



How People Got Fire

by Regina Velázquez
Illustrated by Emilie Boon

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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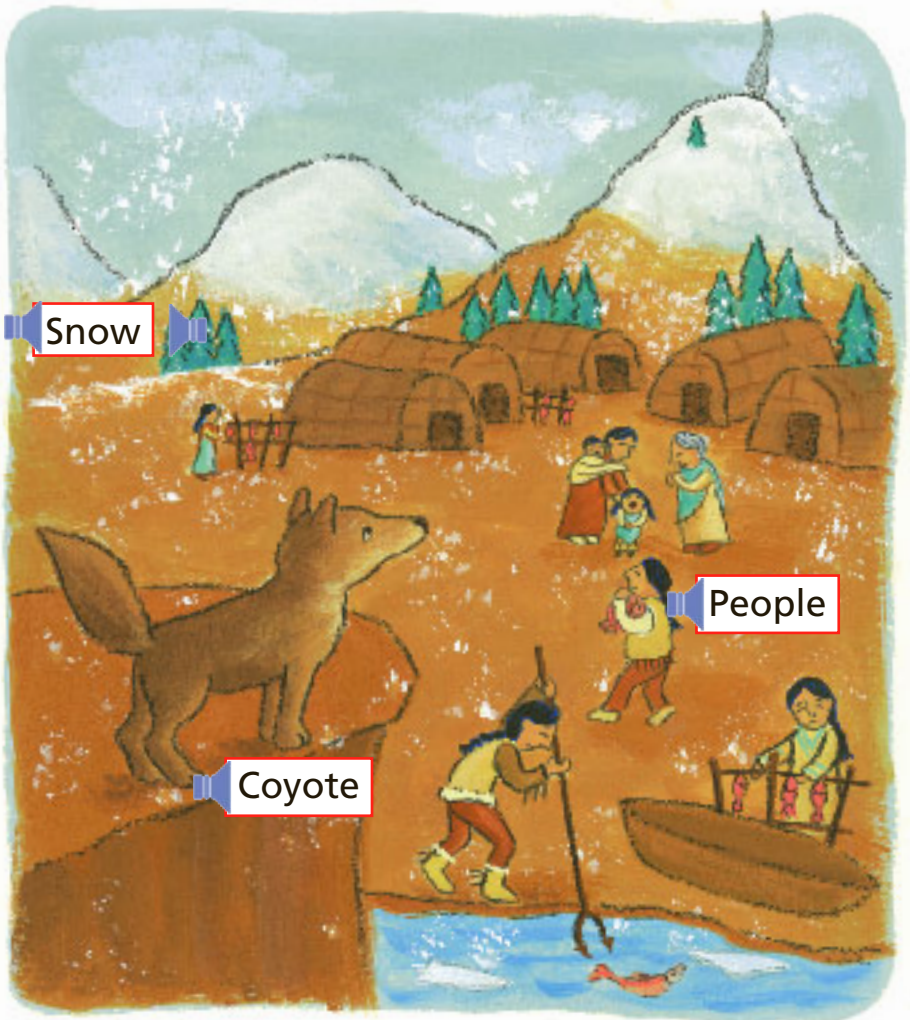
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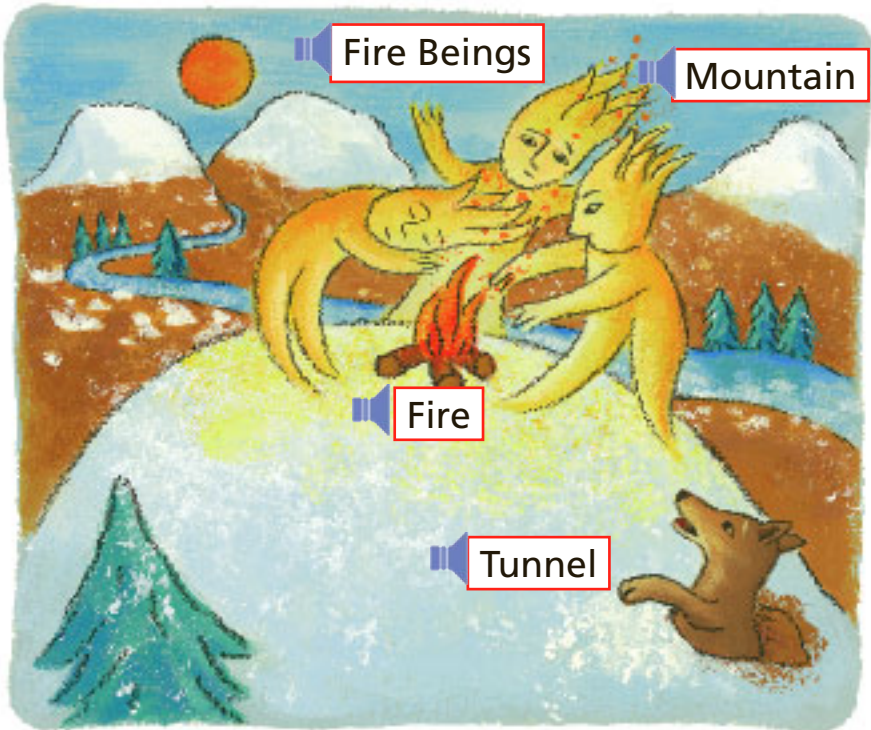
Long ago, people did not have fire. Winter was cold, and snow fell. The people were not warm.

Coyote saw that the people were cold. He wanted to help them.



