



Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

How the Loon Got Its Necklace

Long ago, when the world was still new and the animals could speak with humans, a deep connection existed between all living things. In the traditions of the Anishinaabe people, many stories explain the mysteries of nature.



In a village nestled by a vast lake lived an old Anishinaabe elder. He was a kind and wise man, but he had lost his eyesight and could no longer see the vibrant colors of the forest or the sparkling surface of the water. He yearned to experience the world's beauty once more. A graceful Loon, with feathers as dark as the deepest lake water, often swam near the elder's canoe. The Loon watched the elder with a sympathetic heart, feeling his sadness.



One day, the Loon approached the elder. "Grandfather," it called softly, "I can guide you. Hold onto my back, and I will show you the lake's wonders."



The elder, surprised but trusting, carefully climbed onto the Loon's strong back. The Loon gently pushed off, swimming slowly and steadily through the calm waters.

As they moved, the Loon described the cool water, the rustling reeds, and the warm sun on their backs. The elder felt the gentle currents and heard the calls of other birds. He felt connected to the world again. When they returned to shore, the elder, filled with gratitude, reached out and gently stroked the Loon's neck. "Thank you, my friend," he whispered.

"You have given me a great gift."

As the elder's fingers traced the Loon's neck, a beautiful pattern of white feathers appeared, forming a distinctive necklace against its dark plumage.



From that day on, all loons carried this mark of kindness and compassion. The elder, though still blind, carried a renewed sense of peace and joy, forever grateful for the Loon's selfless act.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?

- (A) Loon, the helpful bird (B) Elder, the wise blind man
- (C) Nanabozho, the trickster (D) Thunderbird, the powerful spirit

(2) In this myth, the kind Loon helped the blind elder by _____ him across the water.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word "distinctive" mean as it is used in the story?

- (A) common (B) plain (C) unique (D) hidden

(4) Why did the Loon decide to help the blind elder? What does this tell us about the Loon's character and the values emphasized in this story?

(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?



