

## Legends: Samples, Instructions, Rubric

A legend is a traditional story that is told throughout the generations. The telling of the story over time was a method used by early people to remember their history and explain what at that time was not understood. These stories about characters with extraordinary knowledge, skills, and powers were some of our early fantasies.

First nations people of many different tribes have created their own legends about the special sweetness of the sap of the maple sugar trees. You will read retellings of two legends: Glooskap and Nokomis. These legends are from the Northeastern Woodland tribes of North America. These legends tell the story of how maple sap and maple syrup were important to the eastern Woodland tribes.

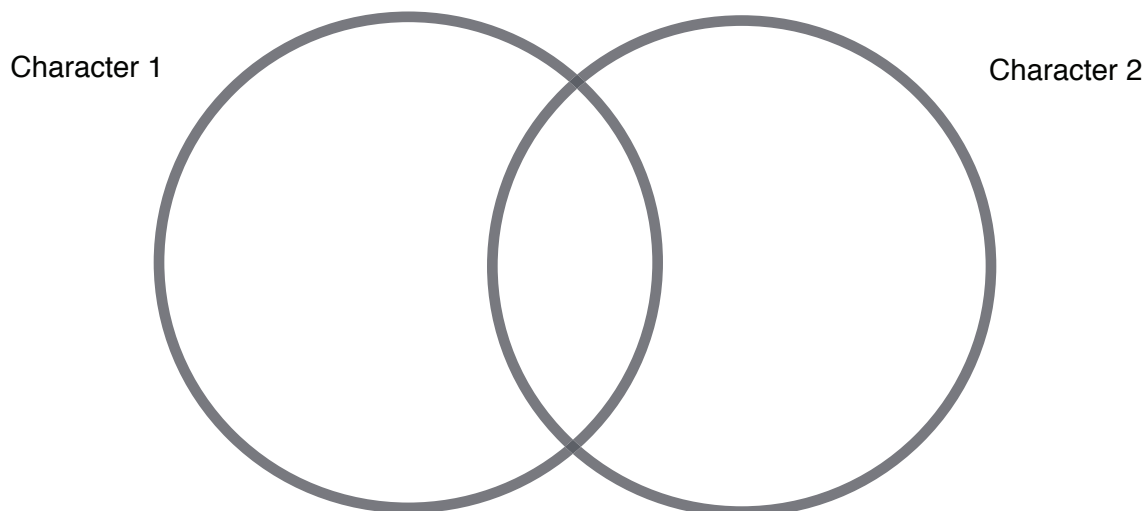
After reading the two retellings of Glooskap and Nokomis, research these legends. Research other legends like Johnny Appleseed, Daniel Boone, Paul Bunyan, Sasquatch, Forbidden Plateau, Ogopogo, or any legends that are important in your part of North America and/or in your culture.

### Preparation:

**Step 1:** Choose one of this Maple legend retellings (Glooskap, Nokomis). Research and choose one other legend to compare and contrast on the Venn Diagram sheet. Think about these elements as you complete the task:

- characteristics of the fantasy character
- characteristics of the problem (person, place, thing)
- similarities and difference in what the legend is retelling or explaining
- similarities and differences in setting

**Note:** Use two lids or pie plates to create your own Venn Diagram on a piece of blank paper!



**Step 2:** Create a character sheet rich with details about Nokomis or Glooskap, and main character from your chosen legend. Think about these elements as you complete the task:

- \* physical description
- \* family, community 'role'
- \* special powers

**Note:** *Take a blank legal sheet and fold it in half to provide to two sides.*

Nokomis/Gloopsap	Legend Main Character
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**Step 3:** Choose a topic to create write a legend to explain these natural occurrences:

- \* what makes the leaves fall of the tree
- \* what makes puddles dry up
- \* why does the sun rise in the east and set in the west
- \* why do some trees lose their leaves and others don't
- \* why do rainbows appear
- \* why does sap drip out of a tree trunk
- \* why do trees stand still rather than walk to different ground

**Step 4:** Create a fantasy character whose actions will be used to explain what happens. Describe your character in a simple poster format with headings to indicate his/her special features.

