

Speaker: This is such a cozy campfire.

Speaker: I know. Look up. There are so many stars.

Speaker: Billy is wondering how they all got there.

Speaker: Oh, I know how.

Speaker: You do?

Speaker: Yes, of course.

Speaker: The hummingbird did it.

Speakers: The hummingbird?

Speaker: Welcome to *Stories for Kids* by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play-learning. In today's episode, Cowie tells her friends how the stars were born. Is it true? Join us as we learn about myths. What is a myth? Why have people told them for hundreds of years? Let's get back to the campfire to find out.

Speaker: Cowie, what does a little hummingbird have to do with stars?

Speaker: The hummingbird made stars.

[Bird chirps]

Speaker: Billy says that's not true. The stars are made from gases like hydrogen and helium and--

Speaker: No, Billy. The hummingbird made the stars with her beak.

Speaker: That's so cool.

Speaker: Yes. The animals were all scared of the dark, so the hummingbird made stars for them.

Speaker: Aww. That's so nice of the hummingbird.

Speaker: Wait. I agree with Billy. That does not sound true.

Speaker: It is true. I heard it for real.

Speaker: Cowie, it sounds to me like you are sharing a myth a myth called How the Stars Were Born. That is a Native American myth.

Speaker: What's a myth? Is it bad?

Speaker: A myth is not bad, but it is also not true.

Speaker: I knew it.

Speaker: If it's not true, why did someone tell it to me?

Speaker: Myths are stories people make up to explain things that are hard to understand.

Speaker: Oh, like where all these stars came from?

Speaker: Yes, exactly, or how the world began, why there is thunder, even why a spider has eight legs.

Speaker: I was wondering about spider legs.

[Bird chirps]

Speaker: Billy says we don't need myths. We have computers. We can just look it up.

Speaker: I agree, or read a book. There are lots of books about stars at the library.

Speaker: Yes, those are good ideas, but most myths were made up a long time ago.

[Music]

Speaker: Let's try something. Close your eyes and imagine that you lived a long time ago. Lingokids listeners, you can try too.

Speaker: Okay, I'm imagining.

Speaker: Try to imagine a time before there were any computers, or televisions, or even books.

Speaker: No bedtime stories?

Speaker: Yikes, sounds boring. What did people even do?

Speaker: Good question, Lisa. Lingokids listeners, what would you do for fun if you lived before computers and television and books were invented?

[Music]

Speaker: I would draw pictures.

Speaker: Cowie, what if there's not even paper yet?

Speaker: I could draw with a stick in the sand. See?

Speaker: Cool.

[Music]

Speaker: Billy would sing.

Speaker: I like your song, Billy.

Speaker: I would dance. Watch this.

[Music]

[Laughter]

Speaker: What would you do, Lisa?

Speaker: I think I would make up stories and have all my friends act them out like a show.

Speaker: Amazing. Those are all things that ancient people did to have fun. To share stories or myths about the world they made shows and dances and songs so the myths would not be forgotten.

Speaker: Actually, that does sound fun.

Speaker: Wow, I can't believe we still know stories from that long time ago.

Speaker: They must be really good stories.

Speaker: Yes, there are many different kinds of myths. Some have heroes and villains and monsters and--

Speaker: Hummingbirds.

Speaker: Yes, and hummingbirds.

Speaker: How did the hummingbird make the stars anyway?

Speaker: I remember some of the story, but I don't know if I remember it all.

Speaker: That's okay, Cowie. I can help you tell it.

Speaker: Okay, I'll try. It used to always be daytime. No nighttime at all.

Speaker: Really? I didn't know that.

Speaker: Me neither.

Speaker: Remember, this is a myth, a made-up story.

Speakers: Oh, yes.

Speaker: The animals started fighting a lot.

Speaker: Oh, no.

Speaker: Oh, yes. The Great Spirit put a blanket over the whole Earth.

[Bird chirps]

Speaker: Billy wants to know who the Great Spirit is. Billy, in this Native American myth, the Great Spirit is like Mother Nature, a powerful force. Many myths have gods or spirits in them that make things happen on Earth.

Speaker: Okay, but why did the Great Spirit put a blanket on the Earth?

Speaker: To make it dark so the animals would stop fighting.

Speaker: They were probably too scared to fight.

Speaker: Yes, and too cold.

Speaker: That's right, Cowie. Then the tiny hummingbird had an idea. The other animals told her she was too small to help, but she tried anyway. She flew up and up and up. She flew all the way to the blanket.

Speaker: Oh, this is my favorite part. When she got to the blanket, she poked it with her beak.

Speaker: It made a little hole and light shined through. She tried and tried to move the blanket, and every time she poked more little holes.

Speaker: Hey. She's making stars.

Speaker: Exactly. The animals looked up to see the beautiful stars. The Great Spirit saw how hard the little hummingbird was trying to help and decided to take the blanket off.

Speaker: Then it was daytime.

Speakers: Yay.

Speaker: Yes, but to remind the animals not to fight, the Great Spirit put the blanket back on for half the day.

Speaker: That's nighttime.

Speaker: Yes, and every night you can still see all those holes in the blanket.

Speaker: Oh, that's the stars.

[Bird chirps]

Speaker: Billy thinks that's a really good story, even if there's no helium or hydrogen in it.

Speaker: I love that myth, and it makes sense even if it's not true.

Speaker: Yes, myths are an ancient way to explain things before science. They still teach us something about how to treat each other.

Speaker: Yes, because even though the hummingbird was very small, she made a big difference.

Speaker: Way to go, hummingbird.

Speaker: Well, Lingokids listeners, today we learned about myths. Cowie learned that myths are not true stories, but they help explain things that are hard to understand, at least in ancient times. If myths are not true, why do you think we still tell them? You can share your favorite myth with Lingokids in the comments. Join us next episode to continue play-learning together.

[Music]

[00:08:41] [END OF AUDIO]