



OTM-1450

LEGENDS

Fables and Legends Series



- 8 Reproducible Legends
- Skills in Research, Word Study, Creative Writing, Art & More
- Teacher Tips for Easy Implementation

Reproducible
HANDS-ON
Activities





LEGENDS



Why People Do Not Live Forever



A great Spirit created the world. He made the earth, the trees, the mountains, the oceans and the animals.

He saved his greatest creation for last. This creation was a man called Nagatara. He lived on the Earth for thousands of years experiencing one adventure after another. He was as happy as he could be, except he felt lonely.

The Spirit was pleased with his creation, Nagatara, and he wanted to reward him for all the good he had done on the Earth.

He sent Nagatara a message to go to the river and walk across it. Nagatara was told not to stop until he reached the other side. There, a reward was waiting for him.

Nagatara walked and walked until he found the river. The water in the river was rushing by very quickly. It looked very cold and very deep. Nagatara was afraid and hesitated.



Thinking of the reward on the other side, he decided to try to walk across the river. His foot step into the water did not even get his foot wet. As he continued, he noticed that he was actually walking on the water and was completely safe.

He made it to the other side and stepped on to the shore. There, he saw a beautiful woman. Nagatara knew that he would never be lonely again.

The woman became his wife and they made a home together. Over the years, they raised many fine children. But Nagatara noticed that his children grew older each year, unlike himself who had remained the same always.

When his children grew very old, they died. Nagatara was puzzled. He asked the great Spirit why his children grew old and died.

The Spirit told him that he had hesitated before crossing the river. Now, his children and their children could not live forever because Nagatara had doubted the great Spirit.



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The bear went to the lake, which was frozen, cut a hole in it and dipped his paws. He showed his wet paws to the rabbit and then took his long, furry tail and dried them.

"Wow!" The rabbit looked impressed. "I don't suppose you could catch your dinner with it, too?"

"Of course I can. Sit back and watch."

The rabbit sat and watched. The bear stuck his tail in the hole in the ice. "When a fish swims by, my tail will catch it." So, they sat and sat. They waited and waited. Nothing happened.

"It's getting late, I have to go," the rabbit said

"No, wait. I know you don't believe me. I can do it. Just wait a little longer," the bear pleaded.

"I really should be going," the rabbit said, getting up.

Just then, the bear felt something around his tail. So, he tried to stand up. But, he noticed that the ice had frozen around his tail. He was stuck.

"Help me, I'm stuck," the bear begged.

"I won't help you. You have been so mean to me and the other animals. You deserve this." The rabbit walked away

The bear yanked and yanked. Finally, he came free. To his horror, he noticed that his tail was still stuck in the ice. It had broken off to a small stub. From that day on, bears have never been able to brag about their long tails.