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Arizona State University

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Traditional Stories of Light

A Coloring Book



Illustrated by Eunique Yazzie and Dustin Lopez
Designed by Vanessa Moreno

Deer Dancer (Yaqui)



Yaqui Deer Dancer performs a ritual to honor Deer for his sacrifice.

Traditional Stories of Light

A Coloring Book

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Dear reader,

The ASU Art Museum collaborated with Vanessa Moreno (Purépecha, Tepehuán), Eunique Yazzie (Diné) and Dustin Lopez (Diné, Yaqui, Laguna Pueblo) to create this coloring book that represents traditional stories involving light from the Native American peoples of the Southwest. It is part of the museum's mission to highlight the indigenous voices and stories of our communities from the artistic lenses of community experts.

Light is a natural source of illumination and inspiration among numerous indigenous cultures of the Southwest. Various forms of natural light are provided by celestial bodies such as the sun, the moon and the stars, along with natural phenomena including fire, rainbows and lightning. These natural light sources are utilized for multiple purposes, such as demonstration of seasonal changes and cycles, guidance for direction between the four cardinal points (North, South, East and West), participation in religious ceremonies, and the combustion of fire for land management and cooking.

The dramatic effects of these natural sources of light are heightened in the Southwest region, as the environment encompasses clear skies, prominent mountains and open desert terrain, in which light is intensified. This coloring book portrays the characterization of light with illustrations of Native American people, gods, mythical creatures and animal figures native to the Southwest region.

Support for this project was provided by Dr. Medill, the Audience Experience Coordinator for the ASU Art Museum. Funding for this project was provided by Presidential Strategic Initiative Funds.

We hope you enjoy!

When Badger Named the Sun (Yaqui)



Badger said, "The Sun rises from a hole of the Earth everyday like I do."

Nahchurúchu (Bluish Dawn of Light) Marries the Moon (Pueblo/Tée-wahn)



Nahchurúchu marries the moon and is happier than ever.

Meet the Authors



Eunique Yazzie

Eunique Yazzie is Diné (Navajo) from Rapid City, South Dakota and Canyon de Chelle, Arizona. She is Naaneesht'ézhi Táchii'nii born for Ma 'íí deeshgíízhíníí. Her maternal grandfather is Tódích'íi'nii and her paternal grandfather is Kinyaa'áanii. She lives in Phoenix, AZ raising her 12 year old son, working, teaching, and advocating. If art imitates life, Eunique's palette is one that breathes new life and purpose into the arts and culture community; she is a poet and storyteller with the Mujeres Del Sol collective; a board member of Roosevelt Row CDC; a working artist, muralist and illustrator; and founder of the Indige Design Collab. She has worked with the Obama Foundation, The Colorado Plateau Foundation, Native Americans Business Incubator Network, the Tempe Center for the Arts, Mesa Arts Center, and Performance in the Borderlands as a workshop or arts curator. In her professional career she has worked for AZ Republic Media, NAU and ASU. As her focus is in advocacy, she has completed branding projects for Phoenix Indian Center, National Urban Indian Family Coalition, Washington State Indian Education Association, Native Vote, Black Mesa Water Coalition, PODER in Action and many other social enterprises or advocacy organizations. She brings a cultural perspective in amplifying art and design for creative impact within urban and rural communities.



Dustin Lopez

Dustin Lopez's passion for being creative can be traced back long before his professional days. Whether it was submitting a logo for a local competition or being part of a team to create a magazine for graffiti writers, Dustin has been on a creative path from the beginning. He is intoxicated with storytelling and using any creative medium of his choosing to enhance the story. Currently, that's collaborating with others in art, design, education and community. Away from the office, Dustin is committed to being a contributing member of IndigeDesign Collab and a local Fire Department. As a 'Mixt Blood' (Diné, Yaqui and Laguna Pueblo), Dustin is always looking to learn more about his native languages. He's currently trying his hand at different art mediums (@dus10lopezart). Ask him about Mixt Blood Streetwear or connect with him on social media, at community events and more! Also, check out his portfolio project on Instagram (@Dus10Hues).



