



# Legend of the Sleeping Ute

A Ute Mountain Ute Tale

## Cultural Note

The Ute Mountain Ute people live in southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado, near the base of Wisuv K 7ruv, or Sleeping Ute Mountain. The Ute Mountain Ute tribal headquarters are located at Towaoc, Colorado. The Ute Mountain Ute Sun Dance is held there every year on Sleeping Ute Mountain.

## Vocabulary

emerald

emerge

mantle

roamed

woven

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The booklets are available on a CD from the USOE. You may print the booklets off the CD, free of charge, for educational purposes. If you would like to purchase printed copies of the booklets, contact San Juan School District Media Center at (435) 678-1229.

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Long, long ago, the Evil Ones roamed the earth creating trouble, so a Great Warrior God came to battle them.



He and the Evil Ones kicked and yanked one another. They punched and wrestled. As they did, their feet pushed up the land into mountains. Valleys formed in their footprints.

Even though the Evil Ones injured the Great Warrior, he defeated them. Then he lay down to recover. Blood poured from his wounds and turned into living water for all creatures to drink.





Today, the Great Warrior, still wearing his headdress, sleeps on his back with his arms folded across his chest.



When fog clings to *Wisuv Káruv*, or Sleeping Ute Mountain, he is changing his blanket. The pale green one means spring has arrived.



During summer, the Sleeping Warrior wears an emerald cover.





His fall mantle is woven from red and yellow colors.



Snow blankets the Sleeping Ute in winter white.

During every season, he lets clouds emerge from his pockets to gather over the highest peak whenever he is happy with his people.





Someday, when the Ute people are once again in danger, the Sleeping Warrior will rise to help drive the Evil Ones out of the land.

## Glossary

*tachit* - summer

*tamin* - spring

*türmurt* - winter

*Wisuv Káruv* - Sleeping Ute Mountain

*yuvant* - fall

## Reading Suggestions

- Can you name the mountains that surround your home? Learn their names and research to see if there are stories about their names, shapes, etc.
- Plan a family vacation to Towaoc, Colorado, where you can see Sleeping Ute Mountain.
- Keep a journal of the seasons. Journals aren't just about lots of writing (although some would be good). Your journal can be like a scrapbook, filled with photos, drawings, and other souvenirs. You can write about what you've been doing or interview other members of your family for interesting stories. You can even write about books or movies you've enjoyed.

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