

fox

שועל

<http://www.morfix.co.il/en/%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%9C>

silver

כסף

<http://www.morfix.co.il/en/%D7%9B%D7%A1%D7%A3>

ثعلب fox Noun IL'

فض الفضي the silver Determinative, adjective

<http://aratools.com/>

روباه نقر | Silver fox

<https://translate.google.com/#auto/en/%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%87%20%D9%86%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%87%20%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%85>

Name: Silver Fox

Alternate spellings: Silverfox, Silver-Fox, Silver Gray Fox

Tribal affiliation: [Achumawi](#), [Atsugewi](#), [Miwok](#)

Native names: Kwahn, Kwan

Type: [American Indian creator god](#), [culture hero](#), [fox spirit](#)

Related figures in other tribes: [Esa](#) (Shoshone-Bannock)

Silver Fox is the culture hero and creator god of many Northern California tribes. In some tribal traditions, such as the Miwok, Silver Fox is female; in others, like the Achumawi, he is male. Together with [Jamul](#) (Coyote), Silver Fox creates the world and teaches the people how to live. Although both are creators, Silver Fox is the more serious and wise of the two, while Coyote is more of a trickster and prone to make frivolous decisions based on whims, hunger, or interest in women.

<http://www.native-languages.org/silver-fox.htm>

Miwok mythology



A coyote.

The mythology of the **Miwok Native Americans** are myths of their world order, their creation stories and 'how things came to be' created. Miwok myths suggest their spiritual and philosophical world view. In several different creation stories collected from Miwokan people, **Coyote** was seen as their ancestor and creator god, sometimes with the help of other animals, forming the earth and making people out of humble materials like feathers or twigs.^[1]

According to Miwok mythology, the people believed in animal and human spirits, and spoke of animal spirits as their ancestors. **Coyote** in many tales figures as their ancestor, creator god, and a trickster god. The Miwok mythology is similar to other **Native American** myths of Northern California.

1 Creation of the World

1.1 First People

The Miwok believed there existed a “people who lived before real people” who in some tales have died out, in others are the same as the supernatural animal spirits.^[2]

Several creation fragments exist detailing Coyote’s place in the family of the “first spirits” on earth. According to the Coast Miwok, Coyote was the declared grandfather of the Falcon. There existed animal spirits and a few star-people spirits.^[3] From the Sacramento river area the Miwok gave the following names of the first spirits:

- O-let'-te Coyote-man, the Creator
- Mol'-luk the Condor, father of Wek'-wek
- Wek'-wek the Falcon, son of Mol'-luk and grandson of O-let'-te
- Hul'-luk mi-yum'-ko the two beautiful women chiefs of the Star-people
- Os-so-so'-li Pleiades, one of the Star-women
- Ke'-lok the North Giant
- Hoo-soo'-pe the Mermaids or Water-maidens, sisters of Wek'-wek
- Choo'-hoo the Turkey Buzzard
- Kok'-kol the Raven
- Ah-wet'-che the Crow
- Koo-loo'-loo the Humming-bird^[4]

1.2 Coast Miwok (Coyote and Walik)

According to one Coast Miwok version “Coyote shook his walik” (something similar to a blanket of tule) to the four directions south, east, north and west. The water dried, and land appeared. ^[5]

1.3 The Diver

In one creation myth called *The Diver* Coyote creates the earth and land from the Ocean or endless water. Coyote sends a duck to dive for some “earth”. The duck dives to the bottom and comes up with some “earth”. Coyote takes the earth and mixes it with “Chanit” seeds and water. The mixture swells and “the earth was there.”^[6]

1.4 Coyote and Silver Fox

Another creation story says that there is “no earth, only water”. **Silver Fox** (a female) feels lonely and mentions this in a prayer song, and then meets the **Coyote**. Silver Fox makes an artistic proposal: “We will sing the world”. They create the world together by dancing and singing. As they do so, the earth forms and takes shape.^[7]

2 Creation of Humankind

2.1 Coast Miwok (Coyote and Turkey Buzzard)

In *The Creation of Humans* myth, Coyote catches a turkey buzzard, raven and crow, plucks their feathers and place the feathers in different parts of the earth. They turn into the Miwok people and their villages.^[8]

2.2 Coast Miwok (Coyote and Chicken Hawk)

Coyote comes from the west alone, followed by Chicken Hawk, who is his grandson. Coyote turned “his first people” into animals. He made the Pomo people from mud and the Miwok people out of sticks.^[5]

2.3 Sierra Miwok (How ravens became people)

In the myth *How Kah'-kah-loo The Ravens Became People*, there was an epic flood, and the first world people climbed a mountain to avoid drowning. The water finally receded. They were starving, they thought it was safe to come down and look for food but they sank into the mud and died. The ravens came to sit on the holes where the people died, one raven at each hole. The ravens turned into new people the Miwok.^[9]

2.4 Sierra Miwok (Coyote and Lizard)

From the Sierra Miwoks, another creation myth is more comparable to Pomo mythology: Coyote and Lizard create the world “and everything in it”. Coyote create human beings from some twigs. They argue over whether human beings should have hands. Lizard wants humans to have hands but Coyote does not. Lizard wins a scuffle, and humans are created with hands.^[10]

3 Death and afterlife stories

3.1 Coast Miwok (Ocean Path West)

According to Coast Miwok, the dead jumped into the ocean at Point Reyes and followed something like a string leading west beyond the breaker waves, that took them to the setting sun. There they remained with Coyote in an afterworld “ute-yomigo” or “ute-yomi”, meaning “dead home.”^[5]

4 Context

Many of the ideas, plots and characters in Miwok mythology are shared with neighboring people of Northern California. For example the Coyote-lizard story is like the tale told by their neighbors, the Pomo people. In addition, the Ohlone also believed that Coyote was the grandfather of the Falcon and maker of mankind. The relationship and similarity to Yokuts mythology is also evident.^[11]

The myths of creation after an epic flood or ocean, the Earth Diver, and the Coyote as ancestor and trickster compare to Central and Northern California mythemes of Yokuts mythology, Ohlone mythology and Pomo mythology. The myths of “First People” dying out to be replaced with the Miwok people is a “deeply impressed conception” shared by Natives in Northwestern California.^[12]

5 Notes

- [1] Forester, 2006.
- [2] Merriam, 1910, page 31, *Stories of the First People-- People Who Lived Before Real People Were Created*.
- [3] Merriam, 1910, page 83-84, *The Creation of Man*.
- [4] This list of people comes from Merriam, 1910, page 83-84, *The Creation of Man*
- [5] Kelly, 1978, page 423.
- [6] Kroeber, 1907, *Indian Myths*, page 203, *The Diver*.
- [7] Bruchac, 2002.
- [8] Merriam, 1910, page 83-84, *The Creation of Man*.
- [9] Merriam, 1910, page 101, *How Kah'-kah-loo The Ravens Became People*.
- [10] Merriam, 1910, page 58, *The Coyote and the Lizard*.
- [11] Kroeber, 1925, page 446.
- [12] Kroeber, 1907, *The Religion of the Indians of California*, section titled “Mythology and Beliefs”.

6 References

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7 See also

- [Traditional narratives \(Native California\)](#)

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8.1 Text

- **Miwok mythology** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miwok%20mythology?oldid=539174684> *Contributors:* Eep², Rjwilmsi, Erebus555, Irishguy, Closedmouth, Mattarata, Nick Ottery, Missvain, Goldenrowley, Spellmaster, Simon Peter Hughes, Uyvsdi, GenQuest, Look2See1, ClueBot NG and Anonymous: 9

8.2 Images

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