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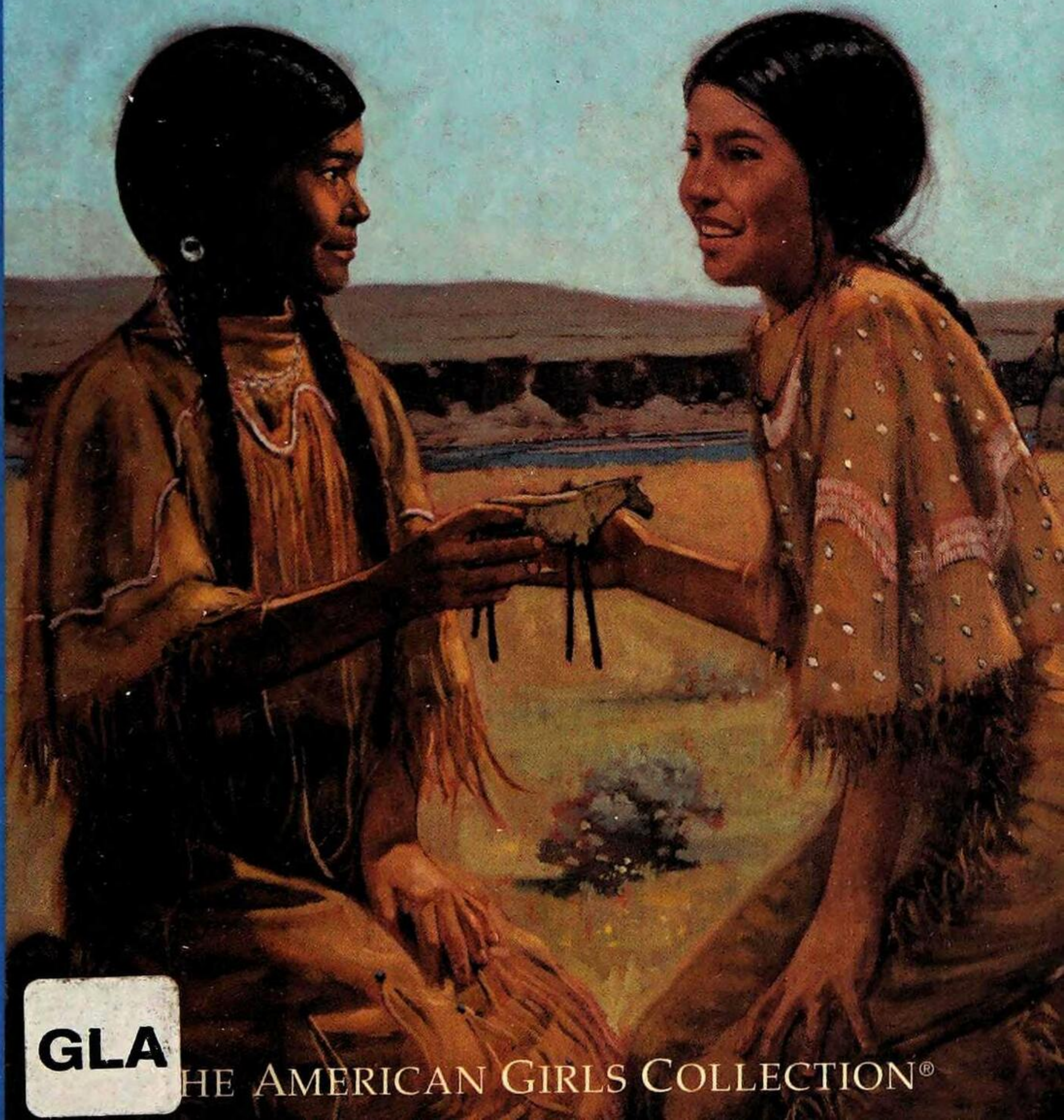


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Short Stories™

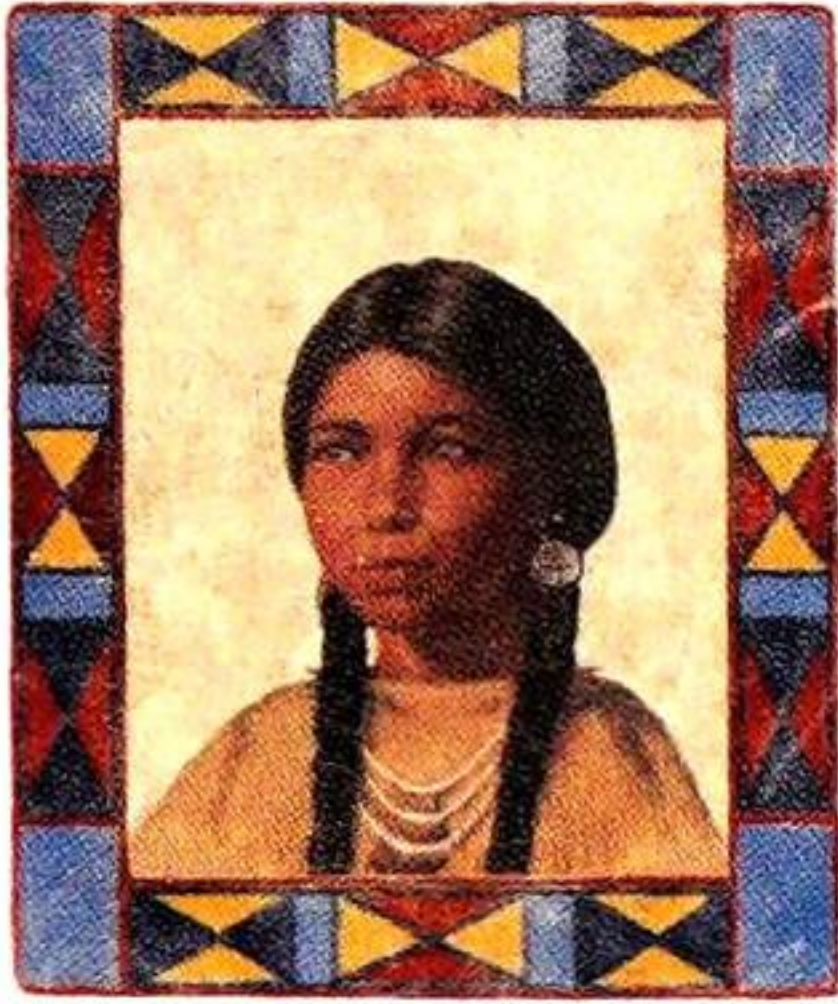
KAYA AND THE RIVER GIRL



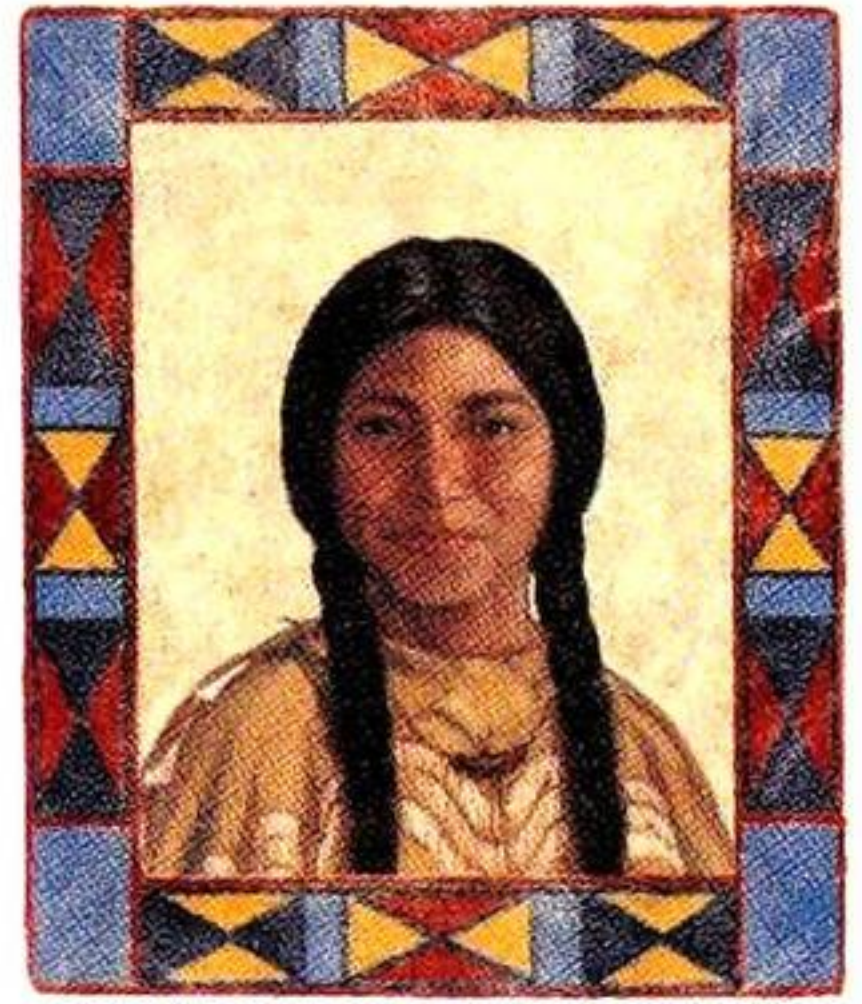
GLA

THE AMERICAN GIRLS COLLECTION®

. . . AND FRIENDS



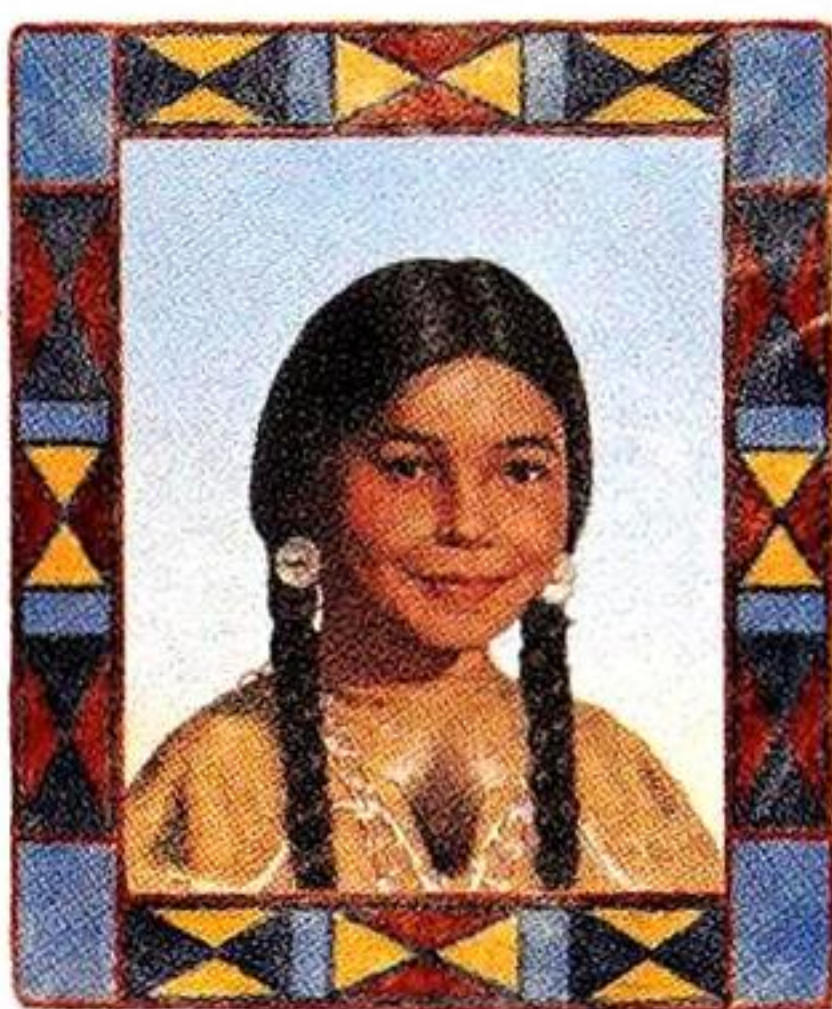
SPEAKING RAIN
*A blind girl who lives
with Kaya's family and
is a sister to her.*



SPOTTED OWL
*A river girl who befriends
Speaking Rain*



WING FEATHER
AND SPARROW
*Kaya's mischievous
twin brothers.*



Kaya and her family are *Nimíipuu*, known today as Nez Perce Indians. They speak the Nez Perce language, so you'll see some Nez Perce words in this book. "Kaya" is short for the Nez Perce name *Kaya'aton'my'*, which means "she who arranges rocks." You'll find the meanings of these and other Nez Perce words in the glossary on page 48.



