



Lesson Plan for: **How Bear Lost His Tale**

Type of story: **Pourquoi (How and Why)**

Objectives:

- The students will be able to retell this story to a classmate or in front of the class.
- The students will be able to recall the sequence of the story.
- The students will learn about the use of homophones such as tail and tale in English.
- The students will practice using the English terms bear, fox and fish.

Procedure:

1. Tell the story of “How Bear Lost His Tale” to the students.
2. Check the students’ comprehension of the story by asking questions about it. Re-tell the story, or have the students read the story a second time.
3. Review the beginning and ending of the story, and talk through the sequence of events in the story. Ask the students to repeat the sequence to each other.
4. Write out or map out the sequence for the story. As you do this, talk about the animals in the story. Discuss how foxes have long tails and how bears have short stubby tails. Review the plot about how Bear gets his short tail.
5. Ask the students to review the story with partners or in small groups and make their own notes as they do this to help them recall the story.
6. Encourage the students to re-tell the story to one another or to the whole class.
7. This story is the perfect story for introducing a difficult concept from the English language – the use of homophones. These are words that sound the same, yet are spelled differently and mean different things. Examples are tail and tale, sail/sale, hear/here/ two/to/too, hour/our, heard/herd and more...

Social Studies Extensions – This story takes place in an area that has forests and lakes in a climate where the water freezes in the winter. Talk about different climate regions, and find several that have a temperate climate. Read about ice fishing, and see how it is really done.

Science extension – Discuss hibernation. Talk about the way bears and some other animals hibernate through the winter and how they store up food to last them through their hibernation.

Language Arts/Reading Extension – This Pourquoi story is a trickster tale. Find and read another trickster tale. Depending on where the tale comes from, the trickster may be the fox, rabbit, coyote Anansi the spider or some other character. You can go to Dr. Lockett’s website at www.mikelockett.com and find several trickster stories among Dr. Lockett’s folktales. A good story to show how Fox gets tricked is “How Sly Fox Loses His Dinner.”

Language Arts/Writing Extension – Try to add a new animal into the sequence of the story. What would the animal be? Write a paragraph that puts your animal into the story.

Art Extension – Either - draw, paint, or color a picture to show the animals living together in their natural environment OR Draw picture that illustrates this story.

Music Extension – Play a recording or sing the song of “The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night.” The song tells how the tricky fox tries to feed his family.