

# Native American Animal Guides

In the tradition of Native peoples, man and animal share an important bond. The Creator gives characteristics to each person which can be shared by an animal, which becomes a totem based on its potential to be a guide and to teach lessons. The animal considered most appropriate is thought to share the person's fate, not the other way around. Each animal has symbolic significance and its qualities are a key to lessons that might need to be taught; that need to be learned and are needed at a particular time.

Read through each animal's characteristics and color each picture.  
Which animal do you think would be your spirit guide?

## Bear

The power to symbolize physical strength and leadership as well as the wild, untamable side of humanity.

## Buffalo

A provider of all things needed for living. Buffalo brings abundance and healing. Wisdom, courage and personal power based on knowledge.

## Coyote

Sometimes considered an owner of bad things, a trickster. The understanding of the things can cause change or understand. He is about acceptance of human limitation.

## Crow

A carrier of souls from darkness into light. He guides against fear in the dark. Also a disseminator, keeper of spiritual law, and a clever. Looks for the bright and shiny aspects of life.

## Dove

Symbolizes speed and family protection. Dove is also and a symbol of sensitivity and kindness.

## Eagle

The Chief. A symbol of freedom and perspective. As a representation of great strength carries our prayers to the sky. He teaches us to fly.

## Elk

A symbol of nobility, grace, freedom, great strength and agility.

## Mountain Lion / Cougar / Puma

A symbol of power. Cougar teaches you to balance your own. He responds to any challenge with resilience.

## Owl

Represents wisdom. Owl has amazing vision bringing the gift of insight. Owl symbolizes the soul of the departed. Owl is connected with darkness and night.

## Raven

Sometimes he is considered a trickster. Raven is the messenger from the spirit world. He represents mystery.

## Skunk

Usually seen as badsmell and territory marks. Skunk is also considered a healer. He also symbolizes transformation.

## Wolf

A teacher of new ideas and wisdom. He shows intense loyalty with a balance of independence. Teacher, cooperation, protectionism and the value of individual freedom.

