

maskwa wêhci-tahkwâliwêt

- 1 anohc, ôma ê-t'-átalóhkátákaniwit maskwa, wêhci-tahkwâlik osôw.
pêyakwâ wêskac kí-n..., kí-wâpamêw mahkêšiwá namêsa ê-'yâwâl'ci. êko mák'ôm' êtwêw maskwa: "tântê wêhci-kaškihtâyin kila ê-kâhcitinat namês?"
êko mák'ôm' êtwêw mahkêšiw: "náhtá¹ wêhtan ê-wí-kâhcitin...âkaniwit namês. ê-pakwaniyâk antê sipihk, maskwamihk, êkota piko ê-'ši-kiht..., -kihtápêkinamán nisôw. êko mák' ê-môšahak namês, ê-nôcihtât nisôw, n'kwâškocipalihon. mêkwâc ê-mákohtahk nisôw,² nimôskipitâw máka. ka-kaškihtân, nêsta kila, kišâspin wí-mâkonat...,³ wí-kâhcitinatê namês," itêw ma..., maskwawa.
- 2 êko máka, "tâpwê," kâ-itêl'tahk maskwa, "n'ka-kocihtân, nêsta nila."
êko máka kâ-kihtápêkinahk osôw, ê-kinwâlik oti osôw. êko máka ê-môšihát namêsa, namês' ê-nôcihtâl'ci osôw, mól' êškwâ kwâškocipalihow.
"êkoši pitamá mihcêt, kata-wanakohkêwak," itêl'htam awa maskwa, ê-wíy-okâš'kimit oti. mihcêt namês' n'tawêlimêw.
- 3 êko máka piliš, ê-'ti-akwaškwatinilik osôw, "âšay mihcêtiwak," itêl'htam, "namêsa,"⁴ ê-'ti-kosikwa-mahcihtât osôw.
êko mák' ispi kâ-kwâškocipalihot, êkotê 'ni kâ-kíškipitahk⁵ osôw, âšay ê-kíy-akwâhkwahtinilik.⁶

Why the bear has a short tail

- 1 Now, this is the beginning of the legend about the bear, why his tail is short.
Once upon a time long ago he f..., he saw a fox that had a fish. And so at this the bear said: "How is it that *you* are able to catch fish?"
And so at this the fox replied: "It's very easy when one wants to catch a fish. At that hole there in the river, in the ice, it's just at that very spot that I di..., dip my tail in. And then, as I feel a fish playing around with my tail, I suddenly give a jump. While he's biting my tail, I pull him to the surface though. You can do it too, if you want to catch hold of him ..., if you want to catch a fish," he said to the b... bear.
- 2 So then the bear thought, "Certainly, *I'll* be able, too."
So then he dipped his tail in, his long tail, that is. And then as he felt a fish, a fish playing with his tail, he didn't yet give a jump.
"So wait a little and many, – will be hanging on here and there," thought the bear in his greedy desire, that is. He wanted a lot of fish.
- 3 And so at last, as his tail began to freeze to the ice, he thought, "Now there are a lot of fish," as he began to feel his tail heavy.
And then at that point when he gave a sudden jump, that's the way he tore off his tail, since it had already been stuck to the ice.