I. Sacred Narratives

A. Iroquois

B. creation story

1. Before there were humans there were Sky People who

dwelled in the celestial world

2. There was no sun all light came from the celestial

tree that stood in front of the Lodge of Sky Chief

3. Sky Chief had married a young wife who became

pregnant Sky Woman

4. Firedragon spread rumors that the child was not

Sky Chief's

5. Sky Chief in anger ripped up the celestial tree and

through his wife in the hole

6. Sky Woman fell down towards the water below

7. The birds feeling sorry for her supported her breaking

the fall and carrying her slowly downward

8. The water animals hurried to make a place for her

9. Turtle said that he would support a world on his back.

10. Muskrat came up with a large mouthful of earth

which he placed on turtles back

11. The blossoms of the fallen celestial tree shone through the hole and became the sun

12. When Sky Woman landed grass and trees had already begun to grow

13. Sky Woman gave birth to a daughter who gave

birth to two sons, the father could have been Turtle

or West Wind

14. The two were twins but one was goo and one was

evil, the good twin born the the usual way, the evil twin

born through the mother's side and killed her

15. Sky Woman buried her daughter and plants miraculously began to grow from various parts of her

daughter

16. These were the most important plants, tobacco, corn,

beans, and squash "Our Supporters" or "Three Sisters"

17. As the good twin grew to manhood he began creating

good things: plants, animals, medicinal herbs, rivers,

and streams

18. The Evil Twin begant to spoil his brother's work,

rapids, and boulders in the river, posionous plants, thorns, and birars, diseases, and monsters

19. The Good and Evil Twin battled on, Evil could never

win

20. Finally, The Good Twin created human beings to

enjoy all the good things that he had made for them

I. Origin Story - Navajo

A. called the dine, or "people of the surface of the earth"

B. Holy People lived in the lowest of the twelve worlds

C. origin story is story of the ascent of ancestors

D. Holy People are holy because they are powerful, not because

they are perfect

E. Usually some act of mischief or malice that cause the Holy

People to move from a lower world up

F. In each world there were adventures and events that are

relevant today

1. in third or fourth world hermaphrodites or transvestites appeared

2. venerated with supernatural power

3. in the world before the surface men and women

quarreled and lived separately

a. men lived harmoniously, learning women's

skills and inventing tools and utensils

b. women couldn't deal with the lack of sex

c. had sex with monsters

d. basis of certain taboos

4. A great flood began to fill the eleventh world and the

Holy People were forced to scamble up through a

hollow reed to the surface of the earth

5. First Man and First Woman are prominent among the

Holy People

6. the earth was devoid of form when the Holy People

arrived

7. First Man brought soil from the mountains in the world below, he made for replicas, mixed sacred matter

in each, planted them in the four cardinal directs, and

breathee into them to make them live and grow large

8. these are the four holy mountains the mark the sacred

land

"In the east he put Sisnaajinii, or Blanca Pak, CO, placed in it a white shell, covered it with daylight and dawn, fatened it to the ground with lightning, and assigned it the symbolic color of white.'

"To the south wen Tsoodzil, Mount Taylor, in which he placed turquoise: he then covered it with blue sky, fatened it with great sotne knife, and gave it the color blue as its symbol."

"Dook'o'oosliid, or the San Franciso Peaks, is the mountain of the west. Securing it to the ground with asunbeam, First Man put abalone inside and covered it with yellow clouds and evening twoiligt, yellow being it color."

Black is the color of Dibe' ntsaa, or Hesperus Peak in Co, the mountain of the north, it is fastened by a rainbow, impregnatd with jet, and covered with darkness.

8. During this creative period Talking God and Calling

God assumed guardianship of the mountains

a. dressing them in jewels

b. giving each two songs

c. placing supernaturals within to gather the clouds

and answer prayers "those that stand within"

9. The mountains are referred to as hogans in which

many beings reside, animals and plants

10. much of Navajo ritual, and social life is organized

around their belief in the sacredness of the mountains

a. homes

b. prayer

c. taboos

d. navajo wedding basket

11. hozho or the beauty way of life

12. they are parents of most imporanat figure in Navajo

mythology Changing Woman

13. Changing Woman mated with the Sun Bearer and had

two sons, both Monster Slayer and Born for Water

14. Monster Slayer got weapons from his father the sun