Vanessa Moreno

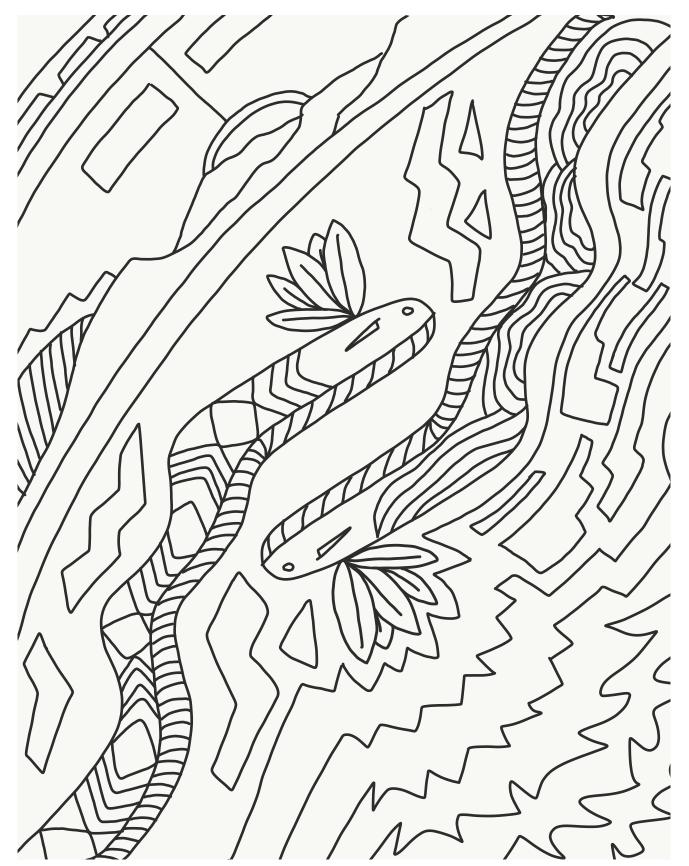
Vanessa Moreno is an academic scholar, educator, and creative individual. She is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, with Purépecha and Tepehuán heritage. She began her professional career in the museum field in her original home of the San Francisco Bay Area. Vanessa recently graduated with her Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from San Francisco State University. She will join the Mexican American Studies Department at University of Arizona as a doctoral student in Fall 2020. As a first-generation Mexican American, Vanessa has explored and represented her Chicana identity through art, academic research, and her recent passion project, Somos Chicanas (@SomosChicanas). She is passionate about building and protecting community through art, social justice, and education.

The Spirit of Summer (Miochin) Presents Corn (Pueblo/Zuni)



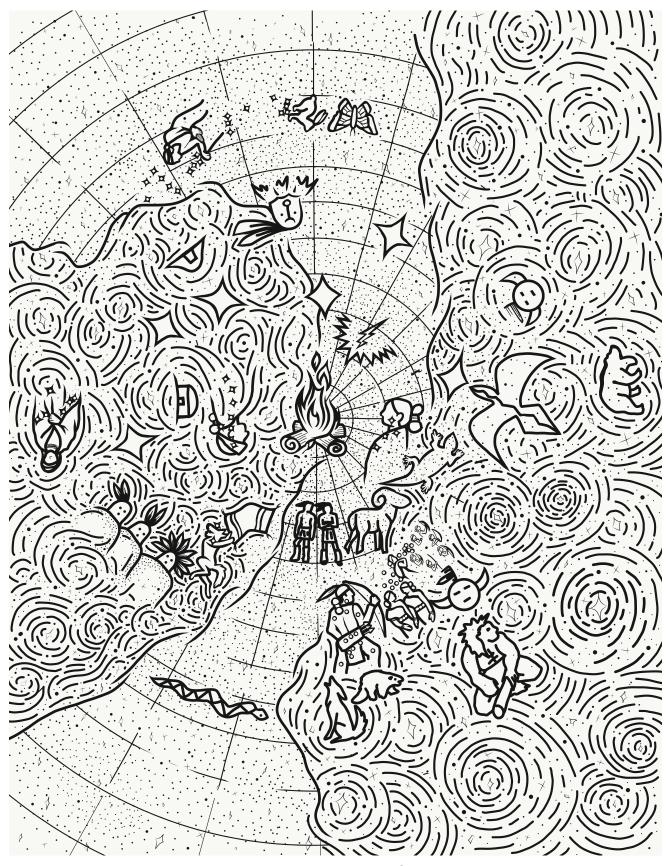
Miochin presents ear of corn to maiden. He says, "This corn is from my home far away where corn grows year round."

