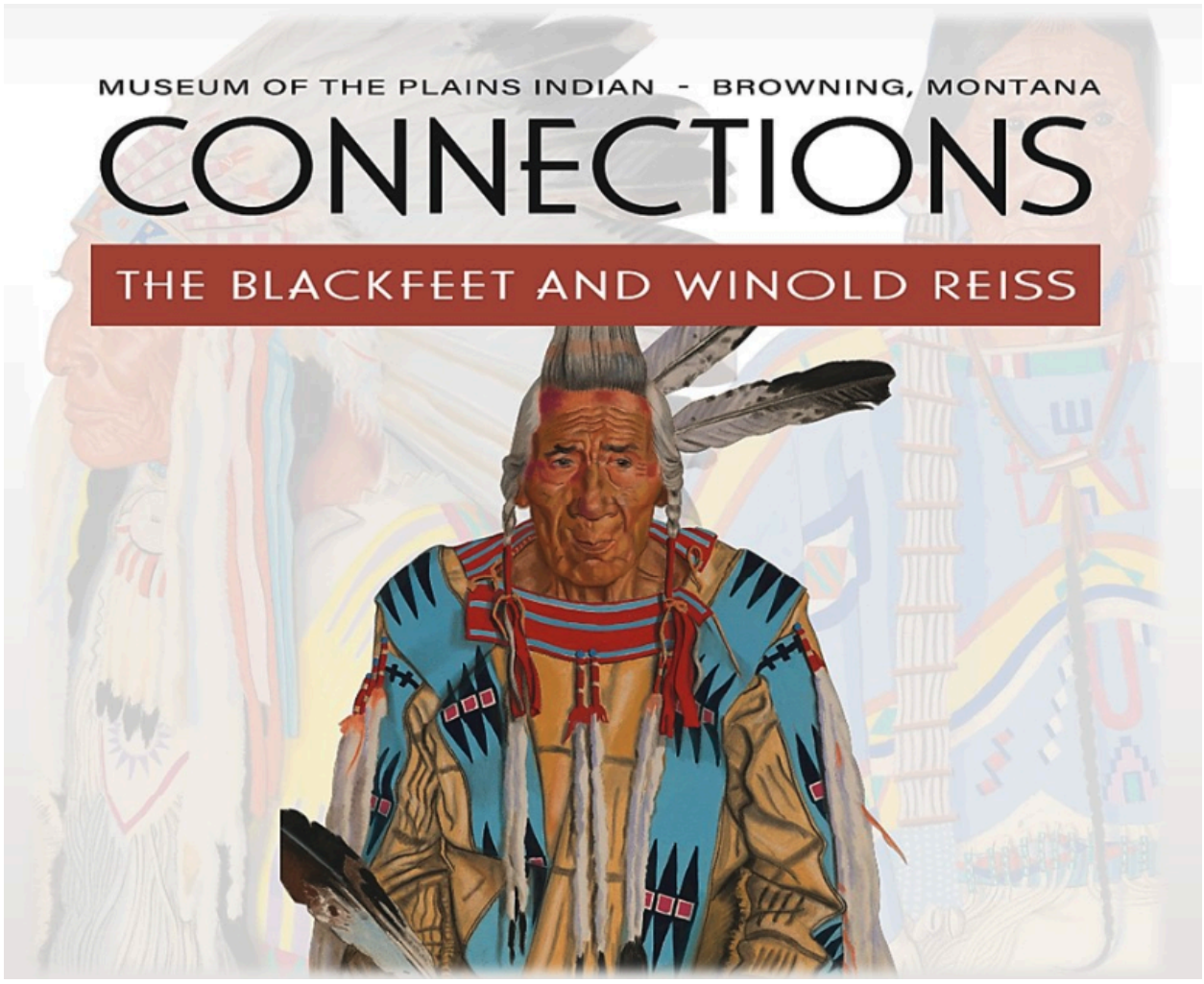
Blackfeet Star Stories

Created by: Amy Grant



Star Stories curriculum unit



Winold Reiss prints

Contextual Paragraph

I included my star stories unit, which I teach every fall after the first snowfall. I teach this because it connects to many standards, teaches my students about painted lodges, and ties into our star stories. Our lodges are recognized worldwide, and I include many resources. YouTube videos and oral stories I was told as a child. I grew up with a painted lodge, and I was always told to follow protocols and how to be in that lodge. I also included Winold Reiss prints made for the railroad; I was told many of our people were happy to pose for the portraits, and they accurately describe our people. Those prints are still highly regarded in my community, and we have prints of our relations who were chosen for the portraits.

Key Questions

1. Why do you think Blackfeet people included their star stories on their painted lodges?
2. What are lodges?
3. Why are these oral stories so important?

Assessment

1. What star constellation goes on the south flap?
2. What star constellation goes on the north flap?
3. What star is represented on the back of the lodges?