**Step 5:** Create a setting for the legend.

**Step 6:** Create a story map to organize the elements of the legend

**Step 6:** Write your legend!

- The legend must have a beginning, middle and an end
- Your fantasy character must provide a solution to a problem to explain why your chosen topic occurs.

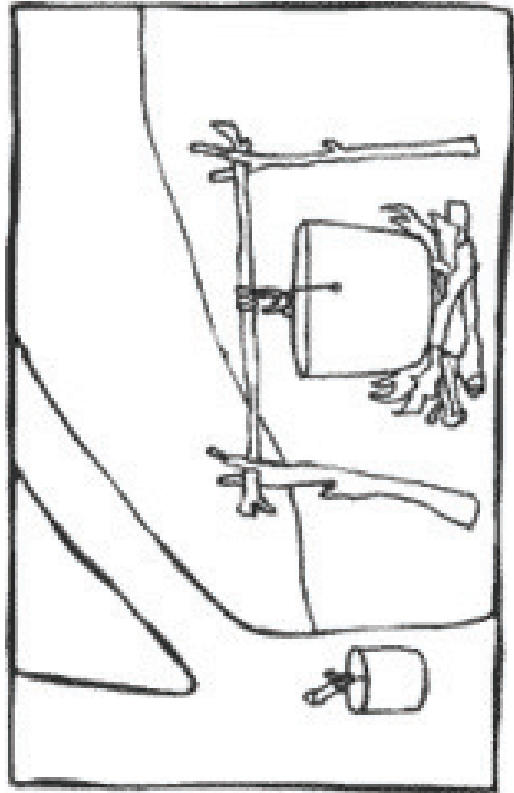
**Note:** *you may not kill or harm anyone in your story to resolve the problem. Think beyond what is an easy solution!*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pts. Poss. 24

## Legend Rubric

Criteria	1	2	3	4
<b>Beginning</b>	No language is used to indicate that the legend is about to begin.	There is an opening statement, but it does not reflect legend format.	There is a traditional beginning which indicates that this is a legend.	The beginning is carefully crafted to entice the reader's curiosity to read on.
<b>Narrative format</b>	There is no sense of story.	There is some sense of story, but the story does not flow clearly from beginning to end.	There is a clear sense of story with transition words to facilitate the understanding of the listener/reader.	The sense of story is well developed with transitional and descriptive words to support understanding of the listener/reader.
<b>Characters with easily identified traits</b>	The character(s) are listed but not described with detail.	The characters are described with detail, but the traits are not clearly understood or do not add to the understanding of the story.	The characters are described with detail and the traits are evident and easily understood to represent key parts of the story.	The characters' traits and behaviours are well developed and described and enhance the understanding of the story.
<b>Ending</b>	No language is used to indicate that the legend is finished.	There is some sense of an ending.	There is a traditional ending, which leaves the listener/reader with a clear understanding of the story.	The ending is well developed with a twist that is supported in the story but is not a commonly expected conclusion.
<b>Story Elements</b>	Story contains few of the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)	Story contains some of the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)	Story contains all the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)	Story contains all the four story elements which work to support a unique solution.
<b>Conventional form</b>	Grammatical and/or spelling mistakes interfere with the ability to understand the story	There are some grammatical and/or spelling mistakes, but they do not interfere with the ability to understand the story.	The legend has been carefully edited and is ready for publication.	The legend contains structural forms beyond the grade level and has been carefully edited and is ready for publication.



