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8,000 Years

*A coloring book story of a
stone age knife*



What's Real In This Story?

The people in this book did not leave behind any written documents. That means we have to guess at what they were like by the pieces of their lives we can still find.

When drawing and writing this story I had to choose what would teach the most about ancient people in North America, and what would best represent the people who lived near Mt. Hozomeen 8,000 years ago.

For example, the heat treating pit that heats stone so it is better to work with is a common archeological site... But we don't have evidence that the people at Mt. Hozomeen used those kinds of pits!

The clothing is made up. We've found very old clothes from other cultures and we have more recent examples of weaving by people who live near the coast. There are not examples of clothing from this particular area and time period. The clothing was drawn to show that local resources affect what people can make and use. Maybe everyone dressed the same, or wore very simple clothes? Maybe the clothes were much nicer than what I've drawn.

Other technologies, such as the woman's woven burden basket on the cover and the tripod she'll use to hang thing over the fire are real technologies. Again, we don't know if the people in the book would really have used them.

The process of making a sharp stone tool is correct. The high altitude quarry from 8,000 years ago is real, and we've found the blanks for tool making. The illustrations are accurate, though the shape of a knife blade, and how a finished knife looks depends on who makes it.

You can go visit the places in this book by taking a trip to the North Cascades National Park in Washington State, USA.