The Moon Turns Two Corn Maidens into Snakes (Pueblo)



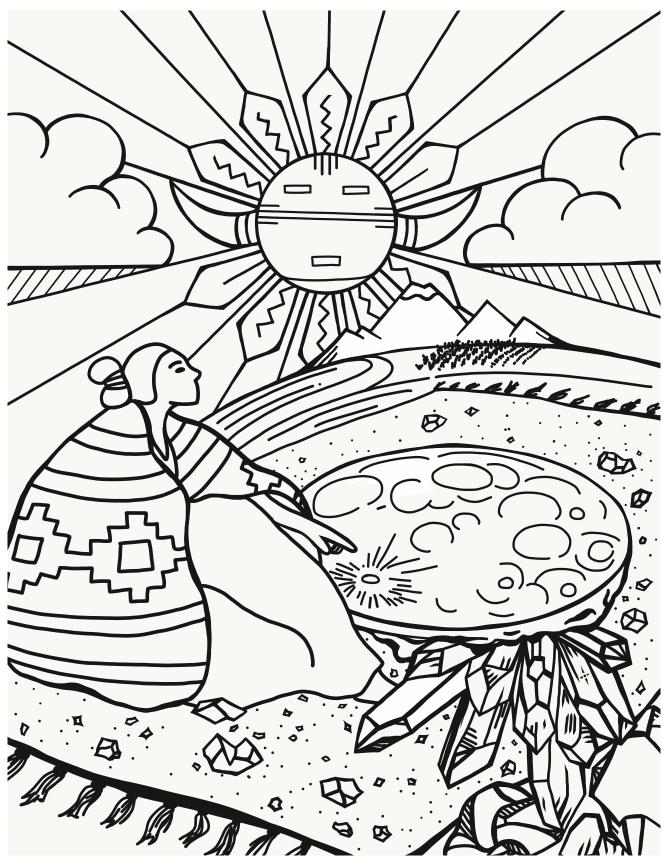
The two corn maidens decieved the moon, so the moon turned them into snakes during a hoop game as revenge.

Star Chart (Navajo/Diné)



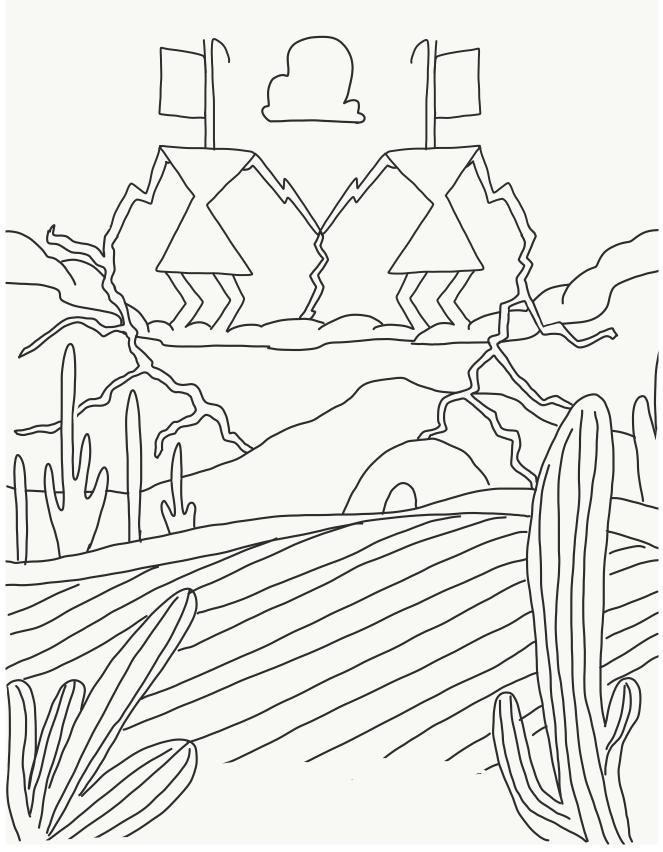
Navajo astronomy is traditionally taught among families in their homes (hogans).

