

The Gossiping Clams

A Suquamish Legend



A long time ago, clams were great gossipers. The other animals believed the clams talked so much because their mouths stretched the full length of their bodies. The gossiping of the clams often caused severe trouble for the other animals.

Raven finally became so tired of the gossiping that he called a council meeting. Each of the animals agreed that, in order to preserve peace, a way must be found to stop the gossiping of the clams. After much discussion, the animals chose Beaver to find a solution to the problem.

After many weeks of thinking, Beaver came up with a plan. He gathered all of the clams in his arms and took them to the beach, where the tide flows in and out twice a day. Beaver then buried the clams deep in the sand so that every time a clam opened its mouth, sand and water would rush into it.

To this day, if you walk along the beach when the tide is out, you will notice little streams of water spurting from the sand. Don't be alarmed. It's only the clams spitting out the sand and water they swallow when they try to gossip.

