trees, and Gluskabe saw these stone people were not good. So he returned them to the earth. To this day that is why our land N'dakinna has so many stones in it. That is why some of the hills and mountains look just like people. Those are those first people made of stone who were returned again to the earth.

And now Gluskabe looked for something else to make human beings. And he saw the ash trees. Tall and slender, dancing gracefully in the wind. Gluskabe took his bow and arrows and he shot those arrows into the ash trees. Where each arrow went into a tree, a person stepped forth, tall and straight. Those people had hearts that were growing and green. They were the first Abenakis. And to this day, those of us of N'dakinna, our land, those of us who are Alnôbak, people of dawnland, they remember this story and they call the ash trees their relatives. And so that story goes. [sound of wind whooshing]