

NAME:

COURSE:

### How Coyote Stole Fire

*Long ago, when man was newly come into the world, there were days when he was the happiest creature of all. Those were the days when spring brushed across the willow tails, or when his children ripened with the blueberries in the sun of summer, or when the goldenrod bloomed in the autumn haze.*

*But always the mists of autumn evenings grew more chill, and the sun's strokes grew shorter. Then man saw winter moving near, and he became fearful and unhappy. He was afraid for his children, and for the grandfathers and grandmothers who carried in their heads the sacred tales of the tribe. Many of these, young and old, would die in the long, ice-bitter months of winter.*

*Coyote, like the rest of the People, had no need for fire. So he seldom concerned himself with it, until one spring day when he was passing a human village. There the women were singing a song of mourning for the babies and the old ones who had died in the winter. Their voices moaned like the west wind through a buffalo skull, prickling the hairs on Coyote's neck.*

### QUESTIONS

#### 1. Answer the following questions according to the story.

1. Why was Man sad when the winter came closer?


2. Why did Coyote feel sorry for Man?


3. Who were the Fire Beings and why did they keep their most valuable possession?


4. What part of the day did the Fire Beings least watch their possession?


5. What did Coyote decide to do when he saw all that?


