1 Discuss.

Read the titles of the story on this page and the story on page 5.
Make some predictions about what happens in each story.
Use the pictures to help you.

2 Read and answer.

Read the stories.
Answer the questions below.

How the Bear Lost its Tail

1 How did Fox catch a fish?
2 What happened to Bear's tail?
3 Why do you think Fox wanted to trick Bear?

Space Waste!

4 Why did the leaders and officials meet?
5 What did the scientist suggest?
6 What happened to Earth?
7 What do you think would have been a better solution for the waste?

Learning Strategy

Identifying key words in the questions will help you find information faster in a text.

How the Bear Lost its Tail

Many years ago, Bear had a long, black tail. He was very proud of his shiny tail and he used to wave it around so that the other animals could admire it. One day, Fox saw Bear waving his tail around and he decided to play a trick on him. It was winter. The wind was blowing hard, snow was falling and ice covered the lake. Fox walked onto a frozen lake and made a hole in the ice. Soon, Bear walked past and he saw Fox sitting on the ice. While Bear was watching, Fox put his tail in the hole and pulled out a huge fish.

"Greetings," said Bear, looking at the fat fish next to Fox. "What are you doing?"

"I'm fishing," answered Fox. "This is the best way to fish. Would you like to try?"

"Oh, yes," said Bear.

Fox deliberately took Bear to a place which didn't have any fish. He cut a new hole in the ice and said, "Now, turn your back to the hole and place your tail inside it. Soon a fish will come and you can pull him out."

"But how will I know if a fish has grabbed my tail if my back is turned?" asked Bear.

"I will hide and watch", said Fox. When I see a fish pull your tail, I'll shout and you must quickly pull your tail out of the water. But do not move until I tell you."

Bear said, "I will do exactly as you say."

He sat down next to the hole and placed his long, beautiful black tail in the icy water. While Bear was patiently waiting, Fox crept quietly back to his own house and curled up in his warm bed.

The next morning Fox went back to the lake. When he arrived, Bear was still waiting for Fox to tell him to pull his tail out of the lake. Fox crept very close to Bear's ear, took a deep breath, and shouted: "Now, Bear!"

Quickly, Bear jumped up and pulled his long tail out of the hole. In the night, the hole had frozen around his tail and his tail broke off! Bear turned around to look at the fish he had caught and instead saw his long, lovely tail in the ice.

So that is the tale of why all bears have short tails and hate foxes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS