



Legends and Volcanoes



Volcanoes of Ecuador

Ecuador
is on the
Pacific Coast of
South America
on the equator.





Chimborazo

Cotopaxi



Cotopaxi



Tungurahua

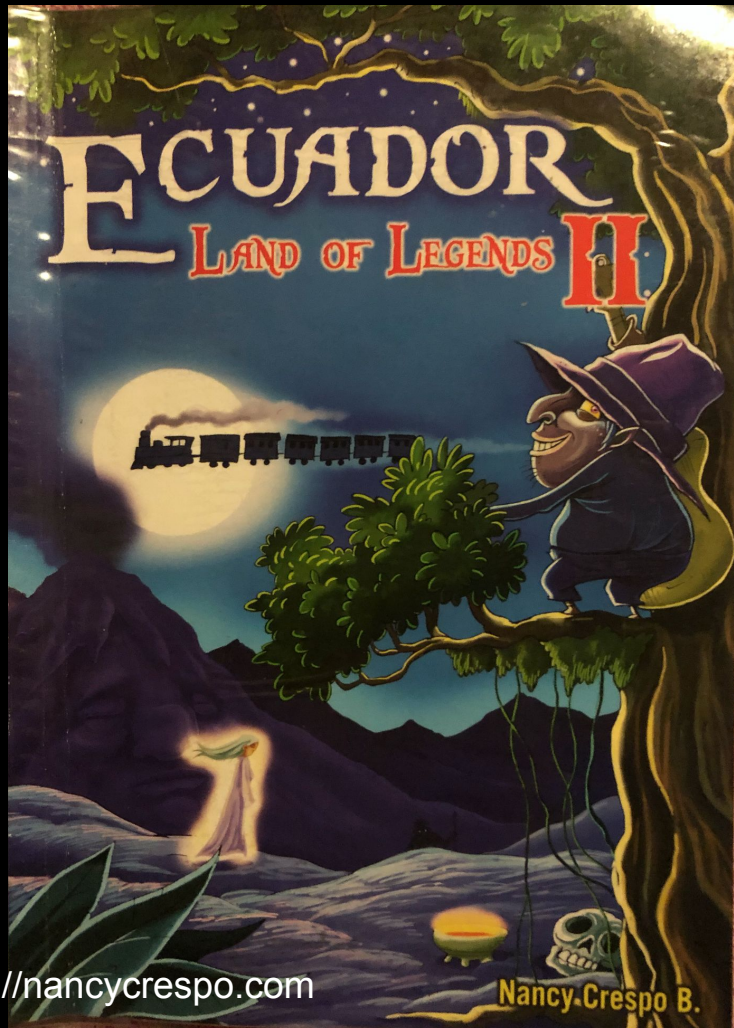


Pinchincha

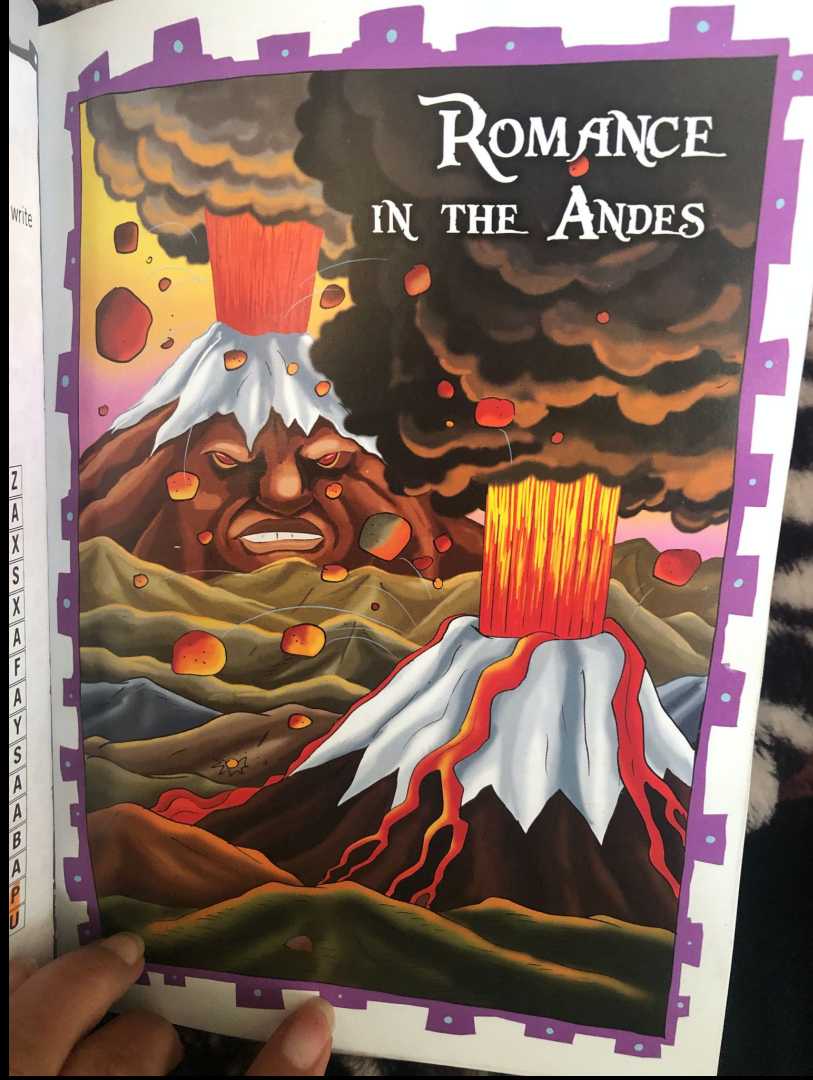


Pinchincha





<http://nancycrespo.com>





It was ten past seven on the morning of Thursday, 7 October 1999 when Esperanza drew open the drapes of the huge windows in the lounge. She began to scream and called Veronica, her daughter. "Come and see this. Hurry!"

A massive mushroom of ash reached to the heavens, framed by Quito's bright blue sky. Ruccu Pichincha had erupted for the first time in a hundred years! The sight was unbelievable, and left the city's residents astonished.

Radio and television stations immediately began to warn everyone. The advice was to stay indoors, and to cover doors and windows. In a short time, the falling ash transformed the city; everything was gray, and looked like a picture painted in a single color.

Families stayed shut up in their homes. Esperanza, tired after having taken all the necessary precautions, made some hot chocolate for her daughter and two grandchildren, who could not pull themselves away from the windows. "Wow!" shouted Juan Pablo, the younger of the two.

"Come and drink your chocolate with me, and I will tell you why the volcano erupted", said his grandmother. The family quickly gathered in the kitchen, eager to hear the story - first Veronica, then Juan Pablo, and finally Esteban, his elder brother. While serving the cups of hot chocolate, Esperanza related the following story.

"Ever since I was a little girl, we have experienced a lot of eruptions, earthquakes and tremors. To live in Ecuador is to live in a country full of surprises.

