Original Story: ***The Ocean Went Too Far Into the Land*** **(a hanis Coos story)**
Told in English by Frank Drew to Melville Jacobs (1932)
Jacobs reports that this was Frank Drew's translations of the recording of Jim Buchanan
By Dr. L.J. Frachtenberg

How Baskets Saved the Beaches

Retold by Brenda Brainard, ***miluk*** **Coos in** ***miluk*** **language**

A long time ago people lived in villages near the ocean. The ocean was very important because it was a great source of food. However, there were times that the ocean could be very scary and threaten the people and the villages.

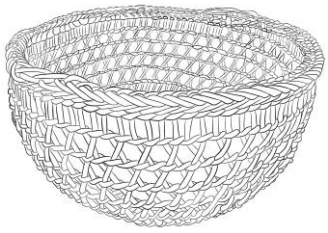


The people said that ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, the Ocean Monster, lived in the ocean, and they would sometimes become very angry. When ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*** the Ocean Monster became angry, he caused huge tides, big winds, and heavy rain. The people were afraid of these ***tques****,* or storms.

During ***tques****,* or storms, ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*** the Ocean Monster would rise up out of the water and slap his hands together, making huge booming sounds. These noises were called ***tsenna.*** The friction from slapping his hands together would make sparks in the sky that we called ***luuwaqw****.*

When ***waga tques****,* or BIG storms, would happen, the ocean monster always came very far up onto the land and they would eat up big chunks of the land. The people did not know what made ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, angry, but they feared that they would get so mad that they would eat up all the land their villages sat on. The people would have big gatherings to try to figure out what made the Ocean Monster so angry and how to save their lands from ***waga tques,*** big storms. They did not know why ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, Ocean Monster, wanted to eat all their land. He had so much land in the ocean already. They thought that ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, was just being mean.

One day, two women were at the ocean's edge and tidepools gathering food with their ***k'ha*****,** open weave baskets. These baskets were very useful for gathering sea foods as they allowed the water to flow out through the open spaces in the baskets while still holding the shellfish. As the younger woman watched the water flow out, she turned to the older woman and said, "Aunty, I have an idea about how to save our beaches from ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster." The two women talked about this idea as they gathered food and returned to the village.



At the village, the women presented their idea to the headmen. A village meeting was called, and the women explained their idea. The women said that they thought if the villagers took all their baskets to the beaches, broke them up, and laid them on the sand, when the big waves came onto the land, the ocean water would flow through the baskets, and the basket pieces would hold the land beneath them. The whole village talked about this idea. There were many questions and suggestions.

Some villagers were hesitant to use all their baskets to try to save the land because they did not know if this would work. Handwoven baskets were very important to the village as they were the only vessels used to hold and store things. "What if we use all our baskets and it doesn't work?" asked one member. "But, what if it does work?" was one response. Another response was, "How will we know if we don't try something?" "We can make more baskets," said another.

Much discussion was had, but there was no real resolution about this matter. While everyone in the village agreed that losing their land to the Ocean Monster was scary and that something needed to be done, they could not agree on this proposed solution. So, the people went about their lives without giving this problem more thought.

Then one night, the villagers heard ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, the Ocean Monster, get angry, causing ***waga tques****,* a big storm. Loud ***tsenna*** noises and ***luuwaqu*** flashing lights in the sky happened all night long. ***Waga q'ewesis,*** big wind made rushing sounds and caused the trees to sway. Everyone worried that the Ocean Monster would again gobble up more of their lands.

After the ***tques,*** the storm, everyone ran down to the beach to see what damage had been done. They saw that more of the beach land had been eaten by high water, big winds, and ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*** the Ocean Monster. Everyone knew this could not continue and that they must try something to save their beaches. Once again, the whole village met to discuss this matter. Once again, the two women explained their plan to use baskets to hold the land in place. This time, the villagers agreed to try saving their land and beaches with their baskets. They sent everyone to their homes to find all their baskets and meet at the beach.

The villagers went to their homes to gather every beautiful basket they could find. They found ***k'ha*****,** their open baskets, ***tautau*****,** their small baskets, ***gwəni*** their large baskets, and their cedar mats. People met at the beach with their arms loaded with many, many baskets. One by one, they broke their baskets into small pieces and laid them on the shoreline at the beach. The tightly woven baskets went down first, and then the open weave baskets on top of that. The hearts of many people were heavy and hurt for the destruction of their precious baskets, but everyone knew that as a whole tribe, they needed to try something to save their land from ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, who caused the huge tides, big winds, and heavy rain.

After they placed the baskets on the shore and stomped them down with their feet, the people went home to their houses to wait until the next ***waga tques****,* big storm. It was

not long until one night, the people felt the ***q'ewessi,*** wind, begin to blow. It got louder and louder until it was a ***waga q'ewesis,*** big wind. The ***tsenna*** made huge noise, and ***luuwaqu*** regularly lit up the sky. They could hear the waves crashing onto the land and wondered if their baskets would hold the land in place or if they too would be eaten by ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, the Ocean Monster.

