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HERITAGE MONTH

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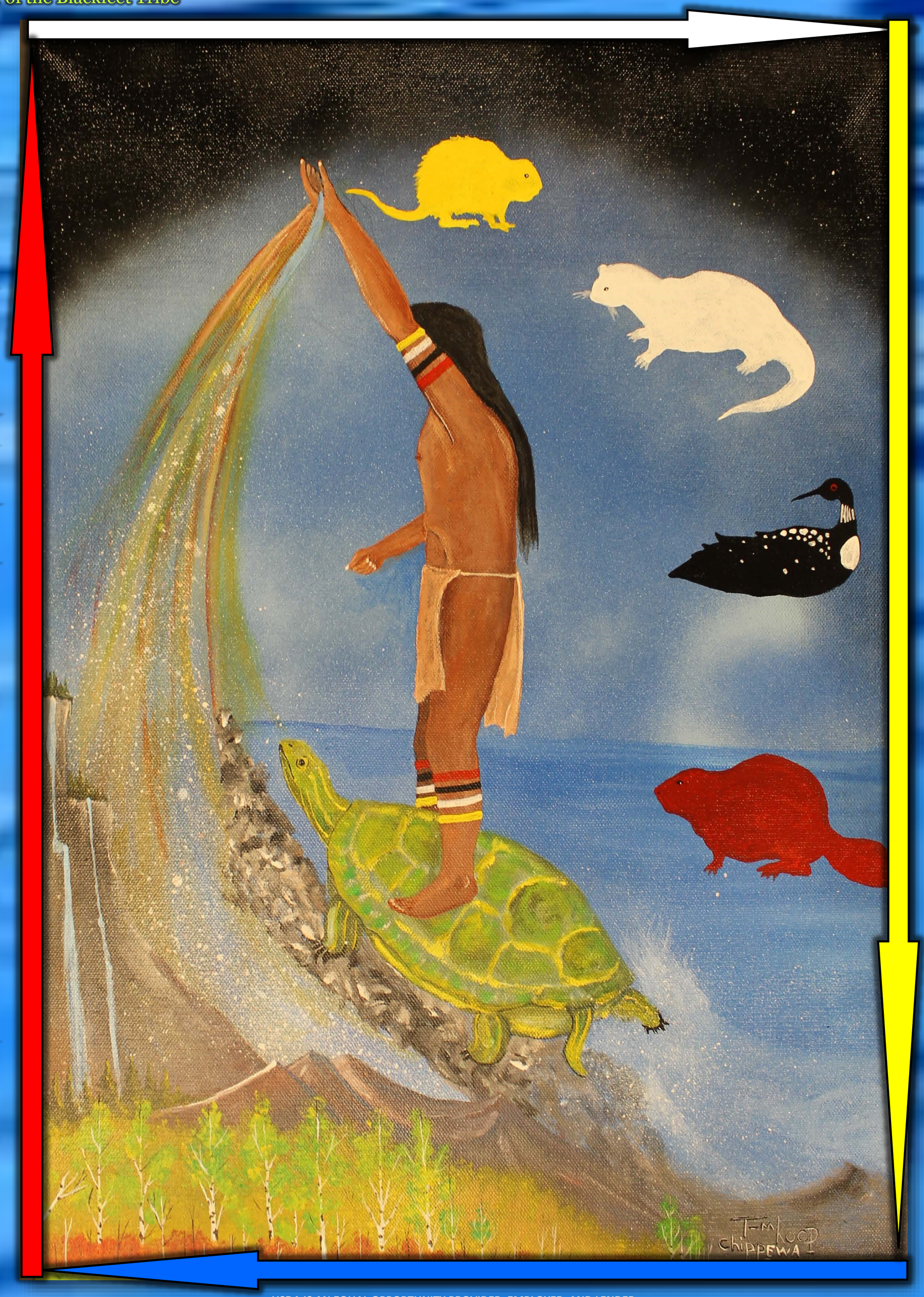
THE CREATOR OF LAND "NAPI"

"The Blackfoot Creator (iihtsi-paita-piiyo-pa) had twin boys—Napi and Natosi. Natosi went to live with his Father at the Sun. Natosi gave his name to Napi (Old Man) to help him in the creation of Napi's World—traditional territory of the Blackfoot." ***By John Murray***-Spiritual Leader and Tribal Historical Preservation Officer of the Blackfeet Tribe

"In the beginning there was water everywhere; nothing else was to be seen. There was something floating on the water, and on this raft were Old Man and all the animals.

Old Man wished to make land, and he told the beaver to dive down to the bottom of the water and to try to bring up a little mud. The beaver dived and was under water for a long time, but he could not reach the bottom. Then the loon tried, and after the otter, but the water was too deep for them.

At last the muskrat was sent down, and he was gone for a long time; so long that the thought he must be drowned, but at last he came up and floated almost dead on the water,



and when they pulled him up on the raft and looked at his paws, they found a little mud in them.

When Old Man had dried this mud, he scattered it over the water and land was formed."

Reviewed by Blackfeet Tribal Elders and story told

By George Bird Grinnell- pioneer for the creation of Glacier National Park.

Artist- **In our Chippewa culture we also have a story similar to the Blackfeet version. In our Chippewa legend the Old Man rode on a back of a turtle. For helping Old Man, brothers Beaver, Loon, Otter and Muskrat were given gifts for their help. Each animal was given a sacred color and direction. This is the way it was told to me.**

Theodore M Koop- *enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy 's Reservation Montana*

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