My grandma used to tell us that about the avenue of snow-capped peaks which dominated the Andes. Cotopaxi tried to outdo all the others, always envious of Chimborazo's magnificence.

Cotopaxi would frequently get furious, especially at the time of the equinoxes. The two mountains would awaken and roar at each other, making the earth shake all the way down to the ocean. Gigantic rocks were hurled into the sky, and long rivers of lava flowed across hundreds of kilometers of slopes and valleys.

The cause of this confrontation was Mama Tunguhagua, the beautiful and powerful volcano, who shot out smoke and fire, shaking the earth and blackening the sky whenever she could.

Chimborazo's majesty finally gained her attention and affections, and from this intense love Guagua Pichincha was born; but Cotopaxi's jealousy prompted him to kidnap the child of their great love. One night, Guagua disappeared.

Mama Tunguhagua cried so much that from her depths there sprang long rivers of clear water which flowed down to the ocean.

Guagua never returned, but occasionally, when he felt really lonely, he would throw out signals from afar to his mother to let her know that that he loved her and missed her.

Mama Tunguhagua began to get really upset, to roar and weep rivers of lava, rivers of sadness ... for her Guagua.

When Esperanza had finished her tale, the three smiled and looked at her with affection. Not only did she love them and look after them, but she also knew how to tell wonderful stories, so full of magic, full of dreams ...

Discussion

1. Can you tell us any folk tales, myths or legends from your country?
2. Many legends are about volcanoes. Why do you think this is?
3. Can you think of any movies that were made from folk tales?



