**Pre-viewing Discussion**

- Find the location of the story's origin on a map. Use the map and other geographical information to make inferences about the landscape and people of that place and how this information might be relevant to a story set in this location.
- Can you imagine life in a world of darkness? How would everyday life change if there was no daylight?

**Follow-Up Activities**

- **Alaska: Raven Steals the Daylight** is an example of a trickster folktale in which a small, weak character is able to trick, outsmart, a larger, more powerful character. A popular trickster from West African folklore is Anansi the spider. Encourage students to get creative and come up with their own trickster tales. Students can write and illustrate their tales or prepare for a dramatic storytelling.
- Act it out! Recreate this tale in your classroom. This can be done as a puppet show, a mime skit, a student play, etc. In preparation for the production, examine and critically think about the story's elements of characters, setting, and plot. Consider the importance of cultural context and how the story might change if the setting was a different time and place.
- Tales about Raven the trickster god are common among the different native cultural groups of Alaska. Have students work in small groups to select and research a cultural group, such as the Haida, Tlingit, Yupik or Athabascan people. In addition to investigating where and how they live, look into the stories that make up their oral tradition. Do they tell a tale similar to this one? Maria Williams' *How Raven Stole the Sun* (Abbeville Press, 2001), for example, is a Tlingit version of the tale. What other tales with Raven do they tell?
- After Raven brings light to Earth, what do you think happens? Have students come up with their own extensions to the tale and focus on how this light may change the lives of the people who live there. Students may get some creative inspiration from Amanda Hall's *The Stolen Sun: A Story of Native Alaska* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002). This is an original tale in which Raven steals the sun from the sky when he sees how greedy and violent people have become.
- Before folktales were written or turned into films, they were passed down orally, from one generation to the next. Introduce students to the art of storytelling. Discuss different ways in which the storyteller can engage listeners (e.g., using sound and gestures, giving vivid sensory details). Practice storytelling techniques by having each student retell a portion of this tale.
- Birds, such as ravens, eagles and cranes, play a prominent role in folktales around the world. Examine the role of birds in different tales. Howard Norman’s *Between Heaven and Earth: Bird Tales from Around the World* (Gulliver Books, 2004) is an excellent resource. Consider watching *Pakistan: Podna & Podni* — another animated tale with a bird as the main character. Discuss how birds are portrayed in each story. Also, investigate and discuss the symbolism of different birds across different cultures.

**Program Summary**

This folktale from Alaska describes a time when people lived in darkness. There was no sun, moon or stars to brighten up the sky. Instead, light was kept tucked away in the faraway home of the Sky Chief. Raven, a trickster god, and his sidekick Petrel devise and carry out a plan to bring that light to Earth. At the home of the Sky Chief, Raven uses some magical transformation and little childlike coercion to get the Sky Chief to give him the moon, the stars and the sun. He returns to Earth with these gifts, and the people are amazed when they are able to see everything around them.

(Continued)
• Totem poles are grand sculptures carved from great trees and detailed with striking designs and bold colors. An important component of the Native American culture in the northwestern part of North America, they are statements of the identities and stories of the people who carved them. A legend pole is a type of totem pole that illustrates folklore or real life experiences. Visit www.nps.gov/sitk/historyculture/totem-poles.htm to see and learn more about totem poles. Then, have students get creative and design totem poles that reflect the characters, setting and plot of this tale.
• According to this tale, people once lived in a world of darkness. There was no sun, moon or stars to brighten the sky. This is an opportunity to make some connections to science. While Alaska certainly has the sun, moon and stars to brighten its sky, the amount of sunlight it receives each day is dependent on the time of year. Students can do research to determine when Alaska has the longest day and longest night as well as the reason for these vast differences in daylight hours.
• Compare modern-day Alaska with the setting and people portrayed in the folktales. Organize these similarities and differences using a Venn diagram.

Suggested Print Resources
To learn more about the land and people of Alaska:
If you are interested in tales from Alaska, you might also enjoy:
• Sloat, Teri. The Eye of the Needle. Alaska Northwest Books, Portland, OR, 2001. This is a Yupik tale from the Alaskan northwest.
• Sloat, Teri. The Hungry Giant of the Tundra. Alaska Northwest Books, Portland, OR, 2001. This is a tale from the Yupik Eskimo of the Bethel region of Alaska.
Teacher’s Guide written by Megan Carnate, M.Ed., Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

Suggested Internet Resources
• www.state.ak.us/local/kids/
The State of Alaska provides this web site for kids with facts about Alaska, information about wildlife and fishing, and more.
• www.alaskanative.net/2.asp
The Alaska Native Heritage Center presents this informative web site to share the rich heritage of Alaska’s eleven cultural groups.
• www.ankn.uaf.edu/index.html
This site, by the Alaska Native Knowledge Network, is a comprehensive resource of information related to Alaska Native knowledge systems and ways of knowing. Curriculum and cultural resources are available.
• www.darsie.net/talesofwonder/
This archive of folk and fairy tales from around the world presents a sampling of the many stories that make up our world’s oral tradition.