KAYA AND THE RIVER GIRL

Kaya sat with her sister Speaking Rain on a plateau above the Big River. Tatlo lay beside Kaya, his pink tongue lolling. Speaking Rain was blind and couldn't play running games, but Kaya and the other girls had just finished a game of Shinny. Even though a strong wind blew up the river gorge, the summer evening was warm, and Kaya was hot and tired. As she rested, she worked on her toy horse. The little horse had legs of willow





sticks, a body of deerskin stuffed with buffalo hair, and a twist of buffalo hair for a tail. Speaking Rain had twined hemp cord to tie on the small saddle that Kaya had fashioned from bent willow twigs. The sisters loved working together.

“I’m coming to talk to you, *Nimíipuu* girl!” a girl shouted to Kaya across the playing field. “I want to ask you something!”

“Who’s calling to you?” Speaking Rain asked. “I don’t recognize her voice.”

Kaya looked up curiously at the girl running toward her. “She’s one of the River People who live on the north shore,” Kaya said. “We beat her and her friends

at Shinny. I don't know her name."

The girl halted beside Kaya and dropped to her knees. She had a pretty, round face with full lips and flashing eyes. A glowing copper bead was strung on the hemp cord she wore around her neck. "I'm Spotted Owl," she said, reaching out to stroke Kaya's toy horse. "I don't know your name, but I know you're a fast runner."

"Katsee-yow-yow," Kaya said. She felt her warm face grow warmer at the compliment. "I'm Kaya. My sister is Speaking Rain. How did you learn to speak our language so well?"

"My mother's a trading partner with a Nimíipuu woman. I've often traveled upstream with my mother to trade with

THE AMERICAN GIRLS COLLECTION



*"I'm Spotted Owl," she said, reaching out
to stroke Kaya's toy horse.*

her partner, or she's come downstream to us, especially now during salmon fishing season." Spotted Owl jumped to her feet again. "I came to find you because I want us to race! Will you run against me?"

Speaking Rain clasped Kaya's arm. "Go on, race her, Kaya!"

Tatlo's tail thumped against Kaya's leg as if he were urging her to race, too.

Kaya loved to run races, and she often won, even against the boys. She'd seen that Spotted Owl was a fast runner in Shinny—it would be a good test to run against her. "*Aa-heh*, let's race," Kaya said. "Our friends can set out the markers."

Quickly the girls gathered again on the playing field. They laid several white

stones across the center of the field.

From that centerline they walked

a hundred paces toward each

end of the field, where they

placed other stones to mark

starting points. "I'll be the starter,"

Little Fawn cried. "Take your places!"



Spotted Owl took her place at one end of the field. Kaya gave her pup to Speaking Rain, then stood at the opposite end of the field, facing her opponent.

Little Fawn raised her hand. When she brought it down, both girls took off to see who could cross the centerline first.

Kaya's heart was beating hard and fast as she raced down the field.

Spotted Owl was coming swiftly, her

arms pumping, but Kaya felt so much strength in her legs that she knew she'd cross the finish line first. She was shocked to see Spotted Owl plunge across the line before she could reach it.

Kaya halted herself in a few steps and bent over, dragging in gasps of air. She heard the girls congratulating Spotted Owl. Just then, Tatlo bounded up and began licking Kaya's flaming face with his rough tongue. He seemed to be telling her that it didn't matter that she'd lost the race. But losing hurt her pride.

"Good race!" Spotted Owl called to her. "Let's have another one soon!"

Kaya knew she should praise Spotted Owl, but all Kaya could murmur



was “Aa-heh.” She stayed bent over, gazing at the ground, until the others had left. Then she went dejectedly to sit with Speaking Rain.

“I wish you’d won, but I like that girl,” Speaking Rain said. “She has a strong spirit, don’t you think?”

Kaya didn’t answer. Her sister’s

words only added to her injured pride. She vowed to become stronger, to practice racing every time she went for water or wood or to help with the horses. She vowed that the next time she and Spotted Owl raced, she would win.

When Speaking Rain went across the river to stay with White Braids, her Salish mother, for a little while, Kaya missed her sister badly. After a few sleeps, Kaya crossed the river to meet Speaking Rain. Working to get stronger, Kaya ran all the way upstream to where the Salish camped. She found Speaking Rain sitting in the shade of a tepee. At her side sat Spotted Owl. They were playing with their dolls.

"Tawts may-we!" Spotted Owl greeted

Kaya as she came close.

Kaya was taken aback to find the girl she thought of as her rival playing with her sister, but she didn't want to let her bruised feelings show. "Tawts may-we," she said politely to Spotted Owl. "Tawts may-we, Sister!" she said much more warmly to Speaking Rain.

"Spotted Owl comes to see me every day!" Speaking Rain said. "She just asked if I'd like to go with her to her village to visit She Who Watches, the old chief who looks after her people. I'd like to go, wouldn't you?"

Kaya saw that Speaking Rain wore Spotted Owl's necklace with the copper bead. "That's a pretty necklace,"

Kaya said quietly.

“Aa-heh, Spotted Owl gave it to me,”
Speaking Rain said.

Spotted Owl smiled up at Kaya in her easy, open way. “Kaya, won’t you come with us? It’s very good to visit She Who Watches. The spirits are very strong at the place where she guards over my people.”

“Come with us,” Speaking Rain urged.

Kaya wouldn’t refuse her sister’s request, but she wished she could just grasp Speaking Rain’s hand and lead her away from Spotted Owl. Kaya had only just been reunited with her sister, and Speaking Rain spent part of her time with White Braids, who had saved her life. Kaya knew it was selfish, but she didn’t

want to share what little time she and Speaking Rain had with this river girl.

Spotted Owl didn't seem to notice Kaya's chilly silence as they walked downstream. She was busy telling the story of She Who Watches.

"A long time ago, in the time before memories, my people had a woman chief," Spotted Owl began.



"A woman?" Speaking Rain asked. "Nimíipuu have many women leaders, but our chiefs are always men."

"Our chiefs are men, too, now. But this was long ago," Spotted Owl continued. "Our chief was wise and kind and firm, and my people revered her. Then one day Coyote disguised himself in a

bearskin and came up the river to our village. He wanted to find out if my people were grateful for all he'd taught them and the gifts he'd given them.

"Coyote walked through the village beside our chief. He saw that the people had built warm lodges and had plenty to eat. They were rich with goods that others had traded to them for the salmon they'd caught. All seemed well, but our chief felt a shiver of fear. She guessed that the creature in the bearskin was Coyote and that he might try to trick her.

"When Coyote asked if she treated her people well, she kept her voice steady to show her courage. 'You've seen all that my people and I have accomplished

together,' she said. 'You've seen that my people respect me. Most important of all, I teach my people to do good.'

"Coyote leaned forward, and the bearskin slipped off his head. 'Listen to me!' he growled. 'You've done well for your people, but the world on the river is going to change. New people will come, bringing great sickness and death. You will no longer be chief. Indeed, there will be no more women chiefs for your people.'

"'I will stay here as long as my people want me to lead them!' our chief said firmly.

"'Then it will be as you wish,' Coyote growled. 'Your time has come to an end, but nothing will separate you from your

people. Your name shall be She Who Watches, and you'll guard your people for all the years to come. This will be so!' Then Coyote slipped away, and no one has seen him since.

"When people went looking for our chief, she had vanished. They found instead a strange new face chipped into a pillar of rock—it was She Who Watches. And she's still guarding us after all these years," Spotted Owl said, finishing her story.

After a time the girls reached the place where She Who Watches looked out over the River People's village and across the wide river beyond. Kaya drew in a sharp breath when she looked up into the face of the old chief, still reminding her

people to do good and live well.

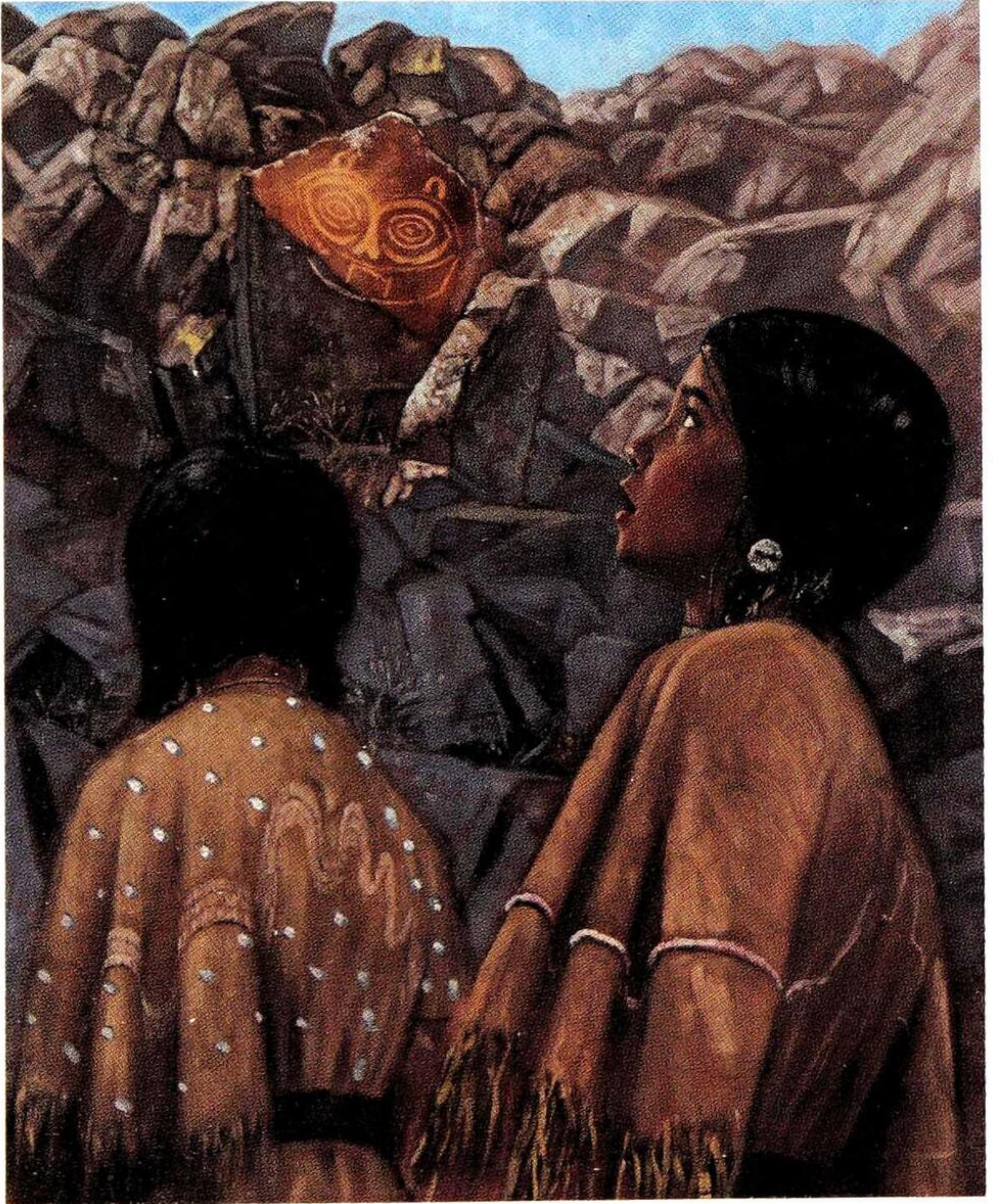
"What do you see, Kaya?" Speaking Rain asked. "Tell me."

