

## How Bear Lost His Tail Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett

Did you ever wonder why bears growl at almost every animal they meet in the woods? It wasn't always like that. Bears used to be friendly to everyone. They would wag their long tails whenever another animal came near.

One cold winter day tricky Fox saw a fisherman hang a string of fish in the water to keep them fresh. Fox stole the fish when the fisherman wasn't looking.

Fox was on his way back to his den when he saw Bear sitting by the trail.

Bear saw Fox and wagged his tail in a friendly way. He sure liked the way those fish looked. "Where did you get the fish? Bear asked Fox.

"I caught them," fibbed the Fox. "I didn't steal them!" He was embarrassed that Bear had caught him stealing.

"How did you catch them?" asked Bear. "The lake is frozen solid!"

Fox told another fib, "I have a special way."

"Those fish look and smell good," said Bear. "Will you share them with me?"

"No," said Fox. "You will have to catch your own."

"I sure would like to have some fish like that," said Bear. "Would you teach me your special way for catching fish through the ice?" he asked nicely.

Fox made up a fib to trick Bear.

## 熊是如何失去牠的尾巴

你是否曾想過為何熊在森林裡總是對別的動物咆哮？以前並非如此。熊以前對大家都很友善。只要有動物接近牠們，牠們就會搖尾巴。

在一個寒冬，狡猾的狐狸看到漁夫將一串魚放在水裡保鮮。於是狐狸趁漁夫不注意時把魚偷走。

狐狸在回到洞穴的途中看到熊坐在小徑上。

熊看到狐狸就很友善的搖尾巴。熊很喜歡這些魚。牠問狐狸：「你在哪裡得到這些魚？」

「是我抓到的，」狐狸撒了個謊：「不是偷來的。」熊發現牠偷魚讓牠感到羞愧。

「你怎麼抓到的？」熊問：「整個湖都結冰了！」

狐狸於是又撒了另一個謊：「我用特別的技巧。」

「這些魚看起來真可口，」熊問道：「你可以分一些給我嗎？」

「才不要呢，」狐狸說：「你自己去抓魚。」

「我也想要有這些魚，」熊禮貌的問：「你可以教我你在冰上捕魚的特殊技巧嗎？」

狐狸編了個謊來騙熊。

"Ice fishing is easy," Fox told Bear. "You cut a hole in the ice and sit down so your tail hangs in the water. You have to keep your tail in the water for a very long time."

"Don't worry if your tail starts to hurt a little. That just means that the fish are biting. The longer you keep your tail in the water, the more fish you will catch. When you find that you can't move your tail at all that means that the fish are ready to pull up. Stand up quickly and pull your tail out as fast as you can."

"Thank you," said Bear in a friendly way, and wagged his long tail all the way to the frozen lake.

He borrowed a drill and a saw from the fisherman's shack and drilled and cut a hole in the ice. Unlike Fox, who took the fish without permission, Bear asked nicely first and returned the tools when his hole was ready.

Bear smiled and took his long tail in his paws and put it into the cold water. It was not comfortable, but he was willing to be uncomfortable to catch a lot of fish to eat.

Bear sat with his tail in the water so long that the water began to freeze around his tail. It began to hurt. But Bear remembered that Fox said if it hurt it meant more fish were biting.

Bear sat for so long that the ice froze solidly around his tail. When Bear realized that he could not move his tail, he decided it was time to quickly pull his tail out of the water. He stood up and pulled very quickly. Bear is very strong, and when he stood his tail was pulled right off. It was still stuck in the ice.

Bear didn't get any fish, and he lost his long, beautiful tail. Bear left with a little stump of a tail. He was angry that Fox had tricked him.

Ever since that day, Bears have had stumpy tails. Also, ever since that day, Bears growl at every animal or person they meet.

「冰上捕魚很簡單，」狐狸告訴熊：「你在冰上鑿一個洞，然後坐在上面將你的尾巴放入水中。你必須讓你的尾巴待在水中很長一段時間才可以。」

「如果你的尾巴開始感到疼痛也不用太擔心。那代表魚兒正在咬你的尾巴。讓你的尾巴在水中待得越長，你就會釣到更多的魚。當你發現你的尾巴無法動彈時，代表你可以把所有的魚拉上來。迅速的站起來並很快的將你的尾巴拉上來。」

「謝謝你。」熊很友善的向狐狸道謝，高興的搖擺著牠的尾巴來到冰湖邊。

牠從漁夫的小屋裡借來鑽頭和鋸子，在冰湖上鑽了一個洞。熊不像狐狸沒得到許可就把魚帶走。牠反而是很有禮貌的詢問並在鑿完洞後將工具歸還。

熊微笑著用腳掌將牠的長尾巴放入冷水中。雖然很不舒服，但是只要能夠捕到魚來吃，牠願意忍受不舒適的感覺。

熊就這樣坐著直到牠尾巴四週的水都開始結冰了。牠的尾巴開始痛了起來。但是牠記得狐狸說如果會痛代表更多的魚在咬牠的尾巴。

熊坐了很久直到牠尾巴四週的冰都結成固體。當熊發現牠的尾巴已經無法動彈時，牠決定該是把尾巴拉上來的時候。牠站起來並快速的將尾巴拉起。熊非常的強壯，當牠站起來時牠的尾巴就被拉斷。牠的尾巴被困在冰塊裡。

熊沒有抓到一條魚，還失去牠又長又漂亮的尾巴。熊帶著尾巴的殘骸離開。牠很氣狐狸竟然欺騙牠。

從那個時候，所有的熊就只剩下一點點尾巴的殘骸。而且牠們只要一看到人或動物就會對牠們咆哮。