

## How Beaver Lost the Fur on His Tail, Paiute Adaptation

**Time Frame:**

1 class period that runs 30 minutes.

**Group Size:**

Large Groups

**Summary:**

Beaver loved to show off his beautiful tail. When the animals tried to get fire from the people, Beaver's vanity cost him his elegant tail. To this day the Beaver lives in the water where he can hide his ugly tail.

**Main Curriculum Tie:**

Language Arts - 5th Grade

[Standard 7 Objective 3](#)

Recognize and use features of narrative and informational text.

**Materials:**

Books can be printed from the CD or ordered from the [San Juan School District Media Center](#) at (435) 678-1229.

**Background For Teachers:**

This legend, called Tookwee'nup, is strictly myth and designed to be humorous and morally instructive. This story should be told during the winter months.

**Student Prior Knowledge:**

Students should become familiar with the pronunciation of Paoons' and Toovuts.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to identify elements of a fable.

**Instructional Procedures:**

Before Reading Activity:

"Today we are going to build our background knowledge by learning about fables. In fables an animal behaves like a human being with one dominant trait. The brief narrative teaches a moral lesson."

During Reading:

"Good readers use what they know about difference types of stories to help them understand the meaning of the lesson or moral."

"Together we will practice reading 'How Beaver Lost the Fur on His Tail.' Practice with your partner identifying the characters, problem and the moral of the story."

**Extensions:**

Students will write their own fable.

**Assessment Plan:**

In centers have students read several stories and determine which one is a fable, indicating the elements that helped them identify

this genre.

**Bibliography:**

Martineau, LaVan. *Southern Paiutes:Legends, Lore, Language and Lineage*.

Sutherland, Z., Arbuthnot, M.H.,(1986). *Children and Books*. p. 204 (7th ed). Illinois: Scott Foresman.

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