How Bears Got Stumpy Tails
*Based on a folktale from Norway*

Many years ago, bears did not have short tails. Their tails were long and furry. When two bears walked together, one bear would step on the other bear's tail. Their tails would fill with mud when they walked through the forest after a rain.

One day, a little bear had an idea. He said to himself, "If I could just think of a way to keep my tail off the ground, no one would step on it again. It wouldn't get muddy." He thought and thought. "I know what to do!" he shouted. "I'll tie balloons to my tail. The balloons will float and hold my tail high in the air."

The little bear hurried to the store. He bought six brightly colored balloons. He tied long strings to the balloons and then tied them to the end of his tail. When he walked into the woods, his tail no longer dragged behind him. Instead, it floated in the air like a feather in the wind.

Soon, the little bear met four bear friends in the woods. They laughed at the sight of their friend with six balloons attached to his tail. "Laugh if you will," said the little bear, "but no one will step on my nice, clean tail.

Just then, branches from the trees poked into the balloons. Pop, pop, pop! Pop, pop, pop! The balloons burst one by one. With each pop, the bear's tail sank lower and lower. Once again, it dragged behind him on the ground. All four friends stepped on his tail at once.

The flamingo is not an ordinary bird. It stands on just one of its stick-like legs. The flamingo even sleeps standing on one leg. This behavior adds to the mystery of this long-legged bird. Its habits are as interesting as its color. The name of this bird means flame. The bird's bright feathers are shades of pink and red which make it easy to identify.

A female flamingo lays a single egg in a nest. The nest measures about twelve inches in height. It is built of mud and small stones and is lined with feathers. The mother and father share the task of caring for the egg. The flamingo is not born with flame-colored feathers. The chick is either gray or white. It has a red bill which becomes black as it grows older. The color of the chick's feathers changes as it eats adult food. Its feathers are brightly colored by the time it is three years old.

The flamingo is a social animal. It lives in large groups called colonies. This bird feels safe when it is with other birds of its kind. The flamingo is known to defend the nest of another flamingo when danger is near. This bird is noisy. It grunts, growls, and honks to gain attention and to protect itself.
Use “One Cool Cartoon Cat” to answer questions 25 – 28.

25. What is the main topic of paragraph 2 in “One Cool Cartoon Cat”?
   - Jim creates Garfield the cat.
   - Jim learns how to draw cartoons.
   - Jim Davis grows up on a cow farm.
   - Jim draws pictures because he must stay indoors.

26. Why does Jim label his first drawings?
   - to name what is in the pictures
   - to practice his writing skills
   - to make his pictures funny
   - to learn to write stories

27. Which sentence from the passage explains why Jim creates Garfield?
   Pointing to the screen, Mr. Poff added, “Today, you will locate a nursery rhyme of each type. Read these steps for your assignment.”

28. Read this sentence from the passage.
   Cartoonist Jim Davis has definitely created one cool cat!
   The -ist in the word Cartoonist has the same meaning as the -ist in the word ___.
   - blister.
   - colonist.
   - list.
   - misty.

26. Why does Jim label his first drawings?
   - to name what is in the pictures
   - to practice his writing skills
   - to make his pictures funny
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Lullaby Rhyme

Sleep, baby, sleep,
Your father tends the sheep.
Your mother shakes the dreamland tree,
And from it fall sweet dreams for thee.

Sleep, baby, sleep,
Sleep, baby, sleep.

Teaching Rhyme

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November.
February has twenty-eight alone,
All the rest have thirty-one.
Excepting leap year, that’s the time
When February’s days are twenty-nine.
The Wright brothers made large kites. Some of the kites were large enough to carry people. Owners could ride inside these gliders and fly. The machines were pushed by the wind. They could stay in the air a few seconds. Wilbur and Orville were not satisfied. They built a glider that could stay in the air for longer periods of time.

The Wright brothers built a motor that was light enough to attach to the glider. This motor caused the flying machine to push itself into the air.

On December 14, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright tried to fly their first airplane. The flight lasted a few seconds and ended in a crash. The Wright brothers repaired the plane and flew a second flight on December 17, 1903. Orville flew for twelve seconds and traveled 120 feet. The brothers flew their plane two more times that day. Each flight lasted a longer period of time. By 1908, they built a plane that could fly 25 miles at 40 miles per hour. In 1909, they opened a business building airplanes.

**Boy Scouts: Making a Difference**

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest organizations for young people. The goal of this group is to teach boys to be honest and healthy citizens. Members are called Cub Scouts in grades one through five. They are called Boy Scouts in grades six through twelve.

Boy Scouts learn to be prepared. They go camping, build derby cars, and serve their communities. These activities are fun, but they also teach skills that help the boys in life. Camping teaches about nature and living outdoors. Building derby cars teaches the value of work. Community projects allow Boy Scouts to help others.

Much like police officers and firefighters, Scouts wear uniforms to show they serve their communities. They also wear uniforms so others know they belong to a special group. Boy Scouts receive badges and medals to wear on their uniforms. They earn these awards by completing activities.

Boy Scouts have always been proud of America. During World War Two, they helped people in their cities and towns. The Scouts collected items for soldiers. They hung posters to display messages about the war. Today, the Boy Scouts of America continue to serve people in their communities.