

Métis Folklore Interview Questions

Rou Garou Questions:

- 1) What is the Rou Garou?
- 2) How or why did people become Rou Garous?
- 3) Why did the Old People tell these stories?
- 4) Were there special times when Rou Garou stories were told?
- 5) Who were these stories told to?
- 6) What were some of the forms which Rou Garou took?
- 7) Could both men and women become Rou Garous? Provide examples.
- 8) Did religion, particularly Roman Catholicism, have anything to do with the telling of the Rou Garou Stories?
- 9) What message did you take from hearing Rou Garou stories?
- 10) Could you share a Rou Garou story or stories with us?

Chi Jean Questions:

- 1) Who is Chi-Jean?
- 2) When did the Old People tell stories about him?
- 3) Was he a Trickster Spirit like Nanabush/Nanabozho or Wesakechak?
- 4) If so, how? How was he different?
- 5) Why do you think the Old People told Chi-Jean stories?
- 6) What message did you take from hearing Chi-Jean stories?
- 7) Could you share a Chi-Jean story or stories with us?

Diable Questions:

- 1) Where and when did the Devil appear in the traditional stories?
- 2) What forms did the Devil take in the traditional Michif/Métis stories?
- 3) (Diable – Black dog, Handsome stranger)
- 4) Were there certain times of the year that the Old People told these stories?
- 5) Did religion have anything to do with the telling of these stories?
- 6) Could you share some Diable stories with us?

Wesakechak /Nanabush/Nanabozho Questions:

- 1) What role did Wesakechak play in the traditional stories?
- 2) When did the Old People tell Wesakechak stories?
- 3) To whom were Wesakechak stories told?
- 4) What type of character was Wesakechak?
- 5) Why do you think the Old People told Wesakechak stories?
- 6) What were some of the lessons learned from Wesakechak stories?
- 7) Could you share some Wesakechak stories with us?
- 8) What role did Nanabush/Nanabozho play in the traditional stories?
- 9) When did the Old People tell Nanabush/Nanabozho stories?

- 10) To whom were Nanabush/Nanabozho stories told?
- 11) What type of character was Nanabush/Nanabozho?
- 12) Why do you think the Old People told Nanabush/Nanabozho stories?
- 13) What were some of the lessons learned from Nanabush/Nanabozho stories?
- 14) Could you share some Nanabush/Nanabozho stories with us?

Creation/Sacred Stories:

- 1) What were some of the Creation/Sacred stories that were told?
- 2) When did the Old People tell these stories?
- 3) Why did the Old People tell these stories?
- 4) What messages did these stories leave with you?
- 5) What impact did formal religion such as Roman Catholicism have upon the telling of these stories?
- 6) Were there special individuals that told only these kinds of stories?
- 7) If so, who were they?
- 8) Could you please share a Creation or Sacred story or stories with us?

Ghost Stories/Supernatural Stories:

- 1) What sort of character was the Windigo?
- 2) Why did the Old People tell these stories?
- 3) Do you know any Windigo stories?
- 4) If so could you please share a Windigo story with us?
- 5) Where there any shape shifters other than the Rou Garou?
- 6) If so, could you please share a story about this being?
- 7) Do you know any Métis mermaid stories?
- 8) If so, could you please share the story with us?
- 9) Do you know any Métis ghost stories?
- 10) Could you please share them with us?
- 11) Why did the Old People tell supernatural stories?

Teaching/Moral Stories/Fables:

- 1) Did the Old People tell stories that taught children a lesson? If so, what were these lessons?
- 2) What happened to children or adults that didn't follow these lessons?
- 3) Were lessons told through the stories? If so, what were they?
- 4) What were some of the fables that the Old People told?
- 5) What were some of the reasons for telling these types of stories?

History Stories:

- 1) Do you know any stories or legends connected to a place? If so, could you please tell it?

- 2) Did your grandmother or grandfather ever tell you stories about Métis history when you were young?
- 3) Do you know the legend of the White Horse Plain? Could you please share it with us?
- 4) Do you know the legend of the Métis women at the Grand Coteau?
- 5) How was the Métis Nation formed?
- 6) Do you know the legend of the grey ducks?

Everyday Stories:

- 1) What were some of the "everyday" stories that were told?
- 2) Why did the Old People tell these stories?

Folk Music Questions:

- 1) What were some of the folk songs that were sang?
- 2) Do you know any of these? Could you please share them with us?
- 3) When were these songs sung?
- 4) Who sang them?
- 5) Were they sung in Michif, French or Cree?
- 6) Were certain songs sung in one language and not the other?
- 7) How did the music connect to the questions?
- 8) What is your favourite folk song? Why?
- 9) Would you like to share this folk song with us?

General Questions:

- 1) What is your favourite story? Why?
- 2) Who is your favourite folklore character? Why?
- 3) What do traditional Michif/Métis stories mean to you?
- 4) Why do you think the Old People told these traditional stories?
- 5) Did only certain people tell the stories?
- 6) Who were the known storytellers in your community? If so, who were they? What made them such good storytellers?
- 7) Were they your teachers? If so, was there a "process" for you to learn these stories? If so, can you explain?
- 8) What types of stories did you learn from your teachers? Are there different types? If so, how are they different?
- 9) Did you learn the stories you are sharing today from these people? If not, where did you learn them?
- 10) When were most of these stories told?
- 11) Were there stories that were told at different times of the year? Or in different circumstances? If so, can you explain or give some examples?
- 12) Are there stories that are told in a specific language? For instance, stories that are only told in Michif?
- 13) Did any other groups like First Nations or French Canadians contribute to these stories?

- 14) Were there stories that were only told to children? If so, why?
- 15) How did Métis children receive these stories?
- 16) What types of stories were they?

- 17) Were there stories that only men/women were told? If so, why were they only told to men/women?
- 18) Were there stories that were only told by men or women? If so, what types of stories were they?
- 19) Are you passing these stories on to others in your community/family? If so, how are you doing this?
- 20) What do you feel is the importance of passing these stories on?
- 21) How can the Métis best preserve these stories?