

## Blackfeet and Crow Star Stories

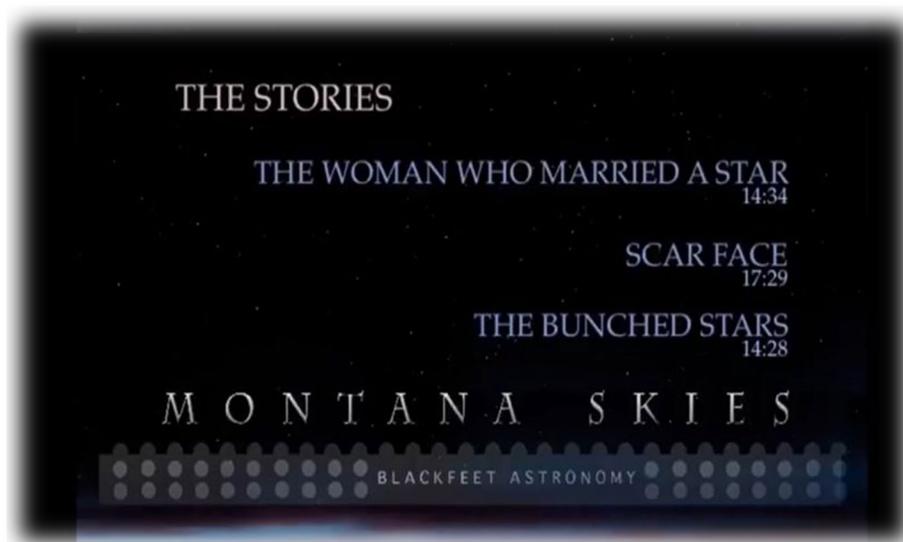
Dear Students, Thank you for your interest in learning more about Montana American Indian tribes. In this lesson you will learn about traditional star stories from the Blackfeet and/or Crow Tribes. We hope you will understand how important these stories are for the tribes and how they teach valuable lessons about culture, family, love, and respect.

These stories vary from 15 – 20 minutes and feature a tribal member telling a traditional star story. While viewing the videos and listening to the stories, you will only see a picture of stars. After the story is told you will hear a different narrator (speaker) providing scientific information about astronomy (the study of the sky) and see cool pictures from space that were taken by powerful telescopes.

You may choose to watch as many videos as you like, and for your assignment, you will write a short summary of the video and what you learned and liked about the video. You might also consider watching and listening to the same story several times and then try retelling it to your friends or family or teacher. That is how the oral tradition works, listening to a story so many times that you can retell the story exactly the way you heard it.

These stories can help provide you with a better awareness of the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians, in particular Essential Understanding 3. The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs. Additionally, each tribe has its own oral histories, which are as valid as written histories. These histories predate the “discovery” of North America.

### **MONTANA SKIES - Blackfeet Astronomy**



Indian Education for All Unit

Montana Office of Public Instruction

At the same time the early astronomers in Greece, China, and Arabia were charting the heavens and giving names to stars and constellations, the people we now know as the Blackfeet were coming to know the skies. So old is Blackfeet astronomy that the sun, moon, and stars have a place in the memory and sacred ceremonies of the Blackfeet people who can predict when various sky beings will appear. This familiarity with the sky serves to build a sense of place and beauty for the Blackfeet people not just in Montana, but in all the universe – not just for now, but for all time.

Now sit back, relax, open your ears and your mind and listen to the story....

- [The Blackfeet story of Scarface](#)
- [Blackfeet Star Story - The Bunched Stars](#)
- [Blackfeet Star Story - The Girl Who Married a Star](#)

## **MONTANA SKIES - Crow Astronomy**



Thousands of years before Europeans knew about the land we now call America, Native peoples with rich cultures were living here. Such was the case of the Apsáalooke people, now known as the Crow people, who had as keen an understanding of the heavens as did the Greeks, Romans, and many early astronomers. The Crow people had names and stories for the sun and moon, the visible planets, prominent stars and star groups. Today, Crow knowledge of the sky continues to be passed from one generation to the next. Sky Beings are present in the everyday life of the Crow people who live with, rather than under, the sky.

Now sit back, relax, open your ears and your mind and listen to the story....

- [Crow Star Story - Sun and Moon](#)
- [Crow Star Story - Seven Stars](#)
- [Crow Star Story - The Twins and The Hand Star](#)

For more information about the Essential Understandings check out these [key concepts](#).