Kaya led her sister forward until they stood beneath the face etched into the reddish-gray basalt. "She's up there, higher than the tallest tepee pole," Kaya said. Then she stretched Speaking Rain's arms wide. "Her face is broader than your outstretched arms. Her eyes are huge and wide. She sees everything."

Speaking Rain raised her face toward the painted image above them. "Her eyes are made of stone, but she's not blind like me," she said softly.

"She sees with her heart, just as you do," Spotted Owl said kindly to Speaking Rain.

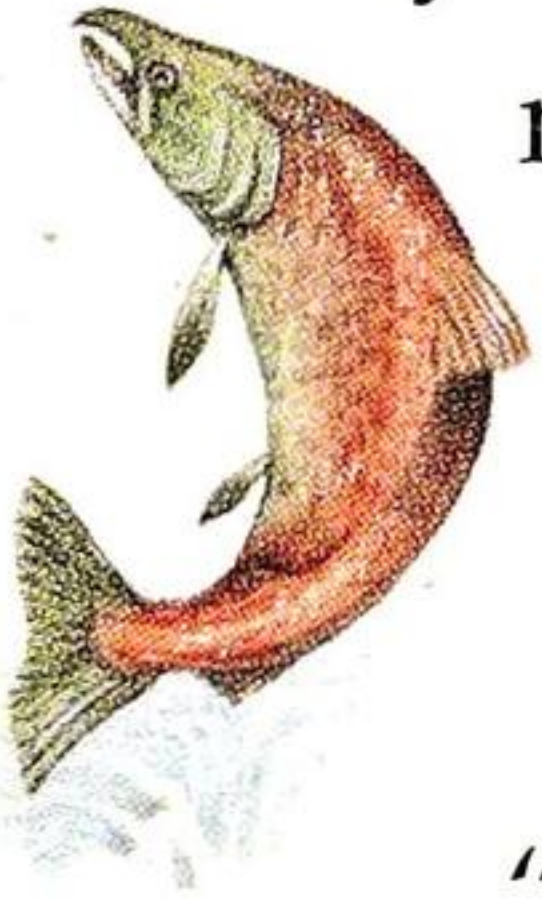
KAYA AND THE RIVER GIRL



Kaya drew in a sharp breath when she looked up into the face of the old chief.

“My sister is the kindest person that I know!” Kaya exclaimed. She wanted to be the one to praise her sister, not this river girl. After all, Kaya knew Speaking Rain better than anyone else did.

Spotted Owl didn't seem to notice Kaya's cold tone of voice. “Come have a meal with us,” she said. “My mother's going to cook a big salmon that my father caught this morning. It will be delicious!”



“Katsee-yow-yow!” Speaking Rain said with pleasure.

“Katsee-yow-yow,” Kaya echoed in a grim voice that hardly seemed her own. *Why can't I feel the way my sister does about this good-natured girl?* she asked herself.

Kaya looked up again at the wide, wise eyes of She Who Watches. Could the old chief show her some way to get rid of these painful feelings that she knew were wrong?



But Kaya's bad feelings about Spotted Owl didn't disappear. When Speaking Rain praised her new friend, Kaya kept quiet. When her sister said she hoped Spotted Owl would come back and race again, Kaya bit her lip. She hoped she wouldn't have to think about Spotted Owl once the salmon runs were over and Kaya's band left the Big River.

One evening several canoes of River People crossed to the south side of the

river for trading and games. A group of girls gathered at the playing field for a game of Shinny. Before the game began, Spotted Owl ran to greet Speaking Rain. But when Spotted Owl called a greeting to Kaya, Kaya pretended not to hear.

The river girls played hard and well, scoring two goals right away. Kaya tried even harder to help her team get ahead. The running she'd done had made her legs stronger, and she took the ball as often as she could, hoping to score a goal.

Kaya was racing with the ball out ahead of the others when Spotted Owl caught up with her. With a swift jab of her stick, Spotted Owl scooped the ball away from Kaya. "No you don't!" Kaya cried.

As she hurled herself after her opponent, Kaya shoved her stick between Spotted Owl's feet to try to get the ball back. Spotted Owl tripped on the stick, and Kaya bumped into her, pushing her to the ground and knocking the air out of her. Spotted Owl's teammates helped her off the field so she could catch her breath.

Alarmed that she'd hurt Spotted Owl in anger, Kaya went miserably to sit with Speaking Rain. For a time the girls sat in silence as Kaya struggled with her shame. "It's my fault Spotted Owl got hurt," Kaya finally admitted. "I've had bad feelings about her. Everything she does and says is good, yet I feel as if she's my enemy!"

Speaking Rain put her hand on Kaya's

shoulder. "Listen to me," she said gently. "It's true that Spotted Owl's a good person. In what she says and does, she's so much like you, Sister! You're both leaders. You're both strong. But we mustn't be like coyotes, who live alone. Our grandmother always tells us that we must be like wolves—strong individually, but always working together. She Who Watches must have taught that to her people, too."

Kaya rested her chin on her knees as she considered her sister's wise words. Slowly her churning feelings smoothed and she knew what she had to do. "I have to go after Spotted Owl," she murmured as she got to her feet.



Kaya put a horsehair rope on the chestnut mare that was staked near the tepees. Then she rode upstream to where the River People had beached their canoes. Some traders were already loading their canoes for the return crossing. Kaya scanned the crowd for Spotted Owl, but she wasn't there. Kaya rode farther upstream.

Around the bend, Kaya saw a strong-looking elder woman seated in the stern of her heavily loaded canoe. Spotted Owl was pushing out Elder Woman's canoe so that she could cross back to the other side.



Kaya dismounted and walked up the

shore toward Spotted Owl. As Kaya wondered what she could say to make things right, she watched Elder Woman's progress.

Elder Woman expertly guided the big canoe into the swift current. She pointed its bow upstream into the current so that she could ferry the canoe sideways to the opposite shore. But when the canoe was gliding by a rocky outcropping, her paddle struck underwater rocks. In an instant the paddle was snapped from her grip. Elder Woman leaned out, trying to grab her paddle. Kaya gasped when the force of the current tilted the canoe, tossing Elder Woman into the water.

Elder Woman was washed against the

outcropping. She tried to scramble up and away from the heavy canoe bearing down on her, pushed by the mighty river. Kaya watched in horror as the canoe plowed against Elder Woman's leg, smashing her against the rocks. Elder Woman cried out.

The powerful current dragged the canoe around the end of the outcropping and swept it downstream. Elder Woman clung to the outcropping, but she seemed to be in so much pain that Kaya worried she might pass out and be carried away by the rushing river.

Both Kaya and Spotted Owl knew that they had to work fast to rescue Elder Woman. The girls ran to another, smaller canoe nearby. They shoved the canoe into

the water, climbing in as it moved away from shore. In the stern, Spotted Owl angled the bow slightly upstream, and they swept sideways out to where Elder Woman was stranded. Kaya could see Elder Woman's arms trembling as she struggled to hold on to the rocks.

Spotted Owl guided the canoe into the calm water on the downstream side of the outcropping, where she held the canoe still. *I must be strong!* Kaya thought as she climbed swiftly from the prow onto the rocks toward Elder Woman. Just before Kaya could reach her, Elder Woman lost her grip on the slippery rocks and began to go under. Kaya lunged, seized the woman under her arms, and pulled with

KAYA AND THE RIVER GIRL



all her might, tearing Elder Woman from the churning waters. Kaya half-dragged and half-carried her across the rocks to the canoe. Elder Woman cried out again as Kaya eased her over the side and jumped in after her. Spotted Owl ferried back to shore, where other women had gathered.

“Take my horse!” Kaya cried as the

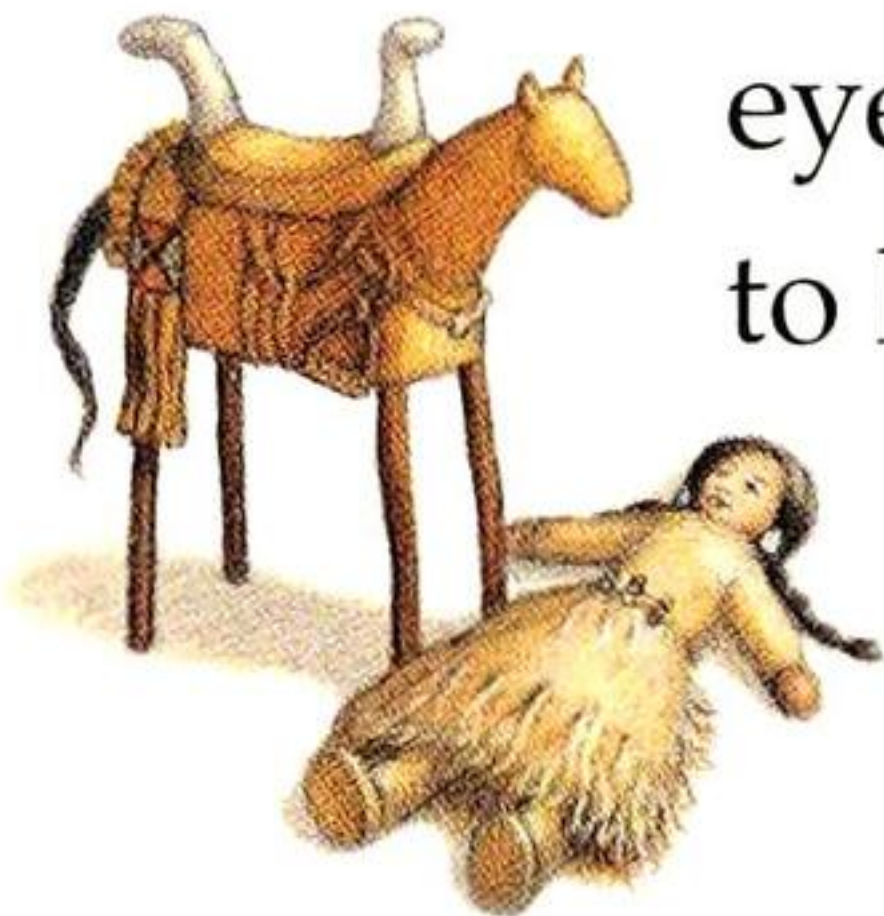
women lifted Elder Woman from the canoe. Quickly, they lashed a travois to the horse and helped Elder Woman onto it. They led the horse downstream to get aid for Elder Woman's injured leg.