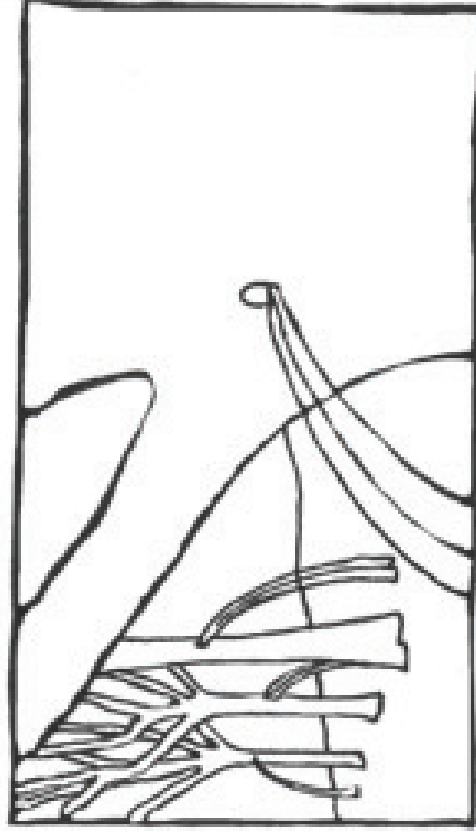
Even today humans still must  
work hard to boil the sap to  
make sweet maple sugar

-8-

# The Legend Of Nokomis (The Earth)



The First Nations People tell many legends about their ancestors and the living things around them. Here is a maple syrup legend.



Long ago Nokomis found out it was easy to get maple syrup from a maple tree. All she did was cut a hole in the trunk of the tree. The sap ran out for all to enjoy.

-2-



Manabush's plan worked. Soon humans were cooking the sap overnight. As the sap boiled the water evaporated leaving behind the sweeter syrup. No humans could be lazy when there were trees to cut down, wood to gather, fires to keep burning, and boiling sap to watch so it would not burn.

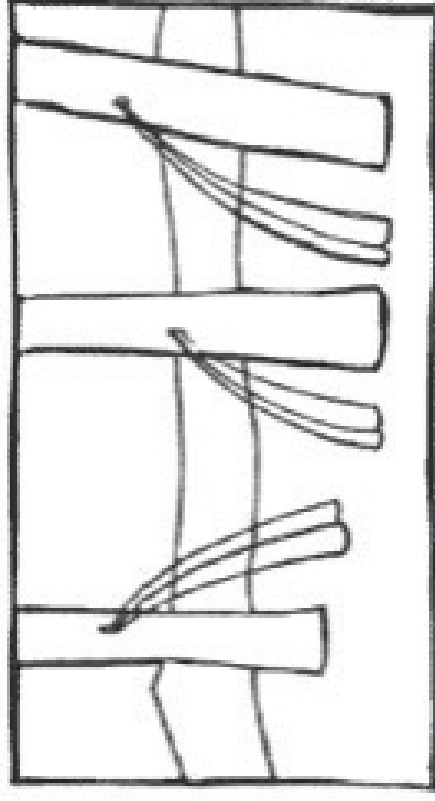
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Manabush climbed to the top of a maple tree. He took a container full of water with him. When he got to the top of the tree he poured the whole container of water into the trunk of the tree.

The water mixed with the sap and changed it so it was no longer so sweet. Now it would only drip. Every maple tree in the forest changed too. When the humans ate the syrup they were disappointed to find it was not very sweet anymore.

-6-

Nokomis had a grandson. His name was Manabush.



He told his grandmother maple syrup was too easy to get. He said humans would grow lazy if all they had to do was cut a hole in the tree.

-3-

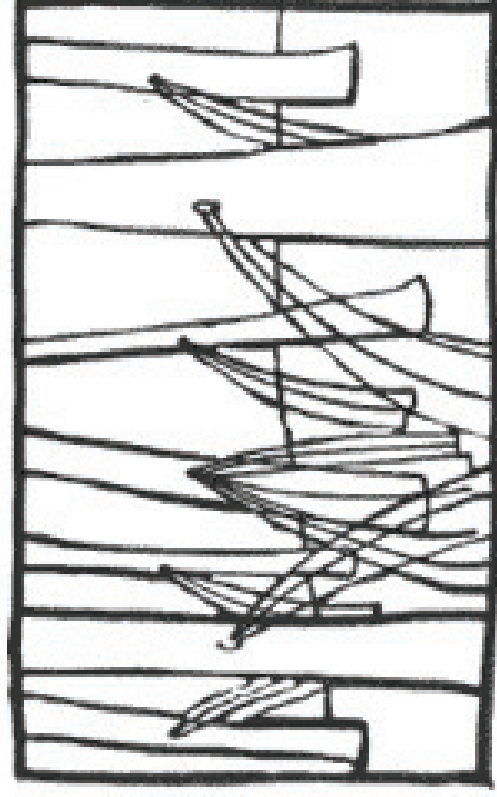




Manabush said it would be better if humans had to work hard to earn this tasty food. They needed to cook it all night long to make it sweeter. They needed to collect firewood, keep the fires going, and watch the sap as it cooked to make sure it did not burn.