The Legend of Three Mountains

Text Source: <https://www.discovermthood.com/legend-of-three-mountains/>

Long before the arrival of explorers and settlers, Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest watched eruptions of Mt. St. Helens and other Cascade volcanoes. These phenomena required explanations, which developed into legends and while many tribes had their own variations on some of the details, the common thread in all the legends is power, love and jealousy.

Mt. St. Helens
Loowit

Mt. Hood
Wy'east

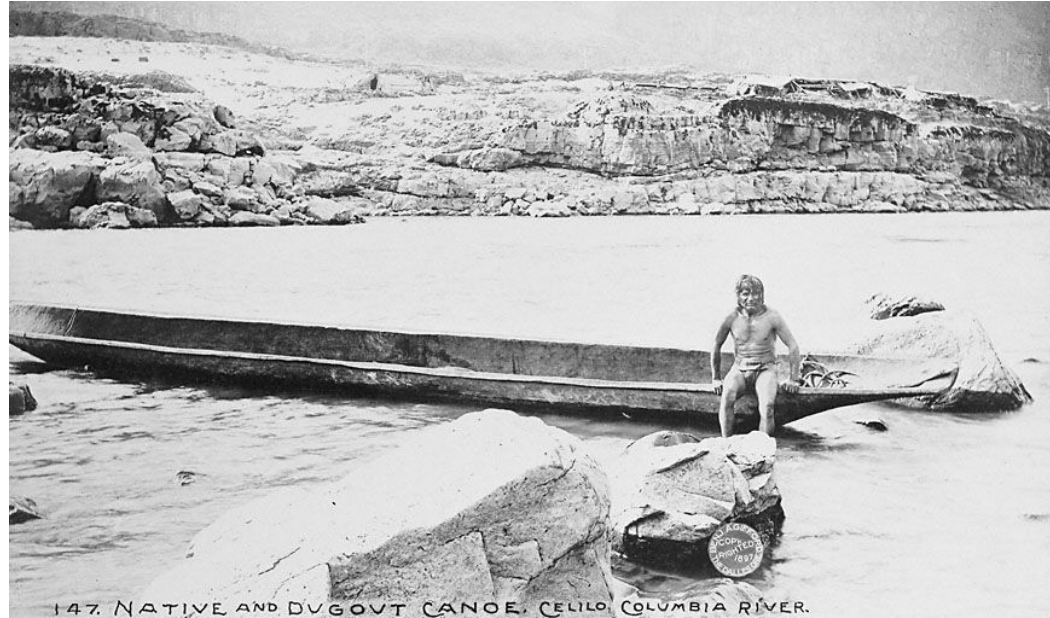
Mt. Rainier
Tahoma

Mt. Adams
Klickitat



The Legend

The Klickitat people told the Bridge of the Gods legend. In this tale, the chief of all the gods, Tye Sahale, and his two sons, Pahto (also called Klickitat) and Wy'east, traveled down the Columbia River from the far north in search of a suitable place to live.

