

Have students read the passage three times, each with a different purpose. After each read, ask the questions below and discuss the answers in small groups or as a class.

Read 1 What Does the Text Say?

1. What is the title of each pourquoi tale?
2. Who are the characters in each pourquoi tale?
3. How are the events in the three pourquoi tales similar?

Read 2 How Does the Text Say What It Says?

4. How does the “Tell Me Why” box inform readers?
5. What is the importance of the italicized words under each story’s title?
6. What are the characteristics of a pourquoi tale?

Read 3 What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

7. Why might people use stories to explain why things are the way they are?
8. Do you think pourquoi tales are true? Why or why not?



Extension Activity

Why do people tell pourquoi tales?

Create a poster to show why people tell pourquoi tales. Be sure to include pictures and words to show your ideas.

Optional Question Bank

Read 1

1. How did the bear lose his tail?
2. Why is the seawater salty?
3. How did thunder and lightning get in the sky?

Read 2

4. The author says the captain throws the mill in the water. What is a mill?
5. How do the illustrations help the reader understand the text?

Read 3

6. Do you think thunder and lightning are really sheep in the sky? Explain why or why not.
7. Do you think bear really lost his tail from being frozen in the ice? Explain why or why not.
8. Do you think that seawater is salty from a mill that does not stop making salt? Explain why or why not.

Read 1 What Does the Text Say?

1. The first title is "How Bear Lost His Tail," the second title is "Why Sea Water Is Salty," and the third title is "The Story of Lightning and Thunder."
2. In "How Bear Lost His Tale," the characters are Bear and Fox. In "Why Sea Water Is Salty," the characters are a grandmother, a grandson, and a captain. In "The Story of Lightning and Thunder," the characters are a mother sheep and her son.
3. The events are similar because in each tale, the events describe the origin of something.

Read 2 How Does the Text Say What It Says?

4. The "Tell Me Why" box informs readers that the word *pourquoi* means *why*. A *pourquoi* tale tells a story of why something is the way it is.
5. The italicized words under each title tell readers where the story comes from. This is important because *pourquoi* tales are told in many different cultures.
6. *Pourquoi* tales tell the origin of something, they are often funny or exaggerated, they usually include animals as characters, and they come from all over the world.

Read 3 What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

7. Answers will vary but, may include that *pourquoi* tales are used to understand or make sense of nature.
8. Answers will vary.



Extension Activity

Student responses will vary based on students' discussion and research.

Optional Question Bank

Read 1

1. The bear lost his tail because Fox told him to stick his tail in a hole in the ice to catch fish. He fell asleep with his tail in the hole, and his tail froze. When he stood up, his tail broke off.
2. The seawater is salty because a ship's captain threw a salt mill into it.
3. Thunder and Lightning were sheep. Lightning would burn everything, and his mother, Thunder, would yell at him to stop. When he did not stop, a king sent Lightning and Thunder to live in the sky.

Read 2

4. In this story, a mill is something used to grind larger pieces of salt into finer, sandlike pieces.
5. The illustrations are a visual representation of what happens in each *pourquoi* tale. They enhance readers' understanding of why things are the way they are.

Read 3

6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.