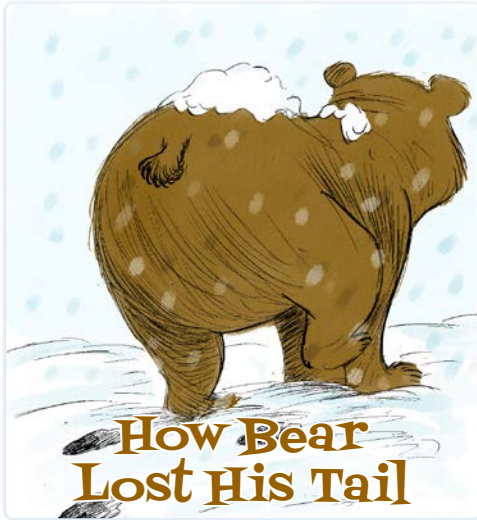
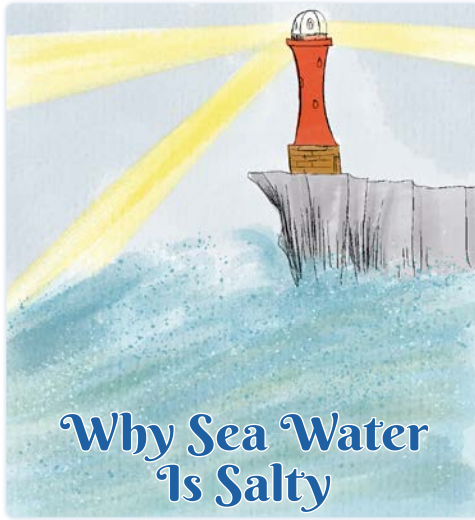


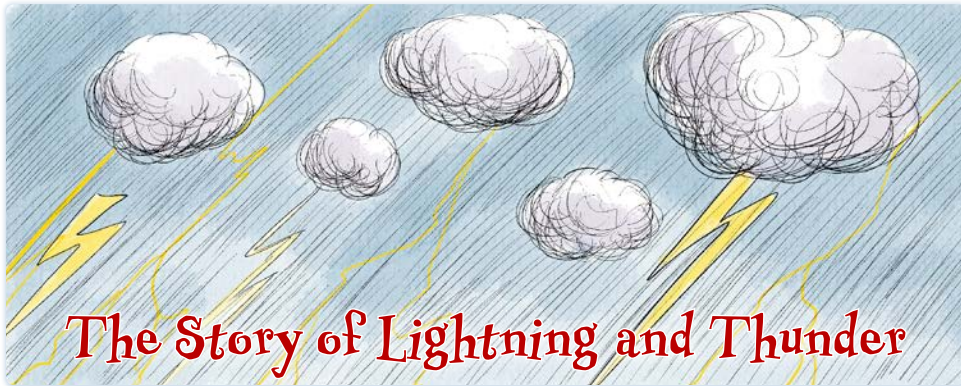
How Did It Come to Be?



How Bear Lost His Tail



Why Sea Water Is Salty



The Story of Lightning and Thunder

Tell Me Why

These stories are known as *pourquoi* [por-KWAH] tales. *Pourquoi* is a French word that means "why." People all around the world have told *pourquoi* tales for many, many years.



How Bear Lost His Tail

An Iroquois [EER-uh-kwoi] Legend

Bear had a long tail. One day, Fox told Bear to place his tail in a hole in the ice to catch a fish. Bear waited for a fish to grab his tail. Then he fell asleep. The next morning, Bear was covered in snow. Bear's tail had frozen in the ice during the night. When Bear stood up, his tail broke off. Bears still have short tails today.

Why Sea Water Is Salty

A German Tale

A grandmother gave her grandson a mill. It would grind anything he asked for. He said special words to use the mill. A ship's captain stole the mill. He asked it to grind salt, but he did not know the words to make it stop. The captain threw the mill into the sea. It still grinds salt at the bottom of the sea today.



The Story of Lightning and Thunder

A Nigerian Story

Thunder and Lightning were sheep. They lived on Earth. Sometimes Lightning got angry and burned everything around him. Then Thunder, his mother, would call out in a loud voice to stop him. Soon, people complained to the king. The king sent Thunder and Lightning to live in the sky. Lightning still gets angry, and Thunder calls out to stop him.