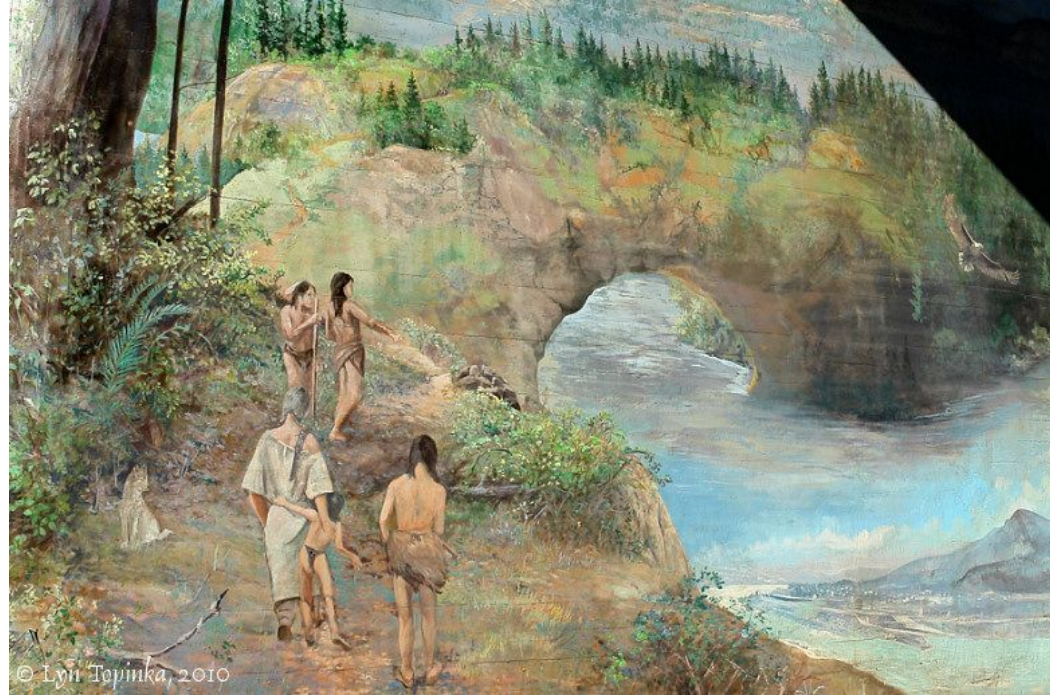


They came to an area now known as The Dalles and thought they had never seen a land so beautiful and that it would be quite a fitting place for gods to dwell. But, the sons fought over the land so the father stepped in to solve the problem. He shot two arrows from his bow, one to the north and one to the south. Klickitat followed the arrow to the north and settled there, and Wy'east did the same for the arrow to the south.



Bridge of the Gods - Tamanawas

The chief of the gods then built the Bridge of the Gods, so his family could meet periodically. In the center of the bridge burned the only fire in the world and people came from all over to get embers from the fire to bring back to their villages so they would have fire.

