

Another Aboriginal myth



Read this Aboriginal myth about fire and answer the questions that follow.

The Capture of Fire



Goodah, a noted magician, captured a piece of lightning as it struck a dead tree during a storm. He imprisoned it as a convenient way to make fire for his own use and ignored demands that he share this wonderful discovery. At last the tribe became so enraged with Goodah that a group of elders called up a whirlwind just as Goodah had made a fire with his piece of lightning. The whirlwind picked up the fire and scattered it all over the country, and fire became common property when members of the tribe picked up enough burning wood to make fires for themselves.

To escape the jeers and laughter of the tribe, Goodah fled to the hills to mulk, and to plan revenge.

From *Aboriginal Mythology* by W. and M. J. Hudson

How would you describe Goodah's behavior?

What does common property mean?

Do you think Goodah was right to feel angry with the tribe for calling up a whirlwind?
