

# Native American Heritage: THE HISTORY OF Storytelling

## Baby Rattlesnake Te Ata

### INTRODUCTION

Te Ata Thompson Fisher, whose name means "Bearer of the Morning," was born Dec. 3, 1895, near present day Emet, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Te Ata was an accomplished actor and Native American storyteller. Although Te Ata worked as an actor and drama instructor, she is best known for her artistic interpretations of Indian stories and for the children's book she co-authored, *Baby Rattlesnake*.

### SUGGESTED GRADES

K through 3

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will listen to the story *Baby Rattlesnake*.
- Students will predict what happens in a story.
- Students will be able to identify characters in a story.
- Students will be introduced to graphing through observing the teacher graph responses.
- Students will replicate a physical environment similar to the one in the story.
- Students will form a snake out of clay.

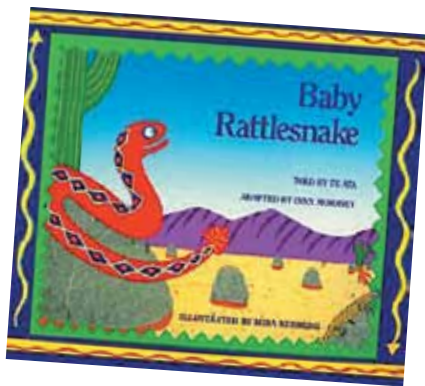
### RESOURCES/MATERIALS

Book – *Baby Rattlesnake* by Te Ata  
Construction paper  
Glue  
Art materials  
Modeling clay  
Shoebboxes

### ACTIVITIES

Read the entire story *Baby Rattlesnake* to students, or read a portion of the story and allow students predict the outcome.

Students will need to listen for the characters, setting, time of day, location, and theme.



- If you have chosen to read the entire story, when the story is over use demonstrated writing for the following questions:
  - What color do you think the snake is?
  - What do you think the Indian maiden looks like?
  - What animals did the baby rattlesnake tease?
- If you have chosen to read only a portion of the story and have students predict, use chart paper to document what the students think will happen next in the story.
  - Use pictures to represent the students' words if they need the visual.
  - Use the question, "What color do you think the snake is?" to develop a class graph. Write the question below the graph when it is complete.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Make a shoebox environment or research details about the story's environment and how it may have looked.
- Make a baby snake or any other character from the story out of clay.

Adapted from:

<http://etls.dpsk12.org/documents/alma/units/americanindianstorytelling.pdf>