In the Wilderness: Navigation Story Line

"Go past the third dead cat, it is particularly flat, it looks like a mat." -- Chuck Brodsky

WOGs 2¢

Story lines was a fun way of remembering how to navigate back home and it was also a way that legal land boundaries were passed down through the generations. Chuck Brodsky song *The Third Dead Cat* is a great example of story line navigation as well as the start to the Christmas song *Over The River and Through The Woods to Grandmother's We Go.* I have been told by elders that back when campfires and stories of the day was how each day was ended that the songs of how to get to water, how to get to relative's homes, how to get to the winter home, the boundaries of the home lands were sung early in the evening fire ritual for the benefit of the kids, so these were embedded in memory early.

Read:

- The Sketchnote Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Visual Note Taking Book by Mike Rohde
- Lyrics to the song, The Third Dead Cat by Chuck Brodsky

The Essentials

What Do I Need to Have?

- Your sketch pad
- Your creative mind

What Basics Do I Need To Know?

It would be helpful to others that want to follow your story line if you...

- 1. Identify the species of plant community
- 2. Have a creative flare
- 3. Have a sense of awareness
- 4. Are skilled at sketchnoting

What Do I Need To Do?

You are going to write a story or a song about your journey. You are going to write the journey away and return at the same time. We are going sketchnote this into your journal, but once you get some practice at this you will not need to put these to paper to remember.

Take a Heading

1. From a significant feature as a starting point sketchnote it as the first step of your journey as it

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- looks like from your starting point and give it a name that is both memorable and descriptive.
- 2. Pick a significant object as far out as you can see, it will be your first waypoint and sketchnote it from where you stand. Give it a name and tell us what direction it is.
- 3. When you get to your first waypoint turn around and look from where you came and sketchnote it as your final destination for your return to home.
- 4. Repeat this process for each waypoint. If you are following a trail it is not necessary to pick a waypoint as far as you can see along the trail but if you pick a waypoint that you feel comfortable about anyone following your story line will feel comfortable with.
- 5. Any time your trail splits identify a feature of the split and where to go.
- 6. As you are working and or walking make a song or poem following your map.
- 7. At campfire share your storyline and your sketchnotes with your companions.

Summery

There is not one correct way to navigate what we have shown you at this point are 3 simple methods. During the Navigation class we will go deep into natural navigation using stars, how plants grow, using topo maps and map making.

Further Training

Your next adventure in navigation will be taking a simple reciprocal heading.