First Woman Creates Sun and Moon (Navajo/Diné)



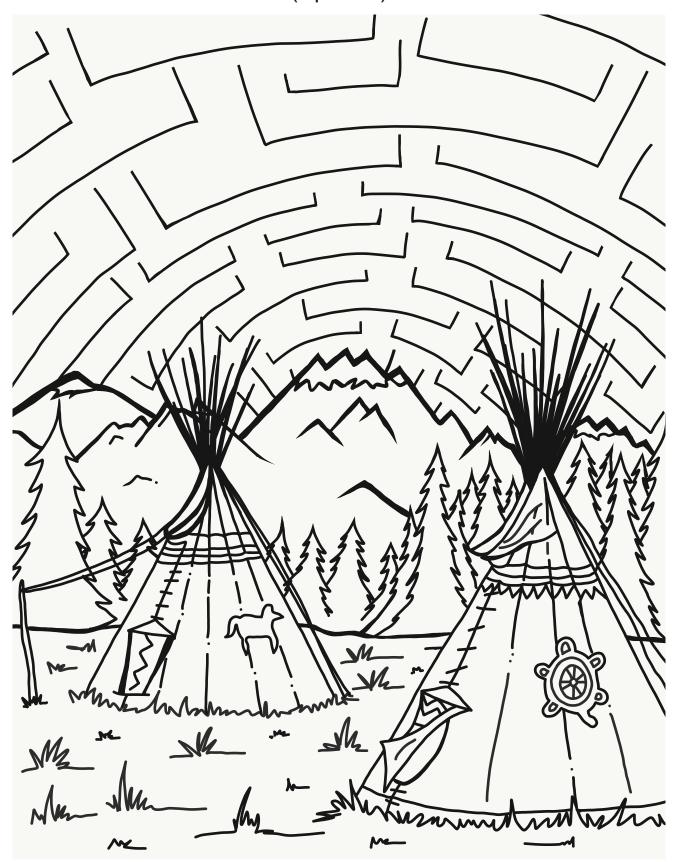
First Woman marked two large circles on the slab of quartz, making Jo'hannaa'éí (Sun) and TL'éhonaa'éí (Moon).

O'odham Cloud Brothers (Akimel O'odham and Pee-Posh/Maricopa)



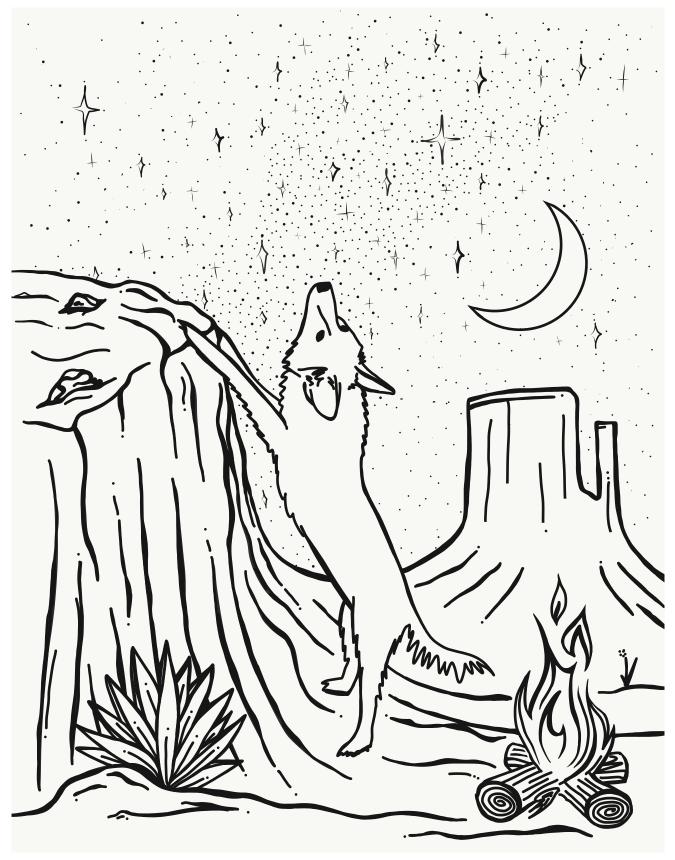
Cloud said to the brothers, "Show me you are truly my sons!" The twin boys created lightning, followed by loud thunder.