The next day, after the ***waga tques,*** big storm, had subsided, everyone gathered to walk to the beach. They were both hopeful and anxious at the same time. Everyone was worried that both the land and their baskets would be gone.

As they approached the beach, they saw that the sand was all still there: the Baskets had saved their beaches and prevented ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, Ocean Monster, from eating the land. Everyone was so happy and grateful for their decision and the work they did together. They appreciated their baskets even more.



As they were standing on the beach, they noticed larger, irregularly shaped footprints on a trail leading up the beach. "Who is this walking on our beach with this footprint?" they asked. The people decided to follow the footprints and came upon ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*** the Ocean Monster, sitting on a log in the surf. The people of the village shouted at ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush***, the Ocean Monster, telling him that the land was their home and that he was not to come onto the land anymore. That they had figured out a way to keep him from eating their land and he needed to stay away. They warned *baldiimi****s x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, that if he came back onto the land, they would kill him.

baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush**,** the Ocean Monster, tilted his head back and shook it back and forth. At that time, an ocean wave hit the log that ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush,*** the Ocean Monster, was sitting on. The log rolled and ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, fell off into the water, and the log rolled over him. The people wondered if this was the end of ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush.***

But, it was not the end of ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*** the Ocean Monster. They never returned to the beach that was saved by the people who placed their baskets on it. Still today, ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, torments the land and the people with ***waga tques****,* big storms and ***tsenna,*** noise and ***luuwaqu****,* lights in the night sky, and ***qewesis****,* wind to remind them that ***baldiimis x̣uutɬ'uush*****,** the Ocean Monster, is still here and that they must protect their lands.

NAME:

COMPREHENSION & INFERENCES

Can you infer responses?

1.What is another name for what is happening when the Ocean Monster eats the land?

_____

2.When the Ocean Monster claps his hands together, he causes a loud noise and sparks from friction. What are common names for the noise and the sparks?

Noise: _____ Friction:_____

3.Why is an open weave basket better to carry shellfish in than a tightly woven basket?

_____

4.What kind of food would you commonly find in tidepools at the ocean?

_____

5.What do you learn from the Ocean Monster about sitting on moving logs in the ocean's surf?

_____

NAME:

COMPREHENSION & INFERENCES TEACHERS GUIDE

Can you infer responses?

1.What is another name for what is happening when the Ocean Monster eats the land?

Erosion

2.When the Ocean Monster claps his hands together, he causes a loud noise and sparks from friction. What are common names for the noise and the sparks?

Noise: Thunder

Friction: Lightening

3.Why is an open weave basket better to carry shellfish in than a tightly woven basket?

Water and sand will fall out of the open weave basket, but not one that is tightly woven. The closed weave basket would be heavier to carry

4.What kind of food would you commonly find in tidepools at the ocean?

Shellfish, sea urchins, mussels, sea anemone

5.What do you learn from the Ocean Monster about sitting on moving logs in the ocean's surf?

That they can be dangerous and if you fall off log and it rolls on you, you could be injured seriously or disappear.

Punctuation, Spelling & Sentence Structure

Name: _____

Re-write the following sentences with correct punctuation, spelling and grammar.

1. The two women carried there basket's to the beach

_____

2. the ocean monster became angry he would cause huge tides big wind and heavy rains

_____

3.The ocean monster had alot of land in the ocean They did not no why he wanted to more land to eat

_____

_____

4.One Day the two women were at the ocean's edge gathering food in the tidepool's?

_____

5.Every one was told to bring they're baskets to the beach and to break them up lay them on the beach and cover them with sand!

_____

6. people went to there home to gather ever beautiful basket they could find

_____

7.after the storm one person asked what do you think we will find on the beach. Will our land still be there or will it be ate up?

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8.The people shouted HOORAY the land was saved by the basket's

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(When) The Ocean Monster became angry. He would cause huge tides, big winds, and heavy rains.

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The people shouted, "HOORAY!". The land was saved by the baskets.

-

Name_____

COMPREHENSION & VOCABULARY

1. Vocabulary words: What do these words mean? Write a short definition of these words that are used in the story How Baskets Saved the Beaches.

Prevented _____

Appreciated _____

Irregular _____

Presented _____

Tilt _____

2. What happened first, second, third and fourth in the story?

_____ People broke their baskets into pieces and laid them on the beach.

_____ The Ocean Monster fell of the log and was never seen again.

_____ The women were gathering shellfish on the beach.

_____ The people met to discuss how to save their beaches.

3. What is the main theme or lesson of the story How Baskets Saved the Beaches? Write a complete paragraph explaining a lesson from the story:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name_____

COMPREHENSION & VOCABULARY

1. Vocabulary words: What do these words mean? Write a short definition of these words that are used in the story How Baskets Saved the Beaches.

Prevented	To keep something from happening/stopped
Appreciated	To fully recognize value or worth
Irregular	Not even in shape or arrangement
Presented	To give or show formally
Tilt	To be in slanted position/not straight

2. What happened first, second, third and fourth in the story?

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