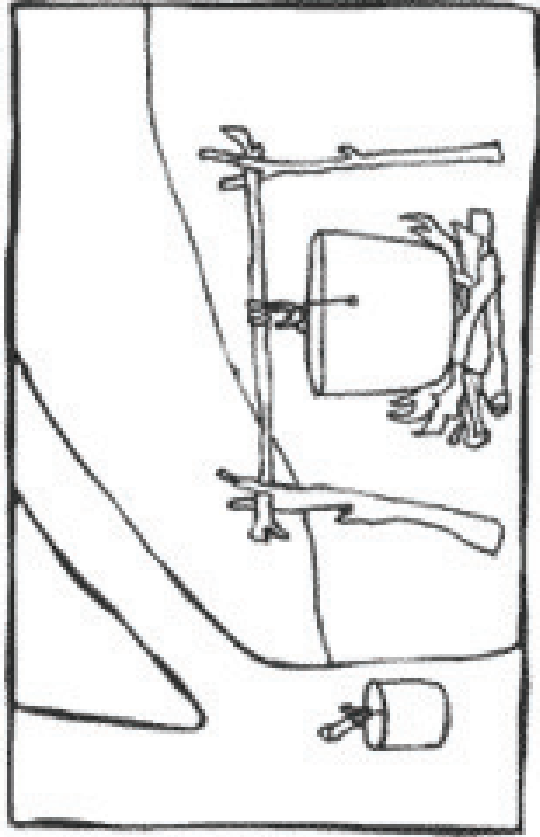
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Nokomis listened to Manabush.



But Manabush did not know if she was going to change the maple sap. He decided he would fix things himself.

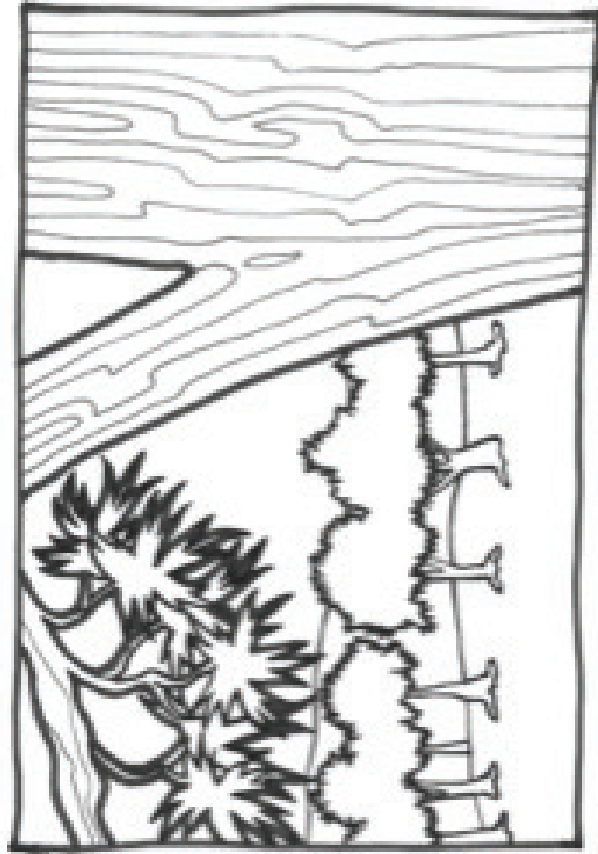
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Even today humans must wait for winter to end before they can tap the maple sugar trees. It is only then humans can collect the sap to make maple syrup.

