

# Create Your Own Bird Motif!



Click on the link below to read an O'odham story and see pictures of real bird symbols and motifs (prehistoric drawings). Think about the bird symbols of today, then imagine how other peoples and cultures throughout time symbolized birds.

[Click here to read the O'odham story and see bird motifs!](#)



Now it's your turn!  
Draw, paint, or use clay to create your very own bird motif! Make sure you keep in mind what your bird symbol means and how it might affect the culture it's a part of. Be creative and have fun!



## The O'odham Story of Ca Kai Choo and Bun As passed down to Nathan Allen

Tohono is the home of Ca Kai Choo (quail) and Bun (coyote). Ca Kai Choo often played tricks on Bun. One time they took some of his body fat while he slept. Bun awoke and was angry! He chased the Ca Kai Choo, but they flew to safety, into their little holes along the akimel (river). Bun went to the first hole and reached in. He grabbed the first Ca Kai Choo and growled, "Are you the one who did this to me?" A tiny peep, "No! try the next hole," was heard. And so Bun went from hole to hole until he came to the last one. "Was it you?" Again a tiny peep, "No! try the next hole." Bun stuck his paw into the next hole full of hanum (cholla)! Bun howled with pain as the Ca Kai Choo ran away with glee and laughter. Again Ca Kai Choo had gotten the best of Bun, their worst enemy!

### How the People got Fire - An Apache Story (From Goddard 1918)

"There were people living here on the earth. Coyote, birds, or hawks were all people. There was no fire and the only ones who had fire would not give it away. The others, many people, were without fire. Martens, living in the tops of tall pine trees were the only ones who had fire but they would not give any of it away. Those who were living below them [asked] how they should get fire. They decided to play hide the ball and sent out invitations for everybody to come to the game. They gathered under the trees and shouted to the mar-  
[so they could] play hide the ball. They came down bringing the fire  
fire at the camping place and stood around it in four lines so that  
off with the fire. None of the people  
center of the circle."

"Coyote, who was lying down some and run off with it. They were Those who owned the fire were Coyote had a torch prepared up and came to those who were ins,' he said. 'My foot pains me. Dance the fire.' They were dancing and having a good time [and Coyote said that he was going to dance. He told the others to dance vigorously, bending their knees. He urged them to do this repeatedly. Finally, he danced and switched his tail into the fire. They called to him that his tail was likely to catch on fire. He assured them that it would not."



way off, said he would get the fire playing and having a good time. winning and they began to dance. by tying bark under his tail. He got dancing. 'Have a good time my cousin, Separate and let me through to ignored him]. When it was nearly daylight,

"Then day broke. He stuck his tail in the fire again and it took fire. 'Your tail is burning cousin.' He jumped over four lines of dancers who were in circles around the fire and ran off. The people who were stingy of their fire ran after him. Coyote passed the fire to Night Hawk who jumped on it and went with it. . . Night Hawk kept flying and jumping. Those who had the fire nearly caught him for he was exhausted. . . He gave the fire to Roadrunner who ran away with it. . ."

"Roadrunner ran on carrying the fire [and] those who were pursuing him nearly overtook him. He was exhausted. When they caught him, he gave the fire to Buzzard who flew away with it. [They chased Buzzard] until he was worn out. He gave the fire to Hummingbird.

"They saw the smoke of a fire arising in the distance from the top of a mountain. It was Hummingbird who had set the fire. There was a fire too on the top of another mountain. Everywhere, fires were burning. It was Hummingbird who had accomplished all this. Those who had owned the fire turned back saying it was now impossible to recover the fire."

"The People who had been without fire were now all supplied with it. They were happy about it and expressed their thanks to Coyote."

