

## Ute Creation Legend

In the ancient times only **Sinawav**, the Creator and **Coyote** lived on the earth. They had come out of the light so long ago, that no one remembered when or how. The Earth was young and the time had come to increase the people. Sinawav gave a bag of sticks to Coyote and said "Carry these over the far hills to the valleys beyond." He gave specific directions Coyote was to follow and told him what to do when he got there. "You must remember, this is a great responsibility. The bag must not be opened under any circumstances until you reach the sacred grounds."

"What is this I carry?" asked Coyote

"I will say no more. Now be about your task", Sinawav answered.

Coyote was young and foolish, consumed with curiosity. "What is this I carry?" he kept asking himself.

As soon as he was over the first hill and out of sight, he stopped. He was just going to peek in the bag. "That could hurt nothing." He thought. Just as he untied the bag and opened a small slit they rushed for the opening. They were people. These people yelled and hollered in strange languages of all kinds. He tried to catch them and get them back into the bag. But they ran away in all different directions. From how full the bag was after he had gotten it closed he could tell there was only a fraction of the what he had started out with. He went to the sacred valley and dumped them out there. There was a small number of these people. But those few ones were the Utes, the real Utes from around here.

Coyote then returned and told Sinawav that he had completed the task. Sinawav searched Coyote's face. "I know," Sinawav sighed. "You foolish thing, you do not know what a fearful thing you have done."

Coyote finally confessed. "I tried to catch them. I was frightened. They spoke in strange tongues that I could not understand."

"Those you let escape will forever war with the chosen ones, They will be the tribes which will always be a thorn in the sides of the Utes," said Sinawav.

"The Utes, even though they are few in number, will be the mightiest and most valiant of heart."

Sinawav then cursed the Coyote "You are an irresponsible meddler. From this time on you are doomed to wander this earth on all fours forever as a night crawler."

### Questions to Consider:

**Who is Sinaway? What else would you like to know about him?**

**What similarities do you see in this story and in your own life, or other stories you have heard? Differences?**

**If put in Coyote's shoes, what would you have done?**

**Does the story say the Utes are special? How so?**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD / CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Group Discussion Questions

Go around the group, and briefly share (a minute or so) each of the people that you learned about. As you listen, answer the following questions and take notes (don't be afraid to ask questions if you want more info). Please use full sentences as you do.

1. **Before the group discussion begins**, write down a **brief summary** of the story you learned about: who is involved, what did they do, etc. Be ready to **share your story!**
2. As you listen to you classmates tell their story, write it down for each people in your own words:
3. Are the **people** discussed special in any way? Give some examples:
4. Are **animals** an **important** part of many of these **stories**? What are they like? **Give** some **examples**. Why do you think that is?