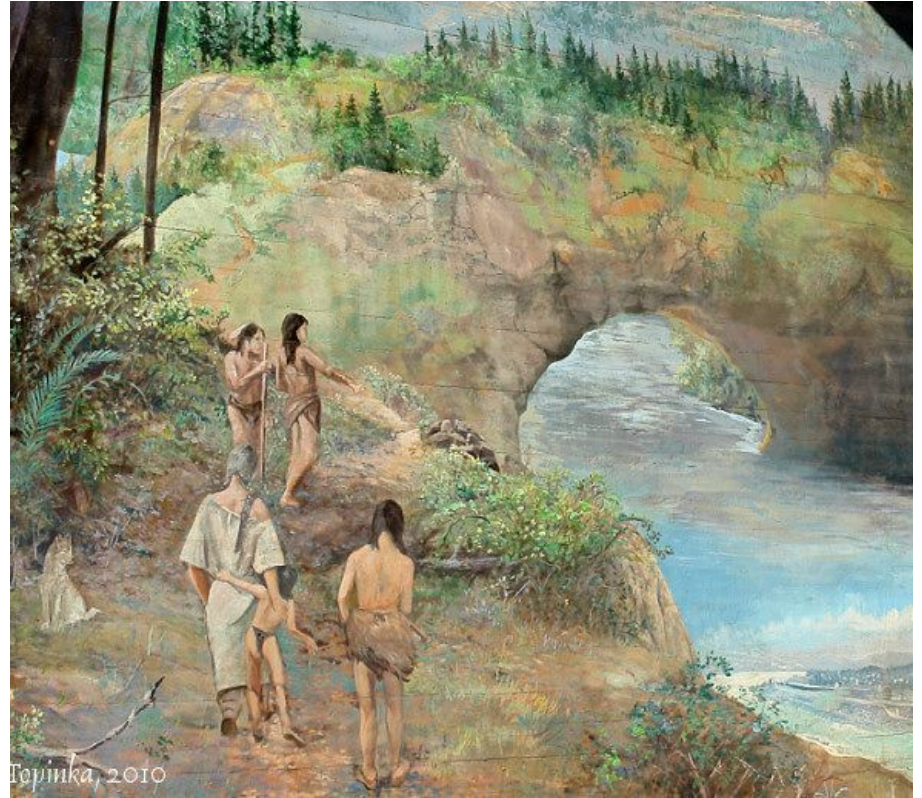


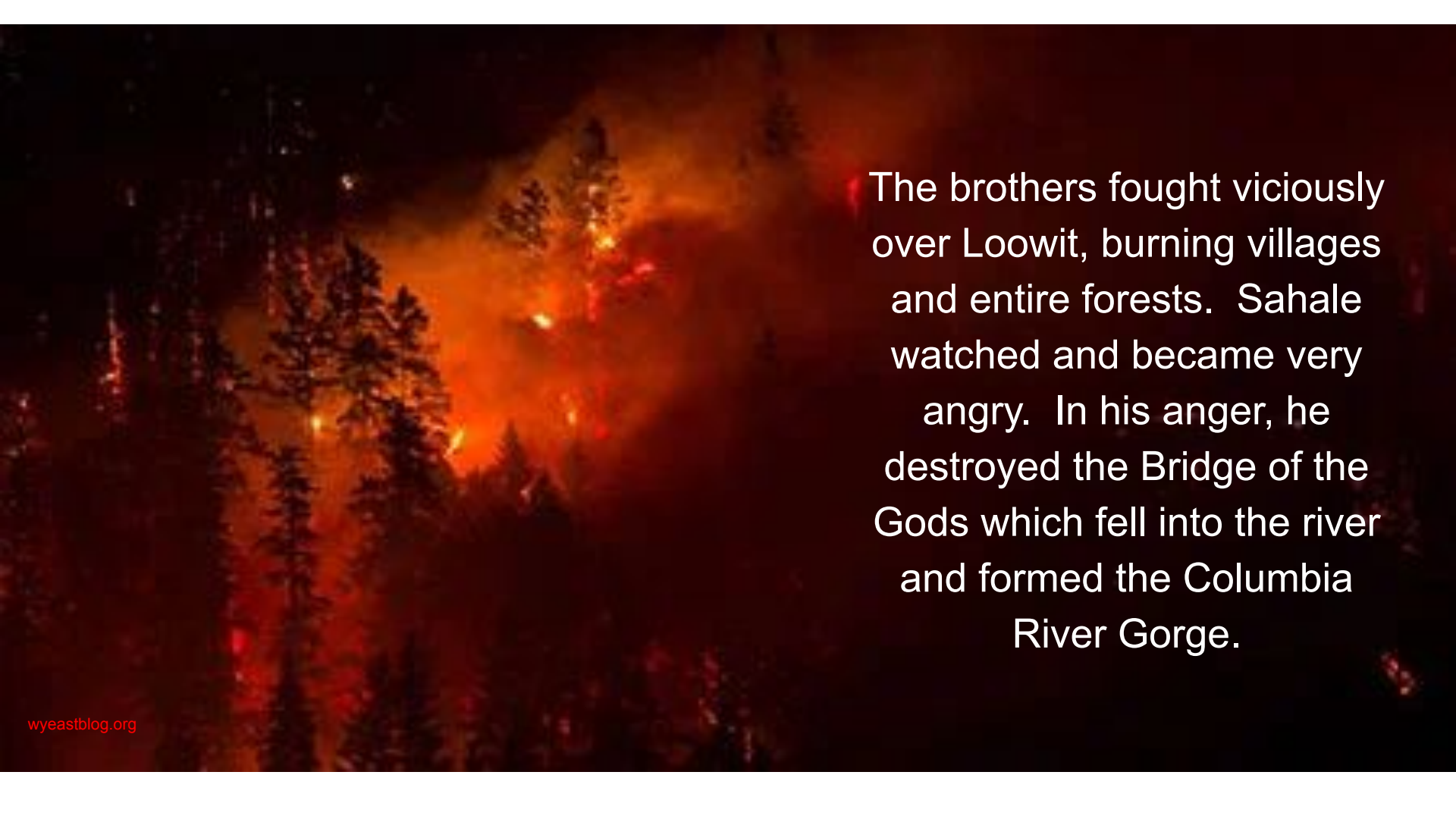
Loowitlatkla

The fire tender was “an ugly old hag” named Loowitlatkla which means “lady of fire.” She lived in the center of the arch and was so faithful in her task and kind to the Indians who came for the fire that Sahale noticed her. He decided to give Loowit a very special gift...eternal life. However, Loowit wept because she did not want to live forever as an old woman. Sahale could not take back his gift but he granted her one wish. Her wish was to be young and beautiful.



One day, Wy'east came from the land of the Multnomahs in the south to see this woman he'd heard about. As fate would have it, his brother Klickitat came down from the north for the same reason. Both brothers fell in love with Loowit but she was not able to choose between them.





The brothers fought viciously over Loowit, burning villages and entire forests. Sahale watched and became very angry. In his anger, he destroyed the Bridge of the Gods which fell into the river and formed the Columbia River Gorge.