The People Who Went North (Apache)



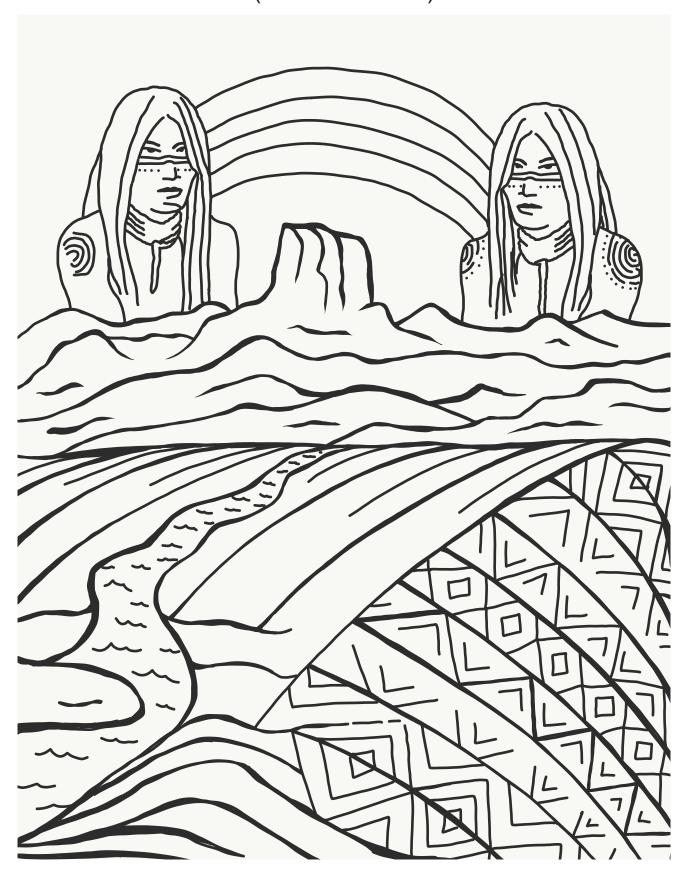
As told by the Jicarilla Apache, "The People Who Went North" had children who had not seen the sun, so they waited and watched in awe as the sun rose and set.

Coyote Tossing Stars to the Sky (Navajo/Diné)



Coyote said, "This is too long. I have a better way." Then snapped the blanket and the rest of the rock-star mica were scattered across the sky making the Milky Way.

Kokomaht and Bakotahl Create the Earth (Quechan/Yuma)



