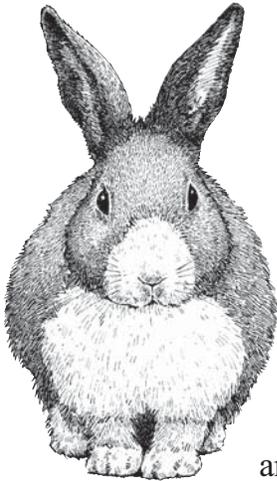


Traditional Stories from the Cherokee Nation



Why Rabbit Has a Short Tail

PART 1 OF 2

Back when the world was young, Rabbit had a very bushy tail. In fact his tail was much bushier than Fox's tail. Rabbit was very proud of his tail and he was constantly telling the other animals about his tail.

After a while, Fox had finally had enough of Rabbit's bragging and he decided to put an end to it. The weather was getting colder and finally the lakes and streams froze over. One day Fox went down to the lake carrying four fish. When he reached the lake, he cut a hole in the ice, tied the fish to his tail and he sat and waited for Rabbit to pass by, and soon he did.

When Fox saw Rabbit coming he quickly dropped his tail into the water. Rabbit jumped right down to Fox and said, "What are you doing?" "I am fishing, Rabbit," answered Fox. "With your tail?" Rabbit asked. "Oh yes, it is the best way to catch the most fish."

Rabbit asked how long Fox had been fishing and he responded by pulling his tail out of the water to show off the four fish tied to his tail and said, "Only fifteen minutes." "What do you plan to do with the fish you catch?" asked Rabbit. Fox answered, "Well, I figure I'll fish for a week, then take the fish down to the Cherokee village and trade them for a pair of beautiful tail combs."

Fox knew what Rabbit was thinking and he knew his plan was working. Rabbit thought to himself, "If I fished all night, I bet I would have enough to get those tail combs for myself."

PART 2 NEXT WEEK....



Reporter's Notebook:

Find the following items in the newspaper: a comb, something you'd find in the water, fishing equipment, a small animal, a clock, a day of the week, the word 'down', a weather word, something that freezes, and something that is bushy.

Arkansas Education Standards: Oral & Visual Communications:
Speaking, Listening & Media Literacy; Writing.4-7; Reading.8-11



Serialized Traditional Stories Courtesy of Cherokee Nation and the Arkansas Press Association. Visit www.cherokee.org to learn more about the culture and heritage of the Cherokee Nation. Visit <http://www.arkansaspres.org/niemain.html> for more information.

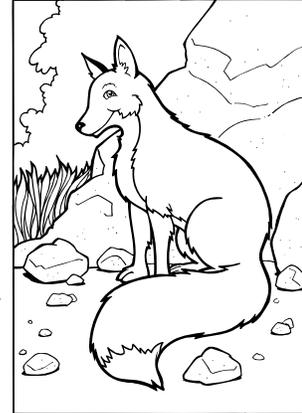


Traditional Stories from the Cherokee Nation

Why Rabbit Has a Short Tail

PART 2 OF 2

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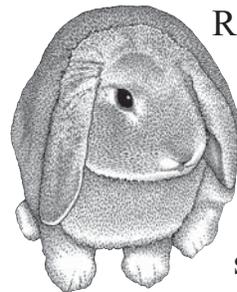
Fox said, "Well it's getting late and I'm getting cold. I think I will come back in the morning." As soon as Fox was out of sight, Rabbit dropped his tail into the icy hole.

Brrrrrr it was cold he thought, but those combs are worth anything. He sat down and fished all night long. Soon after the sun came up, Fox loped over the ridge and ran up to Rabbit. He said, "What are you doing, Rabbit?" Rabbit's teeth began to chatter. "I'm ffishsing Ffffox." "Have you caught any fish?" Fox inquired. Rabbit couldn't move, and he said to the Fox, "Ffffox you've gotta help me. I'mmm ssstttuck."



Reporter's Notebook:

Sometimes we do not make good decisions. What were three decisions made in this story? What is the lesson of this story? Safety should always be considered when making a decision. Find examples of news articles that show good and bad decision-making. Tell how you agree or disagree with the decisions. What would you do different? Why?



So Fox with a big smile on his face walked behind Rabbit. He gave Rabbit one mighty big shove. Rabbit popped out of the hole and landed clear across the other side of the lake... But his tail... was still stuck frozen in the water. And even today, Rabbit still has a very short, short tail.

The End

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