Kaya's heart was thudding and her arms aching from the effort of the rescue. Spotted Owl's face was red and sweat ran into her eyes. But when their gazes met, they both smiled. "We worked well together," Spotted Owl said.

"Aa-heh, we did," Kaya agreed.

The girls splashed cold river water onto their faces. As Kaya wiped her

eyes, a good thought came to her. "I want you to have my toy horse."



KAYA AND THE RIVER GIRL



BY JANET SHAW

ILLUSTRATIONS BILL FARNSWORTH

VIGNETTES RENÉE GRAEF, SUSAN MCALILEY

THE AMERICAN GIRLS COLLECTION®

"I like that horse!" Spotted Owl said.

"I'll trade you my doll for it."

"That's a fine trade," Kaya agreed.

"Listen to me. You and I could be trading partners. Would you like that?"

When Spotted Owl nodded happily, Kaya took a deep breath. She felt as if she'd been underwater for a long, long time and now, at last, she could lift her head into the air again. She couldn't wait to tell Speaking Rain all that had happened and how she and Spotted Owl had worked together and become friends—for Kaya was certain that this was what She Who Watches must have wanted.



JANET SHAW



At 8



Now

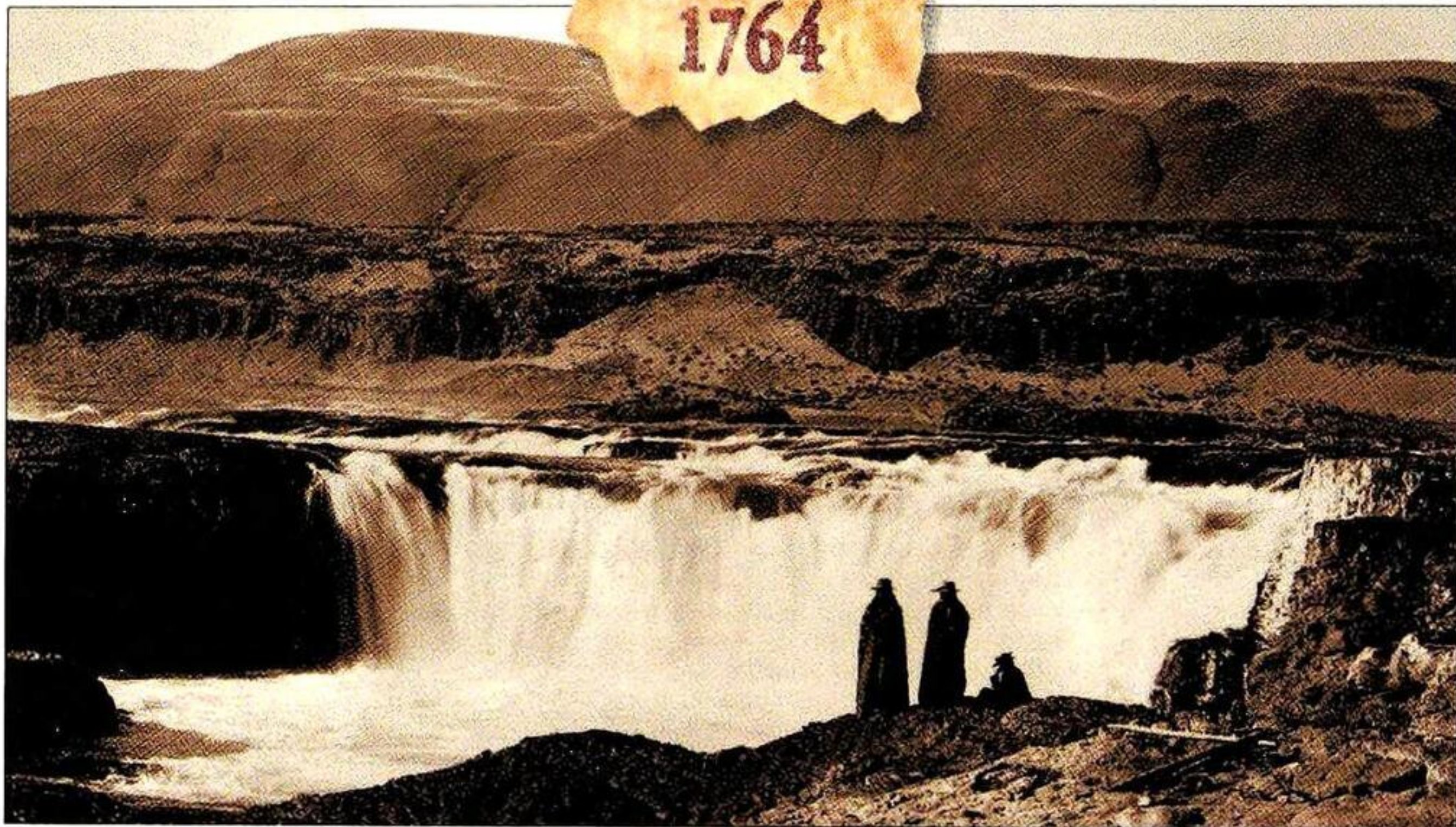
When I was growing up in Missouri, I went to a camp at the Lake of the Ozarks to learn swimming and canoeing. Like Kaya, I thought I was strong and capable. But when a storm caught us in the middle of the lake, two friends made me sit in the middle of our canoe while they paddled us to safety. I was glad they were stronger than I!

Janet Shaw is the author of the Kirsten and Kaya books in The American Girls Collection.



A PEEK INTO
THE PAST

Trading
in
1764



This late nineteenth-century photo shows the massive falls at Celilo.

In Kaya's time, tens of thousands of people from all over the Northwest gathered each summer to trade, fish, and socialize along the Columbia River at Celilo Falls. Some came from as far away as modern-day Montana, while others traveled east from the Pacific Ocean.

Spotted Owl's people, the Wishram, did not have to travel far at all. They were one of several tribes who set up permanent villages along the river.

Each tribe brought a different item to trade. Kaya's people traveled throughout the year, and they brought roasted camas roots from the high meadows. Spotted Owl's people lived along the river year round and offered dried salmon and salmon eggs to tribes who lived too far away from the river to fish.

Fresh salmon was smoked over a low fire.





Nez Perce baskets (left) were decorated with triangles, diamonds, and other geometric shapes to represent trees, mountains, and other landmarks in nature. Wishram baskets (right) also featured human and animal figures.



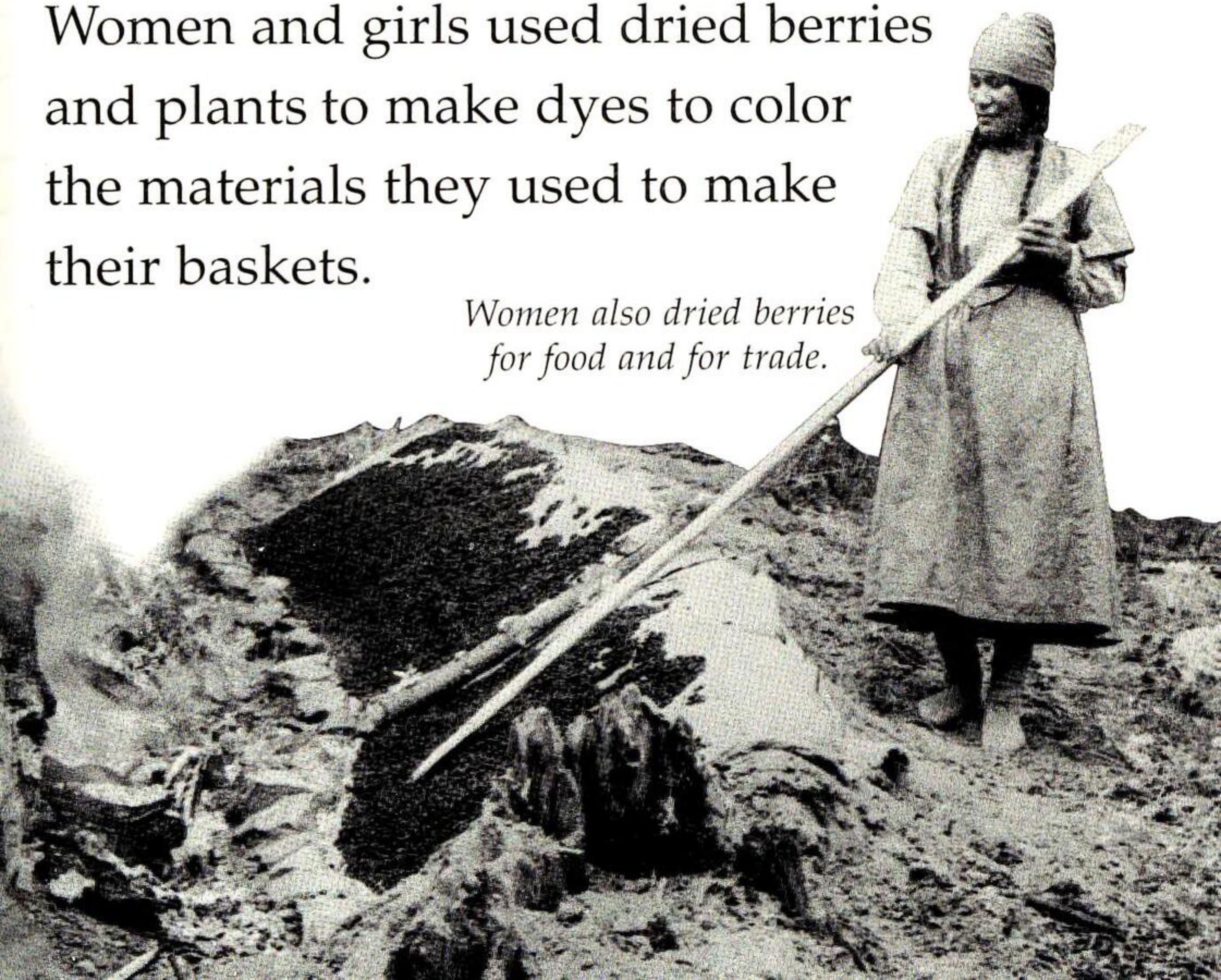
Baskets were common trade items for all tribes from the plateau region, including the Nez Perce and the Wishram. Baskets were used for gathering, storing, and preparing food. Tightly woven baskets could even be used to carry water.

Girls like Kaya and Spotted Owl began to learn how to weave when they were only about six years old. A girl's first basket, whether it was good or bad, was always given to an older,

accomplished basket maker in her village or tribe. This was done out of respect and to help bring the girl luck in her future as a basket maker.

The Wishram were widely known for their unique round or flat twined bags made from dried beargrass and hemp. Women and girls used dried berries and plants to make dyes to color the materials they used to make their baskets.

