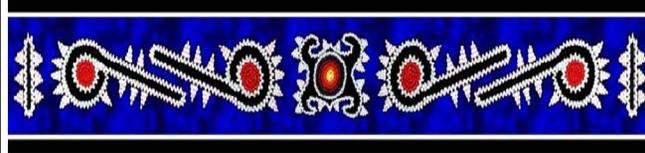




Department of Chahta
Immi's Mission Statement:

Chahta Immi toksali at
nanah mihchachikat,
Chahta Immi atokma
anokfokkichit, annowachit,
achonnachit, hayakachit
isht oklilayachith.



DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

"Lifeways of the Choctaw People"

Tribal Archives

Choctaw Museum

Cultural Affairs

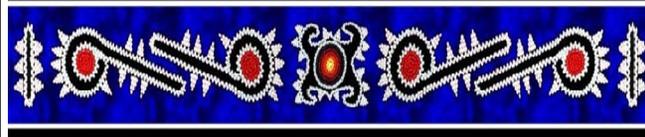
Tribal Language

Special Projects/ Media

Chahta Immi Cultural Center

*The mission of the Department of Chahta Immi is to inspire, promote,
embrace, and enhance the Cultural heritage of the Choctaw People.*

* For more information please call (601) 663-7506 or the MBCI Office of Public Information at
(601) 663-7532 and visit the MBCI website: www.choctaw.org



Šawí

Hiča

Šokhata

(Raccoon and Possum)



Illipa hoyot

Itti yačatok

(Looking for food together)



Šawi hiča Šokhatah illipa hoyoh

When Raccoon woke up on one morning, the sun was shining bright. He stretched himself out in his cozy nest and yawned before going right back to sleep. He heard someone scratching on his door. Raccoon stuck his head under the dried leaves of his nest. "Maybe they'll go away," he thought. A few minutes later when he pulled his head out of the leaves to listen, he heard the scratching again. He sighed and got out of bed. When he opened a tiny crack at the door, he could see it was his friend opossum. Raccoon went out side into the warm sunshine.

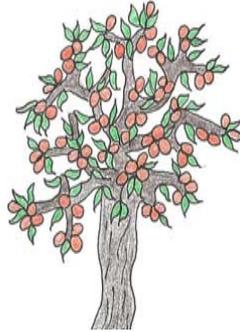
Opossum had come to get Raccoon so they could go looking for breakfast together. The two animal friends were glad to see each other.

As they walked across the pasture on their way to the riverbank, raccoon is smiling to himself and thinking of the little fish he might catch at the river.

When they neared the riverbank, they saw two black snakes curled up on a rock. The snakes were napping in the sun. Raccoon and Opossum quickly and quietly ran past the napping snakes. Raccoon and opossum ran until they got to the river. They could hear the river splashing against the rocks on its banks as it moved along. It had rained the night before and the water was high and cold. Raccoon kept thinking about those little fish he was going to catch so he hurried along. Opossum had to run to keep up with his friend. By the time they reached the river, Opossum was panting.

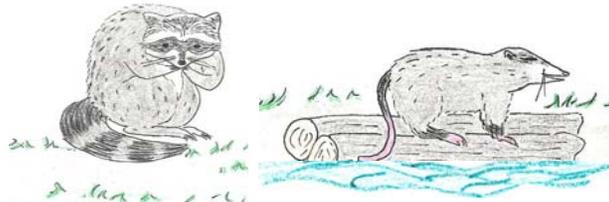


There were two big rocks at the edge of the water so the two animal friends each jumped onto a rock and sat down. Opossum put his feet down into the water to cool. Raccoon immediately began to fish. In no time at all, he had caught four little fish and was busy washing them in the water beside his rock.



Opossum was thinking about how hungry he was as he sat there on his rock looking at the riverbank. Two persimmons dropped from a nearby persimmon tree onto the ground. Opossum smiled as he jumped up to get the persimmons. Raccoon had just finished his last fish and was washing his whiskers.

He turned around just in time to see Opossum jump from the rock onto two logs lying together at the edge of the river. Before Opossum could jump from the logs to the bank, the logs moved under his weight. Suddenly, the fast moving water of the river pulled the logs away from the bank.



Before Raccoon could say anything, he saw Opossum go floating down the river with his tail wrapped around the two logs like a raft. Opossum had called for help three times before Raccoon finally heard him. "Let go, let go and swim!" shouted raccoon as he ran along the edge of the river. "I can't swim!" cried the very frighten Opossum. Raccoon was surprised to hear this and jumped into the cold water. He had to swim very hard because the water was moving quite fast. The river moved both, the Opossum's raft and the swimming Raccoon further and further from the rocks where they had been sitting.

Finally, Raccoon was close enough to Opossum to grab one of the logs. Raccoon climbed up behind his friend and showed Opossum how to paddle the log with his arms. The two friends paddled slowly back toward the bank of the river and reached safety.

When they could touch the bottom with their feet, they climbed down from the logs and dragged their cold, wet, tired selves up the bank of the river onto the grass. They lay under a tree for a long time resting. The Raccoon got up and began to wash and straighten his fur while Opossum looked on.



"I'm still hungry," opossum said to Raccoon. Raccoon stopped washing and looked at Opossum. Then he bent down and picked up two persimmons that had fallen out of the tree above them.

"These are for you to eat," said Raccoon "...after we get to my house." He turned and started back up the bank toward the path that led through the pasture. Opossum sighed and got up from the grass. Raccoon was cold so he was hurrying to get home and Opossum had to run to keep up with his friend, but did stop for just a minute to grab three persimmons to eat on the way. He was hungrier than ever by the time this adventure was over with.

