

COLLABORATING WITH YOUR LOCAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

Most, if not all, Indigenous people throughout the world will have their own narrative regarding the origin of night and day and/or the birth of the sun. I strongly encourage you, the Band Director, to work with your school executive and Indigenous community to enhance the learning and consequent performance of this piece. Share the basic plotline of *Belah Sun Woman* with appropriate representatives from your local Indigenous community and ask them if they have a story reflect the birth of the Sun and/or the origin of night and day. If so, and they are interested in a collaboration, I strongly encourage you to work alongside an approved representative to enable them to share their local beliefs with your students and use their narrative as the basis of your performance. I believe this will significantly contribute to the relationship already established between your school and the local Indigenous community, as well as enhance your students' awareness of the importance of collaboration with the first inhabitants of the land on which we live.