

## Tall Tales

### **What is a tall tale?**

- A tall tale is a story that claims to explain the reason for some natural phenomenon
- Sometimes illustrates how skilled/intelligent/powerful the subject of the tale was
- A tall tale is fictional and usually obviously so
- Can be based on a real figure in history

### **Examples of Tall Tales:**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Davy Crockett    | • Alfred Bulltop   |
| • Calamity Jane    | Stormalong         |
| • Paul Bunyan      | • Joe Magarac      |
| • Mike Fink        | • Big Joe Mufferaw |
| • Baron Munchausen | • Tony Beaver      |
| • John Henry       | • Johnny Appleseed |

In class we examined one tall tale – the legend of John Henry.  
Now it is your turn!

### **Assignment:**

Using the internet, find information on one of the tall tales above and develop a PowerPoint/scrapbook/poster/etc answering the following questions:

1. Write a summary of the tale
2. What is the purpose of the tale?
3. What is it trying to tell us?
4. Find out the history of the tale. Is the tale based on someone historical? When and where did it develop?

### **Marking:**

- Presentation rubric
- Expository rubric