

Coyote Arranges the Seasons

In earlier times, the Sun made people scorching hot and uncomfortable. Coyote thought he could be a better sun and wanted to take his place. He traveled west to catch the Sun, but it was gone. He traveled east by boat but when he got there, the Sun was in the middle of the sky. He talked Frog into grabbing Sun and bringing him down to Earth. When frog arrived back with the Sun, Coyote welcomed the Sun warmly. Coyote told him that their fathers had been friends and took him to a good camping place, showing him the campfire ashes, five old tipi poles and the remains of a sweat lodge. The Sun was convinced, and was willing to be Coyote's friend and camp with him. Coyote waited for a time to kill the Sun but the Sun was always awake. Coyote made a knife from flint but each time they lay down to sleep, the Sun would always lay with his eyes open. One time the Sun looked away and Coyote attacked him, cut him into two pieces, went up to the sky and became the sun. He didn't like spending all his days traveling across the sky so he went down and put the Sun's head beside his body and after stepping across his body three time, the Sun came back to life. The Sun said he had really enjoyed his rest and didn't want to work so hard again. Coyote said that he would divide the year into four seasons and the Sun would never be as hot again. The Sun would be warmer in the summer but not scorching hot. Winter would be a rest time and spring would help the Sun get ready for summer.