



Grandmother said, “Fall is the time when many of our people prepare their homes for winter. I will tell you a story about fixing a house to keep it warm.”

Grandmother said, “Jesse Bright Sun, this story is about your family from long ago.”

Here is Grandmother’s story.

Bright Sun liked to help his father around the house. One fall day, Bright Sun was helping his father to fix an old window. The window was covered with old green paint. Bright Sun’s baby sister crawled around them while they worked.

Suddenly, Bright Sun heard soft growling. He looked up and saw a great bear.

Bright Sun asked, “Mother Bear, why are you here?”

Mother Bear said, “Do not be afraid. I am here to warn you about a danger. The danger is lead.”





Mother Bear said, “There is lead in the old paint on this window. Your father will keep the dust and flakes far away from you and your little sister. He will use a wet soapy rag to clean up all the paint dust and all the paint flakes. Then you and your sister will be safe.”



Mother Bear said, “Bright Sun, you can help. You can keep your sister out of the room while your father is working.”



Father and Bright Sun did as Mother Bear said. Bright Sun’s father used a damp, soapy rag to clean up all the paint dust and paint flakes. Bright Sun played with his sister outside until the room was very clean.

Let’s Think about It

With your class, talk about what you can do if you see lead dangers around your home. Write your answers below.

Text: Copyright © 2003 by Joan Bothell, Mary-Margaret Gaudio, and Maureen T. Mulroy

This book was developed by Healthy Environments for Children Initiative for the Penobscot Indian Nation.

AUTHORS

Joan Bothell, Environmental Research Institute, University of Connecticut
Mary-Margaret Gaudio, Cooperative Extension System, University of Connecticut
Maureen T. Mulroy, Ph.D., School of Family Studies, University of Connecticut

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION ADVISORY BOARD

Michael Bear, Lieutenant Governor
Dale Mitchell, Health Department
John Banks, Natural Resources and Environmental Issues
Susan Cummings, Medical Center
Mark Sanborn, Education and Career Services
T. Dana Mitchell

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Phil Quint, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Mae Taylor, Nez Perce Tribe
Ursula Knoki-Wilson, Navajo Nation
Richard Randolph, Wampanoag Tribe
Steve Craig, Cherokee Nation

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONSULTANTS

James M. Bryson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
Jeff Besougloff, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Indian Environmental Office

ILLUSTRATION AND DESIGN TEAM

Calvin Francis, Penobscot Indian Nation
Karen J. Havens, Communications and Information Technology, College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut

Funding was provided by the Penobscot Indian Nation, with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Printing courtesy of Tribal Based Environmental Protection Membership.