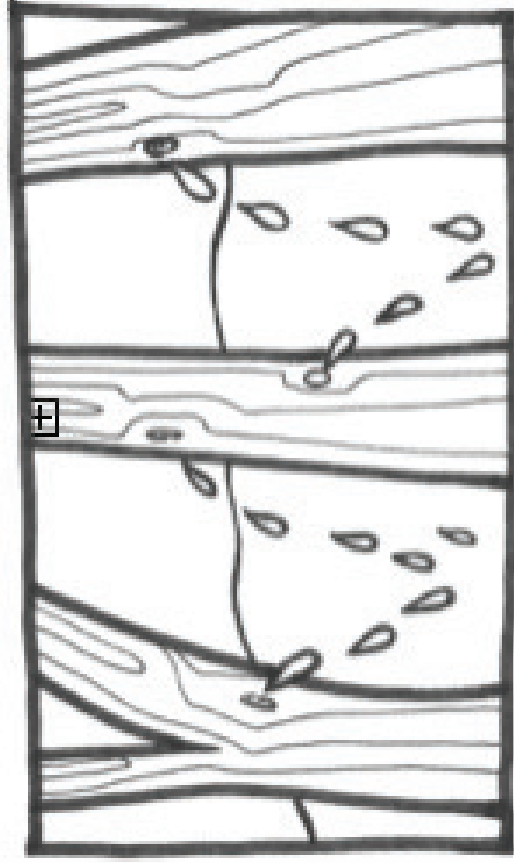
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## The Legend of *Glooskap*



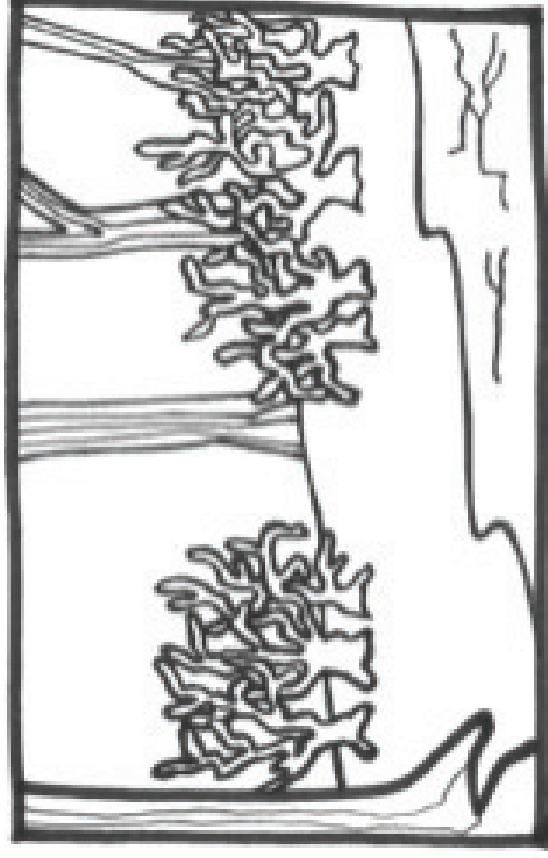


The First Nations People tell many legends about their ancestors and the living things around them. Here is a maple sugar legend.



Long ago the Creator filled the maple trees with a thick syrup. Every day the People could drink as much as they wanted of this sweet syrup.

-2-



The sap would only run out of the trees in the winter to feed the People. The People would be hungry then because the animals would be hard to find to hunt. The fish would be hard to catch under the ice of the lake. The plants would stop growing in the frozen gardens.

