



Legend of Fire

Long ago people didn't have fire and the winters were getting harsh and cold. They had no way to warm themselves and they were starting to die off, so the great chiefs and the medicine men gathered and thought "We're going to have to do something about this."

They called upon the spirit of the Crow. In those days, the Crow was called "the rainbow bird," for he was covered in brilliant colours and looked so beautiful and had brilliant, rainbow-coloured, shiny wings.

The people asked him if he could fly to Grandfather Sun and poke a stick into Grandfather Sun and bring back some of the fire on the stick. The Crow agreed and he flew higher and higher, directly for the sun, and it was getting hotter and hotter.

Finally he had the stick in his mouth and he was able to touch Grandfather Sun. As soon as the stick caught fire, Crow turned and started flying down to the people. As he was flying down, the fire was burning, and black smoke was billowing out of the flames. It was covering Crow, and the longer that he flew and the farther he flew carrying the stick with the smoke, it was starting to turn his feathers blacker and blacker.

When he finally reached the people, he was completely blackened by the smoke of the fire, but he brought the fire to the people and the people were so grateful to him. People still to this day give offerings to Crow, remembering how he went to the sun and brought the fire back for them.

To this day, all crows are still completely black from the fire and smoke that was covering Crow that day, but if you look really closely you can just barely see the faintest of all the rainbow colours in those blackened wings.

Ekosi Maka