Wapos Bay GUARDIANS episode 9

Episode Description

Mushom, Jacob, Talon and T-Bear take a boat trip to a local island to look for animal tracks, but T-Bear decides to stay with the boat to try to film an eagle with his video recorder. T-Bear captures what he believes to be a Bigfoot but in his fear drops the camera and it breaks. When Jacob learns of T-Bear's sighting, he has big plans for the videotape and uses the Internet to determine its value. Jacob also contacts the OSI, the Observation of Sasquatch Institute and their representatives, Oscar and Steve. The two arrive from Austin, Texas for a press conference in Wapos Bay. They caution that word of the videotape will attract big game hunters from all over the world and will likely put the Bigfoot and even Wapos Bay residents in danger. Kohkum Mary presents the traditional view of Sasquatch as the guardian of the forest. Mushom, Jacob and Steve rush to warn Raven, Sarah and Kohkum, who are out berry picking, of the dangers from hunters who are overrunning Wapos Bay. The family finally views the videotape just as Alphonse and Peter arrive home covered in soot from cleaning chimneys.

Background Information

Many Aboriginal peoples have stories of the creature known as Bigfoot, Bugwus, Sasquatch or Sabe. Each group has an explanation for this creature's role in the bush. For example, the Cree maintain that Bigfoot is the guardian of the forest.

Key themes

• Stories of encounters with the unusual continue to fascinate and entertain.

• Charades is a game that involves communicating with gestures alone and highlights how much can be communicated through body language.

• Science requires proof and must involve observable phenomena. Stories are usually not considered sufficient evidence for scientists.

• Referencing popular television shows or movies within a TV show or movie is now common.

• Casts of Sasquatch footprints and videotape have been revealed to be hoaxes.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

1 ▶ What stories have you heard about the creature known as Bigfoot, Bugwus, Sasquatch or Sabe?

2 ▶ Introduce the Cree words used in episode 9 and ask students to listen for them when they watch the film.

CREE GLOSSARY

kohkum – grandmother
tapway – That's true.

3 ▶ What is required by the scientific method to prove that something exists?

4 ▶ Why are we fascinated by stories of Bigfoot?

5 ▶ Have you noticed that TV programs and movies make reference to other television programs and movies?
In episode 9, a popular program from the 1970s is referenced. Ask the class if they can identify it while watching the film.

6 ▶ What is a hoax? Is there a hoax involved in this episode?

VIEW THE EPISODE

Introduce and view *Wapos Bay: Gardians*.

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1 ▶ The creature known as Bigfoot, Bugwus, Sasquatch or Sabe: What is its role in the wild according to traditional thinking? What are the elements of Bigfoot stories that capture our imagination?

2 ▶ Review the Cree words. How do you say *grandmother* in Cree? What does *tapway* mean?

3 ▶ Why does science require physical evidence for proof that something such as a Sasquatch exists?

4 ▶ How would you improve on T-Bear's charade of Bigfoot?

5 ▶ What popular TV show from the '70s is referenced in this episode? *The Six Million Dollar Man*

6 ▶ What is a hoax? What stories have you heard that turned out to be a hoax? Was the sighting of the Bigfoot in Wapos Bay a hoax? What other hoaxes did you see in this episode?

PROJECT IDEAS

• To prove scientifically that Bigfoot exists, what would you need to do?

• Research the stories of Bigfoot sightings. What do they have in common?

• Create phrases from this and other episodes of *Wapos Bay* to play charades using such titles as:
The Six Million Dollar Man; *The Observation of Sasquatch Institute*; *The guardians of the forest.*

• Ask older members of your family if they recall the 1970s TV program *The Six Million Dollar Man*.
Find out if it's available on DVD. Share with the class the premise behind this show.

• Create a hoax using videotape. Show it to the class.

• Hold a contest for The Biggest Hoax.