

Read each story.

Follow the directions.

Why Turtles Live in Water
(African tale)

Long ago, turtles lived only on land. One day, some people were about to break the shell of a turtle to kill and cook it. The turtle stopped them and said that drowning him would work much better. So the people threw the turtle in the river. The turtle laughed and swam away. After that, turtles always lived safely in water.

Bear's Race with Turtle
(Native American tale)

Bear and Turtle agreed to have a race to see who was the fastest animal in the woods. Turtle said he was. The two had a race. Bear ran around a frozen lake while Turtle swam in it. Turtle poked his head through holes in the ice so Bear could see him. But Turtle fooled Bear. He had other turtles ready at each hole so Bear would think each head popping up was Turtle's. Bear got very tired and Turtle won the race. Bear was so tired that he slept all winter. That is why bears sleep during the winter.

1. What character trait describes the turtles in both stories?

2. What do both stories explain about animals?

3. Underline the sentence below that tells how the turtle's problem in "*Why Turtles Live in Water*" is different from Turtle's problem in "*Bear's Race with Turtle*."

The turtle's life is in danger.

The turtle is a good swimmer.



Home Activity Your child compared and contrasted two folk tales. Point out to your child that one story is set in the woods. Have your child compare and contrast this story setting to a story set in a desert. Ask your child to describe the things that are the same and different.