Women also dried berries for food and for trade.



Many of the designs that were woven into baskets were also seen in ancient rock art on the bluffs above the Columbia River. No one knows for sure who made these early artworks, but the artists used their art to record what happened in their world, their beliefs, and their legends.

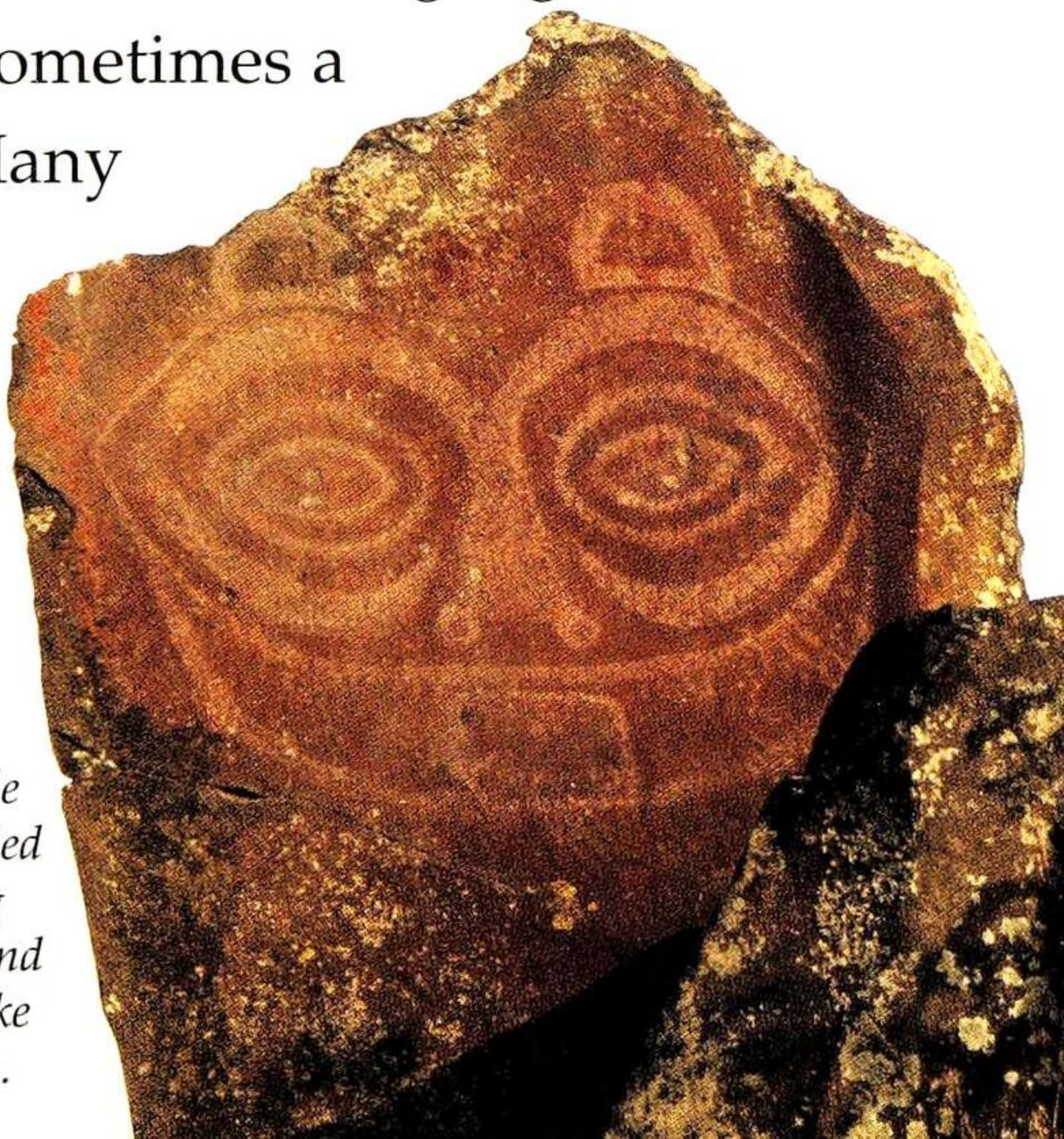
Rock art is commonly found in places, like Celilo Falls, where people gathered to trade and fish. These designs may have been created to mark a specific location



or as a special symbol, such as to show appreciation for the many fish that gave themselves for food.

Besides trading and fishing, the summer gathering at the Falls gave Kaya's and Spotted Owl's families a chance to see old friends and make new ones. Since every tribe spoke a different language, communicating was sometimes a challenge. Many people used sign language—a language

Rock art designs ranged from simple wavy lines to detailed images, including animals, hunters, and mythical beings, like She Who Watches.



of hand symbols that people from most tribes could understand.

Those who had a trading partner in another tribe often learned the language of their trading partner. Spotted Owl spoke Kaya's language because her mother had a Nez Perce trading partner and had learned to talk with her.

Trading partners exchanged gifts every time they saw each other. Each summer at Celilo Falls, and at other times throughout the



Young girls traded with girls their age from other tribes.

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Summary: Kaya becomes jealous of a girl from another tribe until they are forced to work together in a dangerous situation. Includes historical notes on Indian trading along the Columbia River in 1764, as well as instructions for creating a petroglyph.

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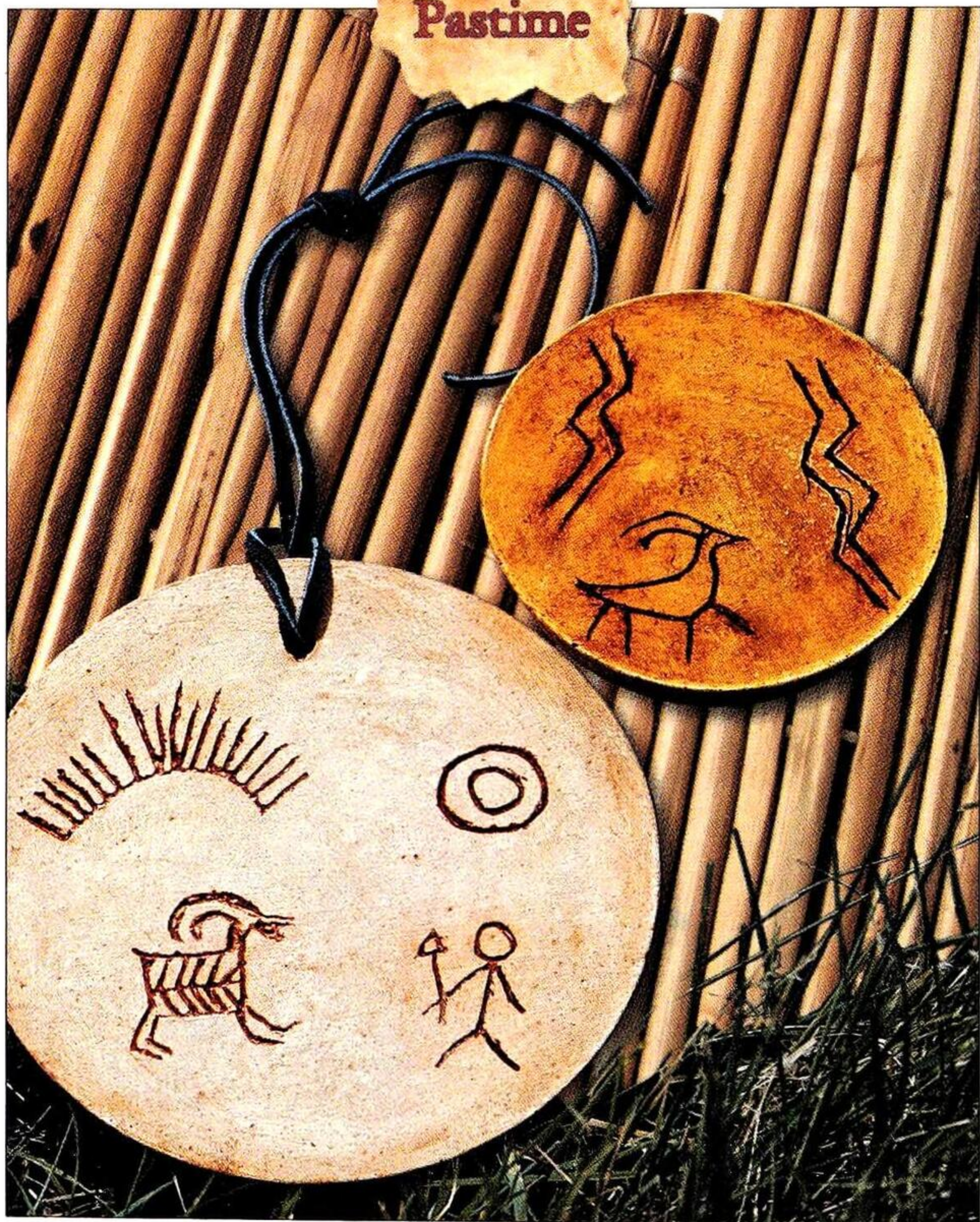
year, the partners traded woven bags or baskets, food, or maybe toys or clothing. Trading partners always knew they were welcome in the other's tribe. They often hunted or fished in each other's area, and sometimes they even arranged marriage between their children!

Trading partners were truly friends for life. Kaya and Spotted Owl's trade of the toy horse and doll might have been the first of many exchanges between the two friends.

Nez Perce girls today still learn traditional basket making.



An
American
Girls
Pastime



MAKE A PETROGLYPH

Tell a story in stone!

Kaya's and Spotted Owl's ancestors were rock artists. They made *petroglyphs* by scratching or chipping designs into a rock surface with a sharp stone. They made *pictographs* by painting images directly onto rocks with a bone or frayed stick paintbrush. Sometimes they used both methods on the same piece.

Use your creativity and some modern-day materials to create and decorate your own Native American petroglyph.