🔊 Coyote knew where the Fire Beings lived. He saw them at the top of a mountain. The Fire Beings had fire up there.

🔊 The top of the mountain was at a great height. It was a long way, but Coyote wanted to help the people get fire. So he walked slowly toward the top of the mountain. Coyote got to the top and walked close to the fire. Then he dug a tunnel and hid. The Fire Beings could not see him.



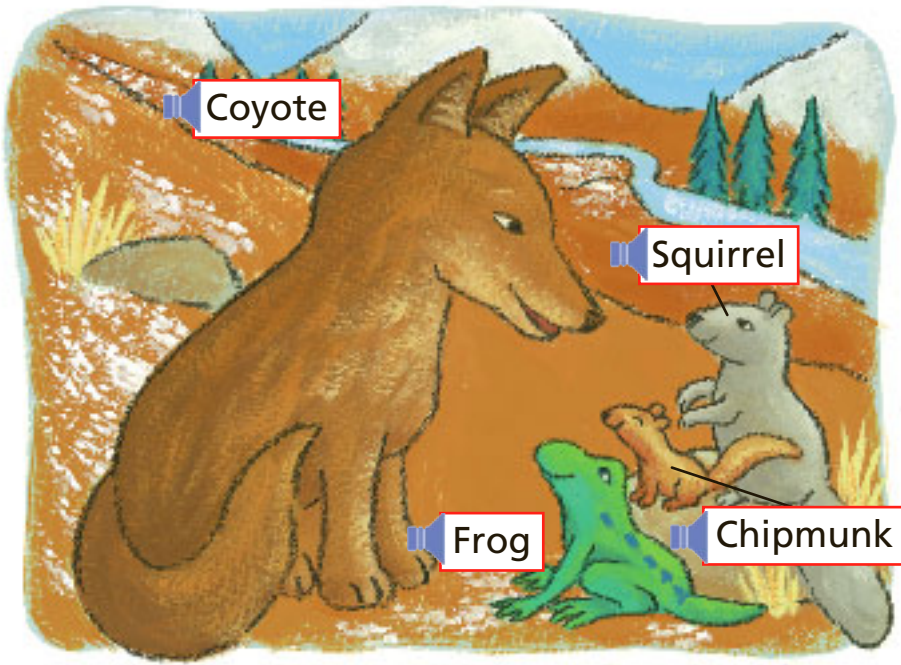
🔊 Coyote watched the Fire Beings. He saw how the Fire Beings let the fire burn out. There was nothing left but an orange glow. Then one Fire Being got some small sticks. The other Fire Beings used these sticks to start the fire. Soon they made the fire very hot.





🔊 Coyote wanted to steal fire for the people. But the Fire Beings watched the fire day and night.

🔊 Coyote watched and watched. He saw that the Fire Beings were sleepy in the morning. They did not guard the fire very well as the sun came up. That was the best time to steal the fire.



🔊 Coyote knew he needed help to steal fire. He went down the mountain. Then Coyote spoke to his friends Squirrel, Chipmunk, and Frog. Coyote's friends agreed to help. They made a plan to steal fire.

🔊 The friends went back to the mountain. Frog sat at the bottom. Chipmunk sat halfway up the mountain. Squirrel sat almost at the top. Coyote walked alone toward the fire and hid in his tunnel. He waited for the sun to come up.

Just before the sun came up, when the Fire Beings were asleep, Coyote ran out of his tunnel. He stole a piece of fire.

The Fire Beings woke up. “Stop that thief!” they cried. They pointed in his **direction**. “Stop the coyote!”

One Fire Being grabbed Coyote’s tail. When she touched his tail, the end of it turned white.

Coyote threw the fire to Squirrel. Squirrel caught the fire. It was so hot that Squirrel’s tail **curled** up.





🔊 Squirrel threw the fire to Chipmunk. The Fire Beings ran after the fire. One Fire Being grabbed Chipmunk's back. The Fire Being's hot hand put three stripes on Chipmunk's back.

🔊 Chipmunk threw the fire to Frog. The Fire Beings ran after the fire. One Fire Being grabbed Frog's tail. Frog jumped, and his tail came off.



🔊 Frog ran away with the fire. The Fire Beings yelled. They were very angry. Chipmunk, Squirrel, and Coyote ran down the mountain. Then the four animal friends brought fire to the people.

🔊 Coyote did not brag about how he got the fire. He showed the people how to use it. Now the people could be warm in the winter.

▶ The people saw that the four animal friends were hurt. Coyote's tail had a white tip. Squirrel had a curly tail. Chipmunk's back had three stripes. And Frog had no tail.

▶ The people did not **tease** the animals. They thanked the animals for stealing fire. Then the people helped the animals **heal**.



Responding



TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters Is Coyote nice or mean? How do you know? Copy and complete the chart below.

Words	Actions	What I Know
He wanted to help them.	He ?	Coyote is ?



Write About It

Text to World Write a few sentences as a summary of how Coyote helped the people. Then write about a time when you helped someone. Include only the most important ideas.



TARGET VOCABULARY

brag

curled

direction

healed

height

tease

toward

tunnel



TARGET SKILL

Understanding

Characters Tell more about characters.



TARGET STRATEGY

Summarize

Stop to tell important events as you read.



GENRE A **folktale** is a story that is often told by people of a country.

Level: K

DRA: 20

Genre:

Folktale

Strategy:

Summarize

Skill:

Understanding Characters

Word Count: 580

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