



ALASKA  
NATIVE  
HERITAGE  
CENTER

*Cultural and Educational Services*

*ANHC School Programs*

**Extending Your ANHC School Visit  
Program 3: Native Stories and  
String Stories (K-12)**



## Extending Your ANHC School Visit Program 3: Native Stories and String Stories Grades (K-12)

Thank you for visiting the Alaska Native Heritage Center and participating in Native stories and string stories.

### When You Return to School - Classroom Activities:

Assist the students in recalling the stories they heard while seated inside the Center and during the tour of the village sites. The list of activities you can do with stories in the classroom is almost endless. Examples include:

- Discussing the lessons the stories contained
- Writing the stories down
- Illustrating the stories, either as murals, books, or note cards
- Imagining and drawing a picture of the original settings in which the stories would have been told
- Designing web pages or computerized books based on the stories
- Making props for dramatizing the stories
- Refashioning the stories into plays and dramatizing them
- Telling the stories in a campfire-like setting in class or on the playground
- Sharing the stories with other classes
- Exploring what the stories tell about the cultures they came from
- Locating the stories' places of origin on a map of Alaska and relating the natural resources mentioned in the stories to the state's geography and climate
- Comparing the stories with others the students have heard
- Writing stories from the students' own cultural backgrounds
- Asking a Native tradition bearer to come to class to tell more stories
- Checking out books from the library of the folklore of Alaska Native and other cultures

### String Stories/Games:

String games have been played all over the world for hundreds of years. Most Native American groups are familiar with a variety of string figures.

There are two main types of string games. One is called "cat's cradle" in the United States and is played commonly by two people. The other string game is normally played by one person. The person wraps and twists the string into a figure and tells the story of that figure.

Traditionally braided sinew was used to make string figures. Today, people use yarn, twine, and other types of string.