YOU WILL NEED:



An adult to help you

*1 cup powder craft plaster**

½ cup warm water

Container for mixing plaster

Spoon

Mold (small paper plate or Styrofoam bowl)

Plastic drinking straw (optional)

Carving tool (a skewer or screwdriver)

Acrylic paint

Paintbrush

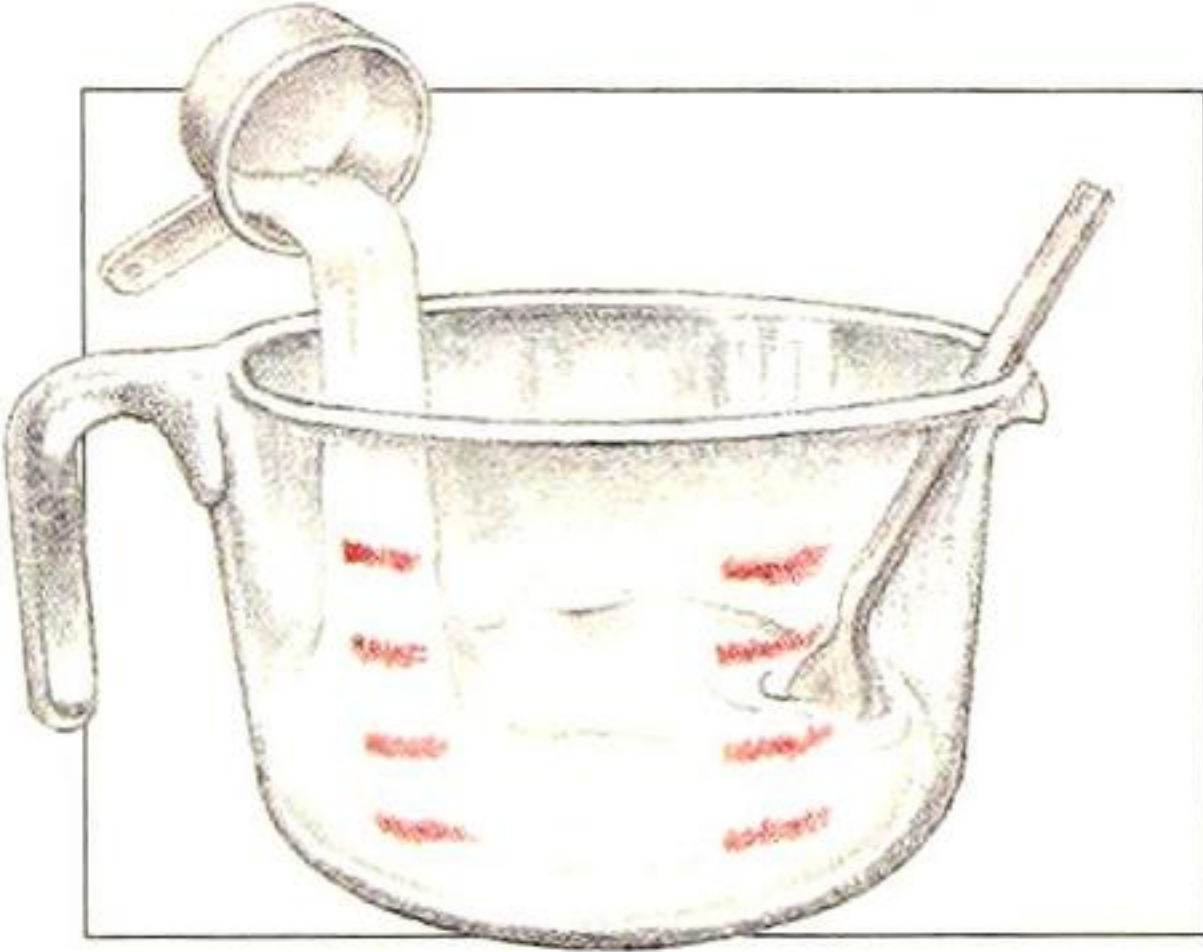
Matte Mod Podge

Dark-colored cream shoe polish

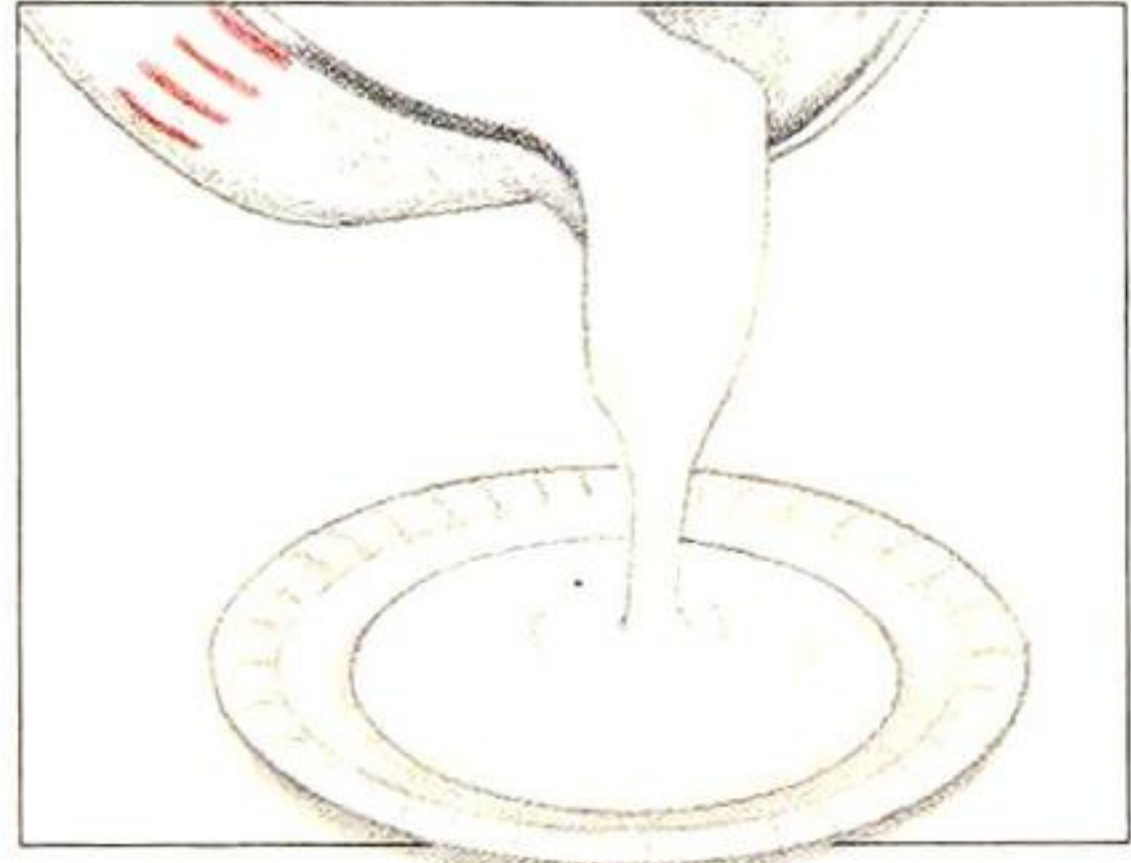
Piece of rawhide (optional)

