



Maple Syrup Legends



The following story is one of many legends describing how maple syrup might have been discovered:

One day as the snow began to melt, Running Deer, a great hunter, became very angry because he had not been able to find enough fresh meat for his lodge. When he returned to his family's camp he threw his hunting spear into a nearby tree. The next day he stayed in camp to rest before traveling to a far off valley in search of game. In the afternoon a clear liquid began to drip from the end of his spear into a birch bark bowl that was sitting on the ground near the tree. In the evening his wife used the clear water-like liquid to boil the last remaining bones and corn for a stew. It gave off a delicious smell. As they ate the stew, the family decided it was the best meal they had ever eaten in spite of the few bits of meat in it. Thus they learned to collect the clear sap that runs from the maple tree in the spring and boil it down to make sweet maple sugar they could carry all year.

Now, create your own legend. How did First Nations people discover the sweet taste of maple syrup?

