

Tales of Q'we.ti

All cultures have their myths and legends and in most, there is a “trickster”, or a mischief maker. In Native American legends the most well known are Coyote and Raven. However, there is also a little boy in the Pacific Northwest cultures known as Q'we.ti. (Kwah - tee) who seems to find and make trouble.

Here are several tales of Q'we.ti as told by young children.

Q'we'ti was a little baby boy and he had a shell for a bed. He grew up to be a man in two days. Q'we'.ti was missing a front tooth that made him talk funny. Q'we.ti always seemed to be in trouble.

One day Q'we.ti caught a spring salmon and started a fire by magic to cook it. Two moth's made Q'we.ti go to sleep so they could eat his fish. One moth rubbed a piece of fish skin on Q'we.ti's mouth and when he woke up he thought he had eaten the fish.

On another day Q'we.ti was making a bow and his mother asked for a drink of water. He didn't get the water and she turned into a blue jay. Q'we.ti shot an arrow at her by mistake as she flew away. The arrow brushed her head and that is why the bluejay has a topknot.