-7-

The water mixed with the

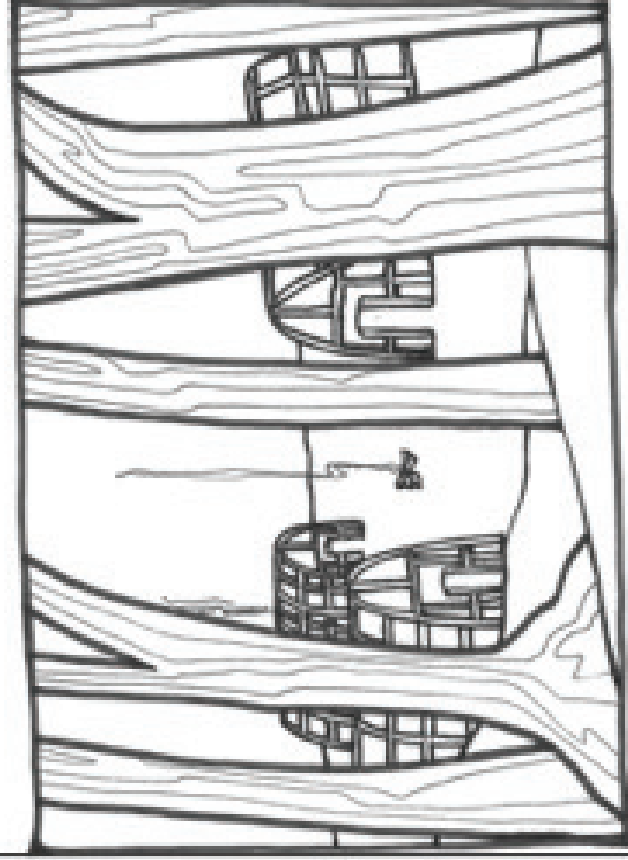
syrup of the trees and changed the syrup into a thin sap that ran out of the trees. This sap was not very sweet.



Glooskap told the People to get up. He told them if they wanted to eat they would have to hunt and fish and grow gardens. He said the maple trees would have sap in them now.

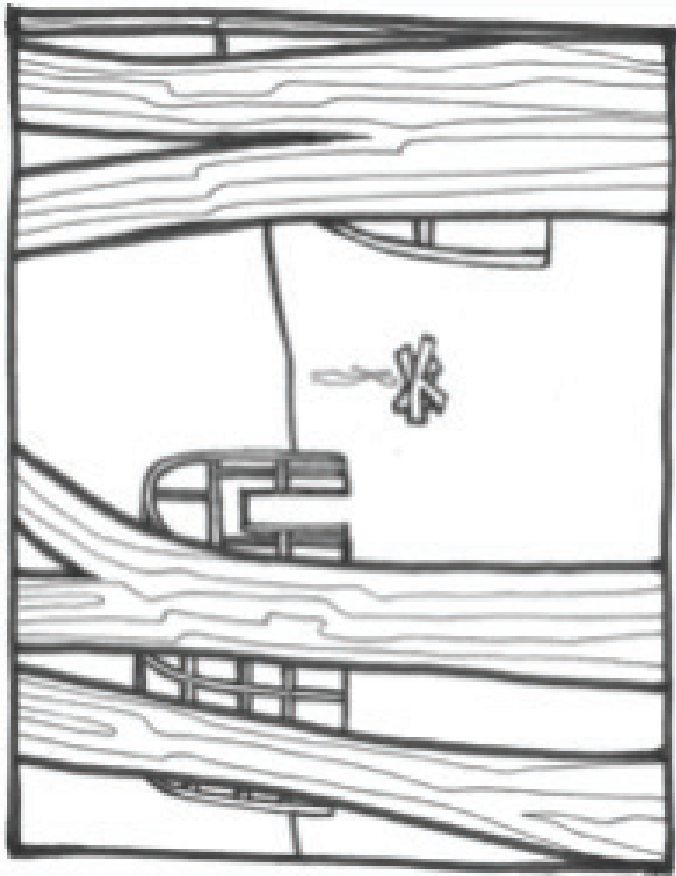
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One day a young man named Glooskap walked through the forest to visit a village of his People.



He thought of the friends he would visit and the good food he would eat.

-3-



But when he walked into the village he found it was very quiet. No one was talking. No one was cooking food. The village was empty. No one was there.

-4-

Glooskap wondered where the People had gone. He looked and looked for them. Finally he found them in the forest.

Each person was laying next to the trunk of a maple tree. They had cut a hole in the trunk and were letting the syrup slowly drip right from the trees into their mouths. No one was moving or talking.

Glooskap thought of a plan. He went to the lake and used his magic to fill all the trunks of the maple trees with water from the lake.

-5-