

# Why the Bear has a Stumpy Tail

This tale is told all over the world! There are versions from Germany, Poland, Norway and from many of the Native American tribes in the United States. Read the story and look at the pictures. **Can you number the pictures in the correct order?**



Once upon a time, bears had beautiful long tails. One bear was very, very proud of his tail. Bear would brag about his magnificent tail to anyone who would listen. Fox got tired of listening to bear brag day after day. So, he came up with an idea to trick Bear.

Fox stole a big bunch of fish and waited for Bear to walk by.

Bear saw the fish and asked Fox, "How did you get so many tasty fish? Can you teach me how to get fish like that?"



"Oh, it is so easy!" said Fox. "Start by going to the frozen pond, cut a hole in the ice and then drop your tail into the hole and wait as long as you can! The longer you wait, the more fish you'll catch. If your tail starts to hurt, don't worry about it," Fox explained. "It means that the fish are biting." Bear did just as Fox said.

Bear waited and waited. His tail started to hurt, but he remembered Fox's advice and he stayed put. After a while, he fell asleep.



Fox came by the next morning to find Bear sleeping and covered with snow. The hole in the ice had frozen over, trapping his long tail. Fox shouted, "GOOD MORNING!" in Bear's ear, causing him to jump up in surprise and yank his tail out of the ice.

Bear's tail snapped right off and that is why bears have stumpy tails to this very day.



**Fox and Bear Fitness**  
 Summertime is a great time to get some exercise while also having fun with family and friends. Try these animal exercises this summer.



Roll on your back like a happy fox.



Walk on all fours like a great big bear.



Run fast like a fox!



Climb playground equipment like a bear.

## Fiction or Non-Fiction?

**Fiction** is any story made up by an author. It's a creation of the author's imagination. It is not based strictly on history or facts. The opposite of fiction is **non-fiction**, writing that deals with facts.

Was the story of how the bear lost his tail fiction or non-fiction?

Why do you think this?

## Tales That Teach

Folktales were often told to teach people lessons. What do you think is the lesson being taught in tale, "Why the Bear has a Stumpy Tail"?

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## Extra! Extra! Hooray for Homophones!

*Homophones* are words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings. For example, **tail** and **tale** are homophones. T-A-I-L is the rear part of an animal's body that sticks out from the backbone. T-A-L-E is a story. Look through the newspaper for five or more words that are homophones. For example: **sun and son • buy and by stair and stare**

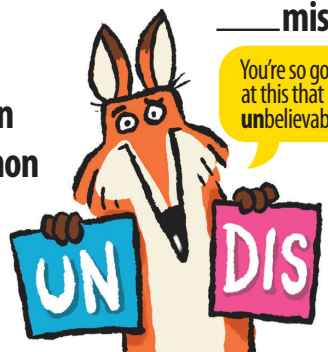
**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Recognize homophones.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### Prefix Fox

Help Fox use the prefixes UN and DIS to create new words. Look at each word and write UN or DIS on the line. Can you find one root word that works with both UN and DIS?

- |            |           |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ___ safe   | ___ civil | ___ obey  | ___ true  |
| ___ own    | ___ real  | ___ hinge | ___ joint |
| ___ sure   |           | ___ miss  | ___ card  |
| ___ like   |           |           | ___ taste |
| ___ known  |           |           | ___ loyal |
| ___ common |           |           | ___ tidy  |
| ___ color  |           |           | ___ plug  |
| ___ play   |           |           | ___ gust  |
| ___ usual  |           |           | ___ latch |



You're so good at this that it's unbelievable!

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Identify and know the meaning of common prefixes.

## Double Double Word Search

- BEAUTIFUL
- FICTION
- HISTORY
- STUMPY
- FROZEN
- PROUD
- FACTS
- OFF
- BEAR
- TALE
- TAIL
- BRAG
- HURT
- FISH
- YANK

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Prefixes and Suffixes

Find five words with prefixes or suffixes. Look up the definition of the root word and each prefix or suffix. Write a definition of the word created with the prefix or suffix.

**Standards Link:** Identify and know the meaning of common prefixes and suffixes.



What do you call bears without ears?

ANSWER: B.S.

## Write On!

### Best Book of the Summer

What book do you recommend other kids read this summer? Have fun describing the details but don't give away the ending!



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