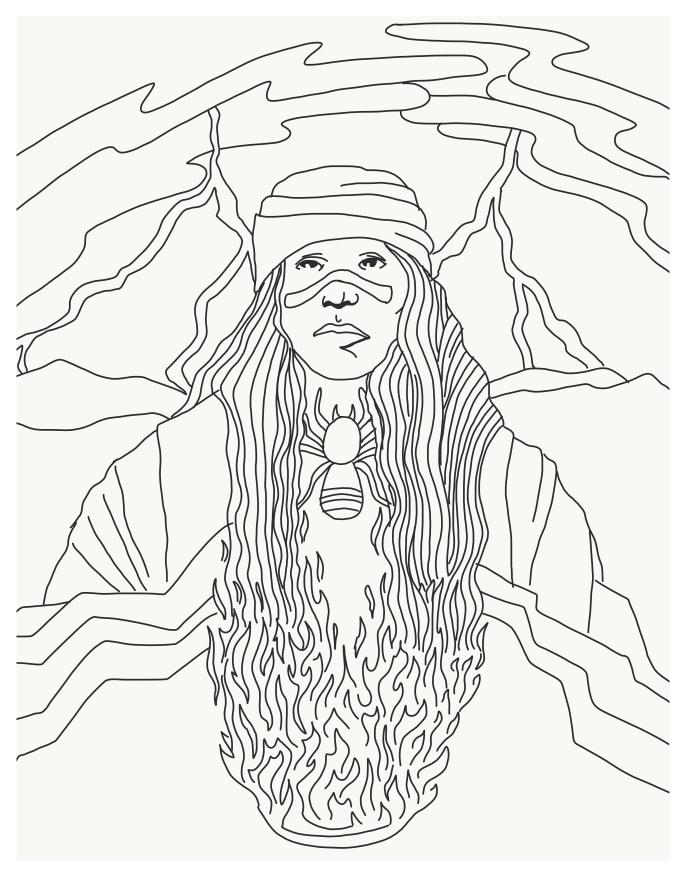
The twin brothers glowed like rainbows who had powers.

Crown Dancers (Apache)



The Apache crown dancers enter the fire ground and surround the fire to prepare for their dance.

Creator Makes the Sky and Earth (Apache)



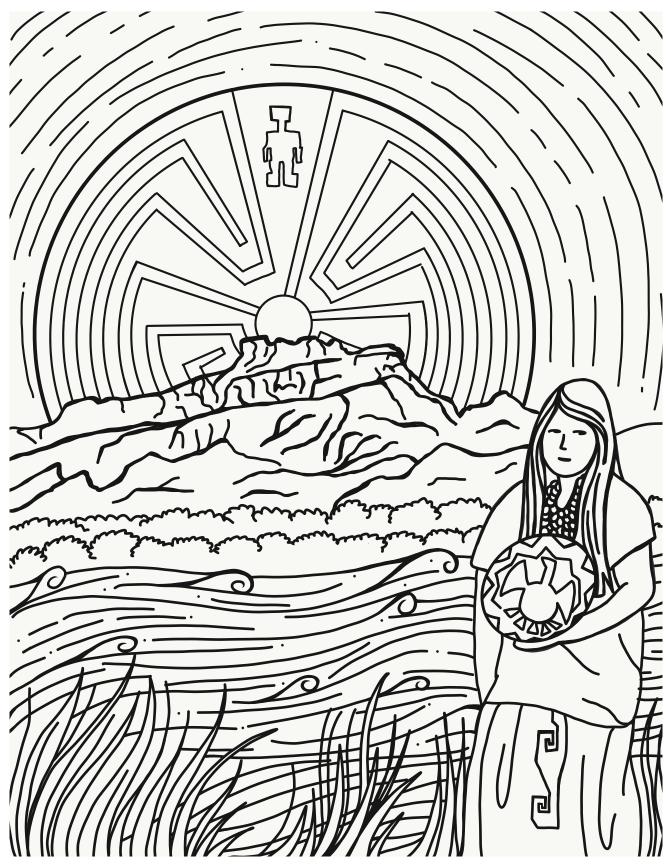
Creator filled the sky with clouds, wind, lightning, thunder, and the Big Dipper. Tarantula helped Creator form the Earth, spinning cords in each direction.

The Four Women Who Became Stars (Yavapai)



In Summer, the four Yavapai women who became stars appear on the eastern horizon at 2:00 a.m.

Red Mountain/Fire Rock (Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation)



Mount McDowell, "Red Mountain" or "Fire Rock", is made of red sandstone that glows at sunset.

Shulawitsi Brings Fire (Zuni)



Shulawitsi, the Zuni Fire God, brings fire to the people.