

Bookfolio for **At the Center of the World**

Author: [Betty Baker](#)

Publisher:

ISBN: 0027082903

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Legends and Folktales](#)

MultiCulture: Native American

Story Summary: Dramatic illustrations by Murray Tinkleman enhance Betty Baker's retelling of the creation myths of the Pima and Papago Indians of southern Arizona. There was nothing but darkness until Earth Magician, a man of great power, created the Earth, Sun, Moon, and Stars. Features, such as mountains and rivers, were cut into the flat landscape by the Buzzard, Earth Magician's companion. Buzzard watched as Earth Magician experimented with fashioning plants, animals, and people from the clay of the earth. Later, Eetoi, the son of Earth and Sky, was more successful at making people. His people sang songs of praise to their creator, who protected them from the killing pot and the eagle-man. Yet, the people revolted against Eetoi, beginning the First War, when he ignored their pleas for rain.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapters 1 and 2, pages 1-15

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

At the Center of the World - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Two Floods (Comparing two tales)	R , S , W
2. Eetoi Returns (Writing a story)	W
3. Create a Landscape (Sculpting a landscape)	D
4. My Own Myth (Creating a myth)	D , S , W
5. A Cartoon Version (Drawing a cartoon version)	D
6. Our Solar System (Writing a report)	D , R , W
At the Center of the World - Group Activities	Skills
1. More About Creation (Comparing creation myths)	R , S , W
2. Facts from the Myths (Comparing fact and myth)	D , R
3. The World is Created (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	S
4. Songs of Eetoi's People (Writing a song)	S , W
5. An Interview with Buzzard (Conducting an interview)	S
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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