



# SWSW Library Offerings

Siwal Si'wes "Our Forefathers' Teachings"

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## Hot Topics

Please add your school name with your request. Thanks.

### Big Bear (Mistahimaskwa)

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mistahimaskwa\\_11E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mistahimaskwa_11E.html)



The historical fiction "The Temptations of Big Bear", is Rudy Wiebe's magnificent interpretation of western Canadian history, which encompasses not only his hero's struggle for integrity but also the whole range of richness of the Plains culture" (book cover). This book won the Governor General's Award for Fiction in 1973.

Wiebe has taken expertly researched facts of the day and reworked them into a layered story of a compelling time in Canadian history. Wiebe has also penned a biography of Big Bear for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (link under subtitle).

In The Inconvenient Indian, Thomas King references Big Bear, the signing of Treaty Six, and the tactics used with "Native people opposed" (p. 87) to signing the document. Big Bear was opposed, wishing a peaceful sharing of land instead.



## Big Bear and Poundmaker

Group photograph in the square of the North-West Mounted Police Barracks at Regina, Sask, with Poundmaker (lower right) and Big Bear (second from left), 1885 (O.B. Buell/ Library and Archives Canada/C-001872).



“Big Bear (Mistahimaskwa), Plains Cree chief (b near Fort Carlton, Sask 1825; d on the Poundmaker Reserve 17 Jan 1888). By the 1870s Big Bear had emerged as a head man of about 65 lodges. He was concerned with the disappearance of the buffalo, the increasing numbers of European settlers, and impossible treaty conditions that seemed to ensure perpetual poverty and the destruction of his people's way of life.”

From: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/big-bear/>

## Educational Unit Plan Resource

Constellations and the universe are intriguing for students and adults. At school we usually study “the heavens” with references to Greek Mythology. There are many aboriginal legends and stories connected to constellations, the sun and the moon. Here is a collection of titles you could use in a unit about constellations. “Sky Tellers” is a DVD of stories with a teacher’s guide connecting the science with them. The Star People is a story based in Lakota legends. Coyote and the Sky is a Pueblo legend. Star Boy is a Native American legend. Keepers of the Night presents stories juxtaposed with nature and science activities. Out-of-This-World Astronomy provides ample student friendly and mind expanding activities. Please let us know if you would like to borrow any of these items.