**Such as Faster Plaster, available at craft stores*

1. Cover your work area with newspaper.
Wear old clothes.

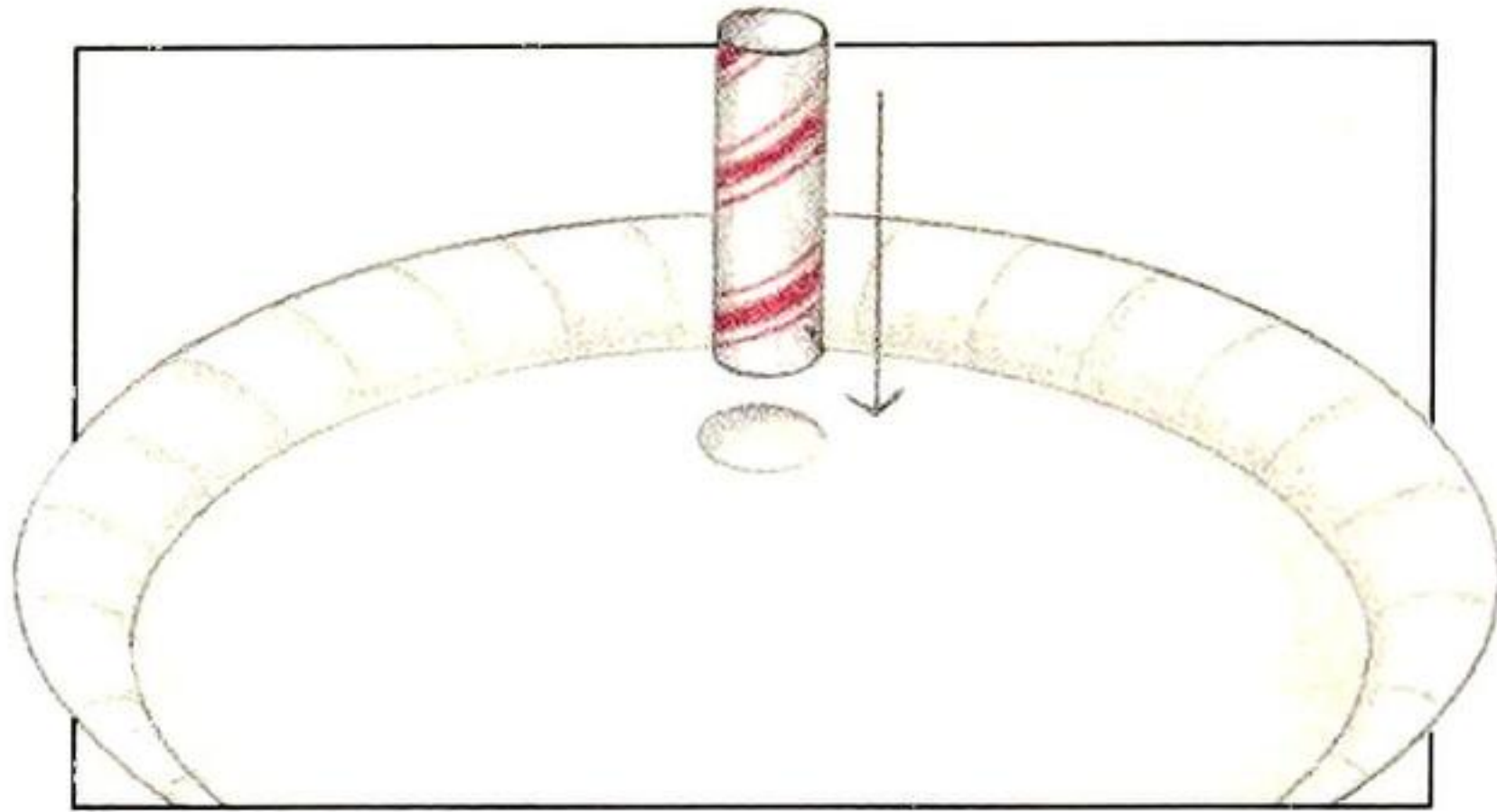


Step 2

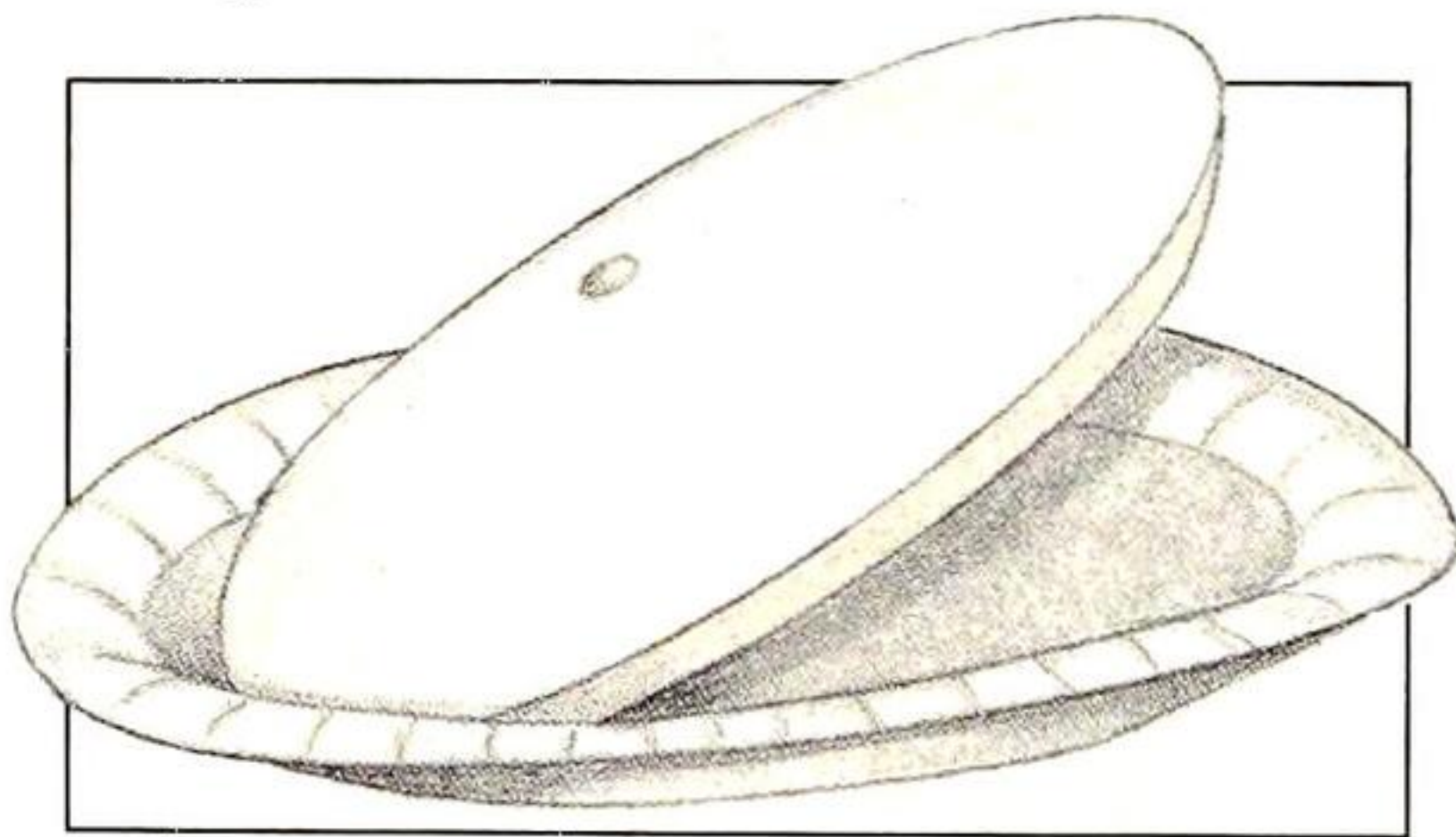


Step 3

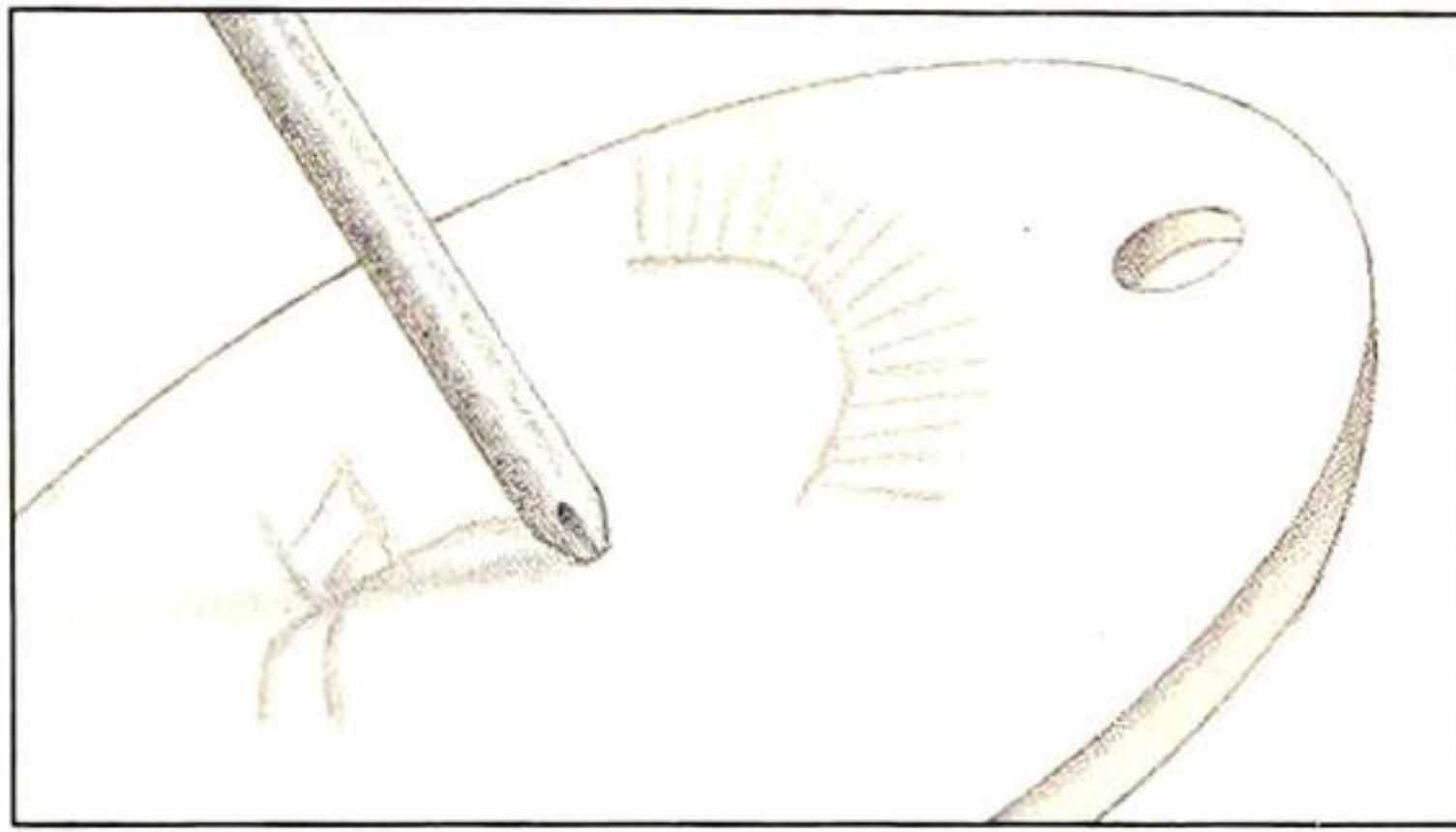
2. Measure the plaster into the container and add the water. Stir the mixture with the spoon until it is smooth.
3. Pour the plaster mixture into the mold. Gently tap the edge of the mold to bring any air bubbles in the plaster to the surface. Throw away extra plaster mixture and wash the bowl and spoon. Do not pour down the drain.



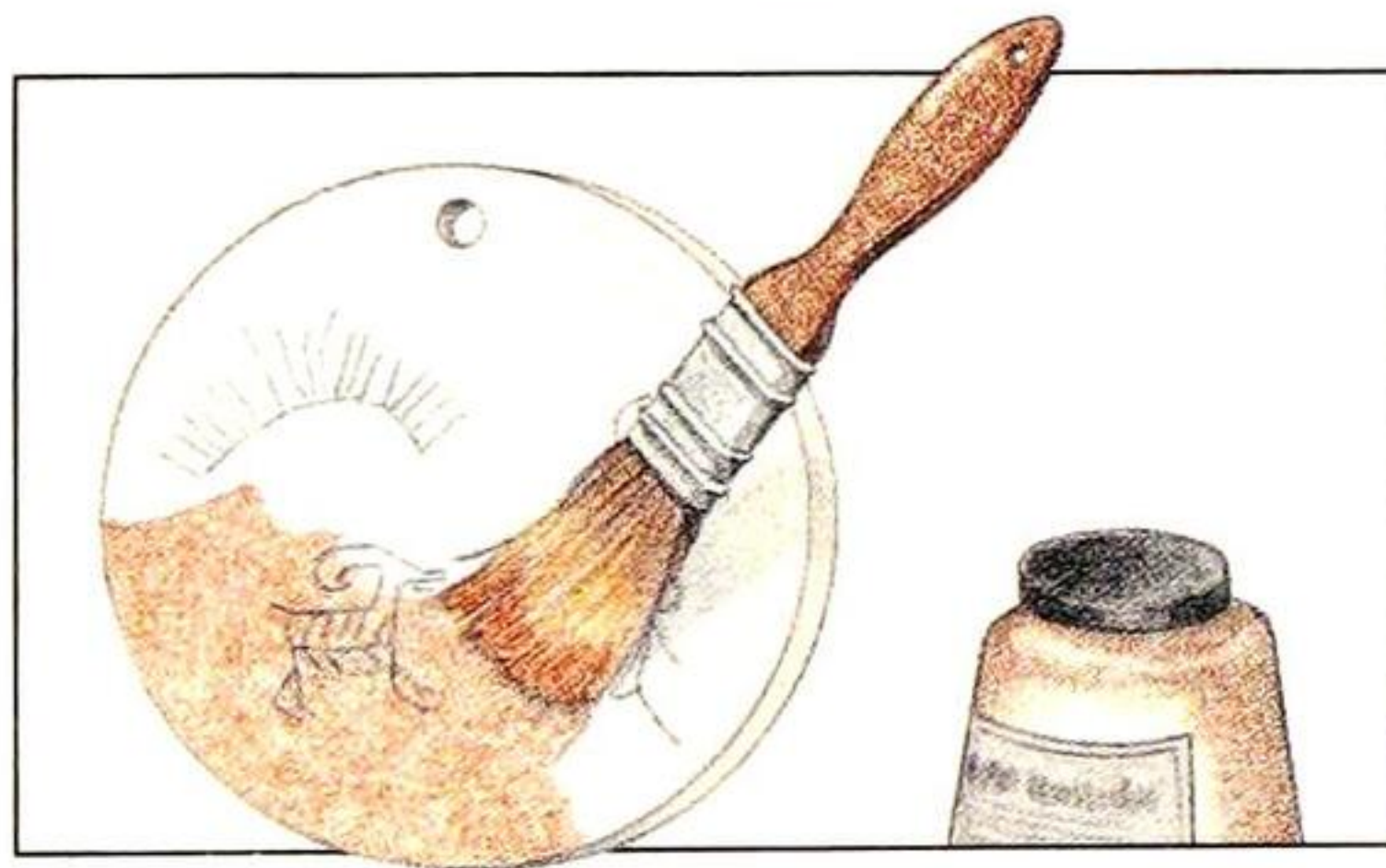
4. To make a hole to hang your petroglyph, place a piece of drinking straw near the top shortly after you pour the plaster.



5. Let the plaster dry for 1 to 1½ hours, then remove the straw and peel away the mold. The plaster should be hardened but still feel slightly damp.



6. Use your carving tool to scratch a design into the plaster. The deeper you carve, the more the design will show up after you paint it. Let the petroglyph dry overnight.



7. Paint the petroglyph with acrylic paint or color it with shoe polish. After the paint is dry, brush the petroglyph with Mod Podge. Let dry.

8. To highlight your carvings, rub shoe polish over the images. Wipe away excess polish.



9. To hang, thread a piece of rawhide through the hole and tie with a knot.

*Carve these designs into
your rock or make up your own!*



Rising Sun



Sun



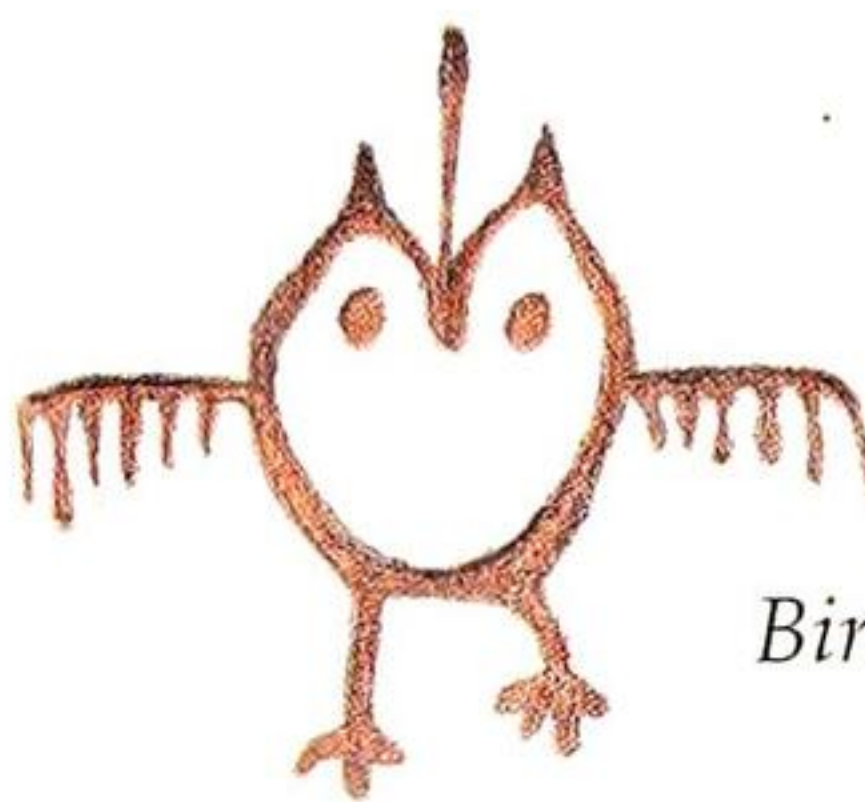
Moon



Star



She Who Watches



Birds



Mountain Sheep



People



Turtle

River



Fish



GLOSSARY OF NEZ PERCE WORDS

In the story, Nez Perce words are spelled so that English readers can pronounce them. After each word below, you'll also see how the word is spelled by the Nez Perce people, how they pronounce the word, and what it means.

aa-heh/'éehe (*AA-heh*)—yes, that's right

katsee-yow-yow/qe'ci'yew'yew' (*KAHT-see-yow-yow*)—
thank you

Kaya'aton'my' (*'ky-YAAH-a-ton-my*)—she who
arranges rocks

Nimíipuu (*nee-MEE-poo*)—The People; known today
as the Nez Perce

tawts may-we/ta'c méeywi (*TAWTS MAY-wee*)—good
morning

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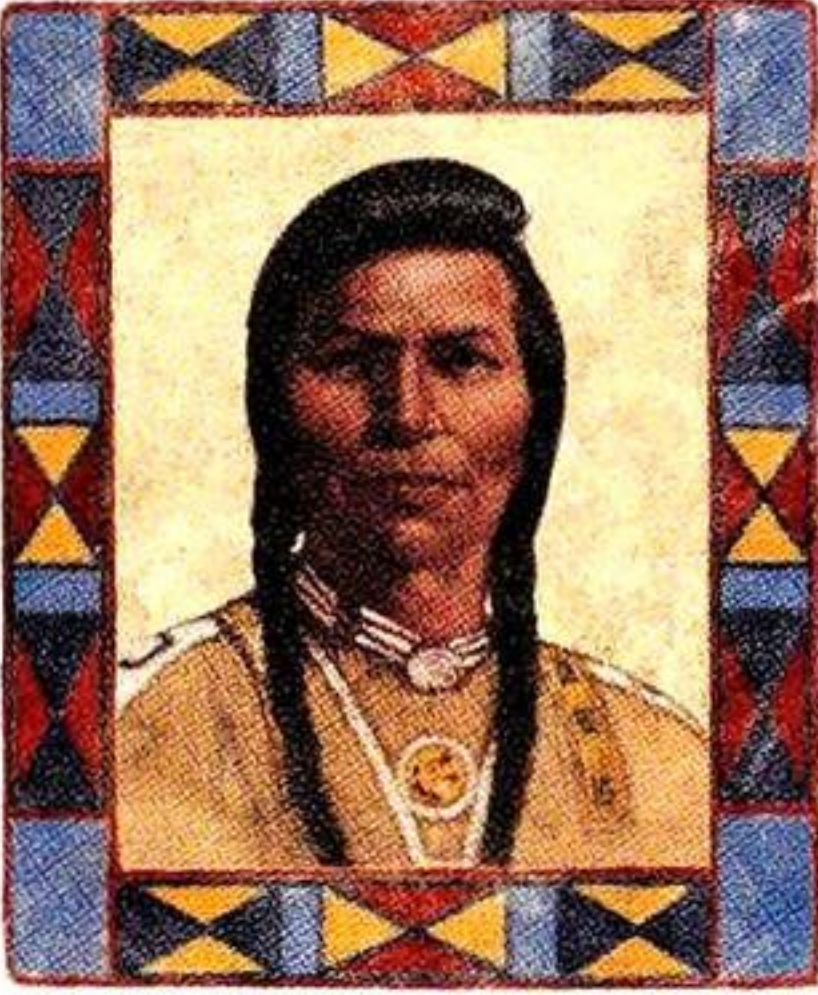
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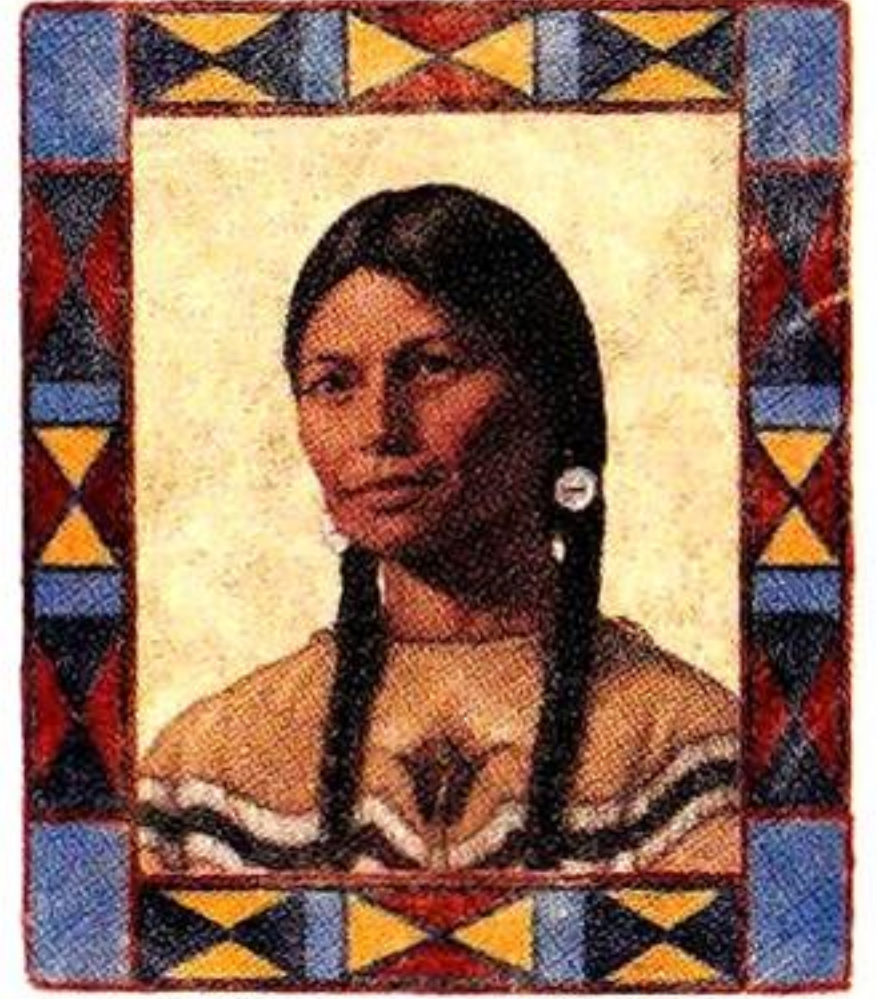
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KAYA'S FAMILY



TOE-TA

Kaya's father, an expert horseman and wise village leader.



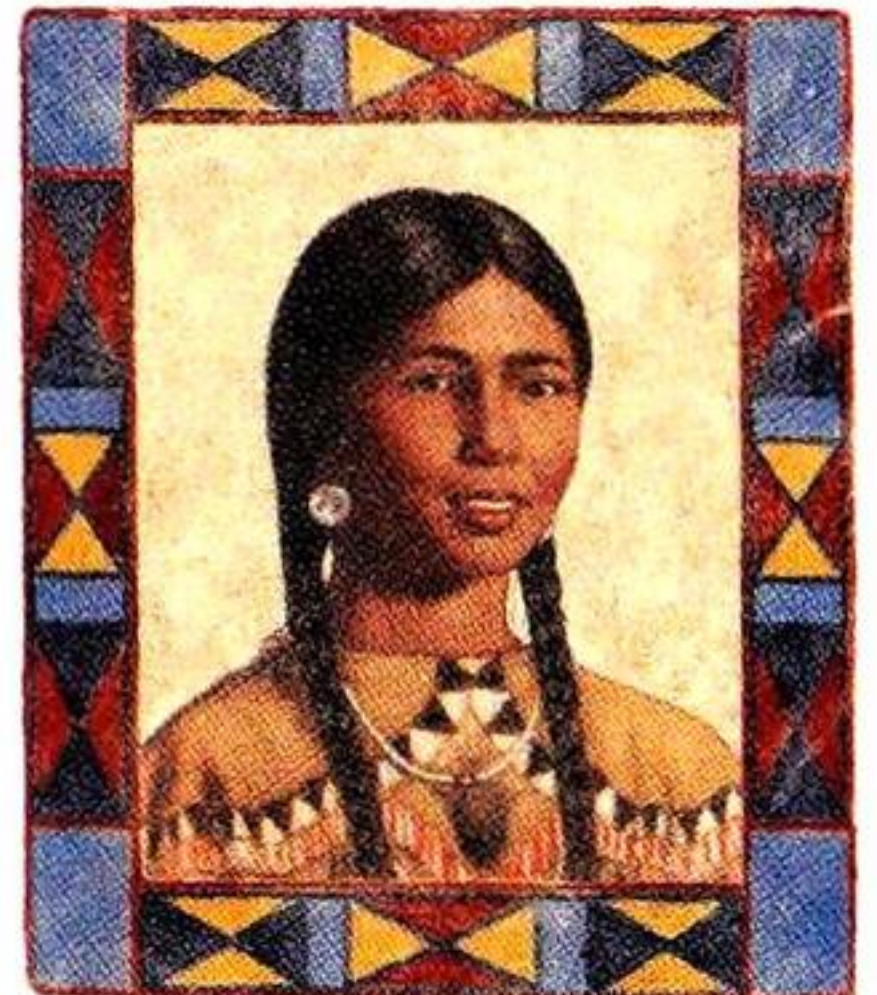
EETSA

Kaya's mother, who is a good provider for her family and village.



KAYA

An adventurous girl with a generous spirit.



BROWN DEER

Kaya's sister, who is old enough to court.