

Why Reindeer Run So Fast

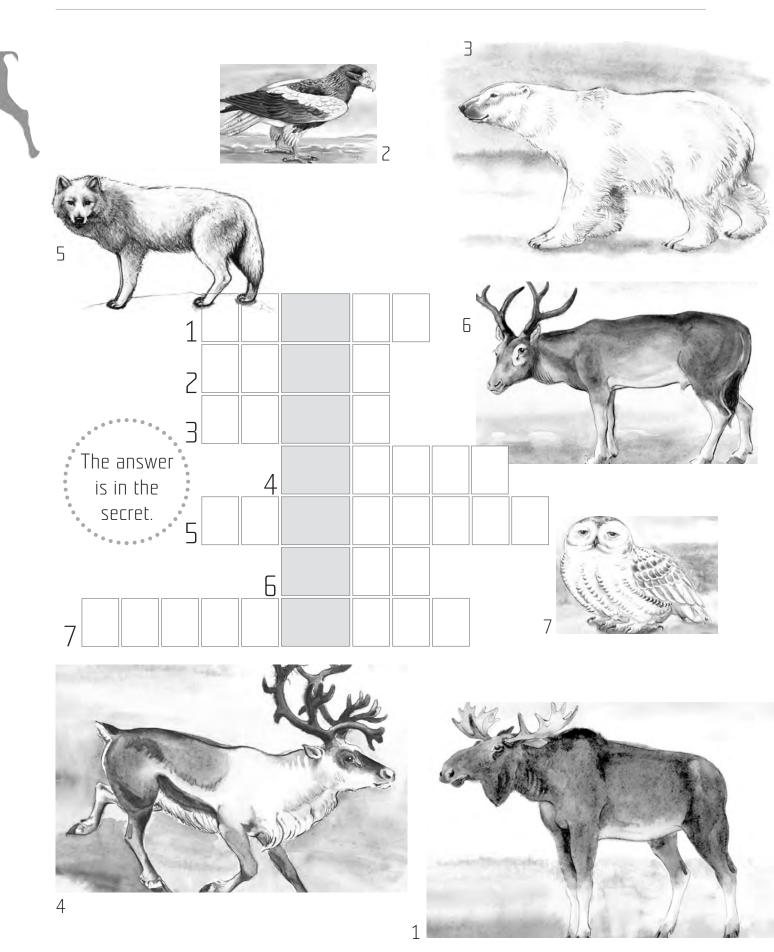
(Fairy Tales of the Siberian Tribes)

Once upon a time, when a spirit called Cheveki was settling the Earth, were flying in the sky and animals were running through taiga and tundra, the were the only ones who could not run. They were strolling here, there, and everywhere, digging lichens out of the ground. Winters were warm then and did not freeze much. But then strong Frost and fast came to the world and it cooled considerably.

Once a little herd of was grazing near a big when suddenly Frost and whom the reindeer have never seen before, appeared in front of the herd. Frost said: "I cannot freeze the other animals and because they can run and fly, and they never stay in one place for long. You are the only ones who walk slowly, so I am going to freeze you..."

And Frost and started circling and whizzing around the . The were cold and feared that they would die.

But then the biggest and wisest 🦏 plucked up the courage and led the herd away. But Frost and so found them. In had to move again and Frost and so followed Lots of lichen were growing in the new places. ate their fill and lived happily ever since. No matter how hard Frost and were trying, they could not catch the herd. But one day the strongest Frost came to the herd. were soon cold and started to flee. Frost did not want to give up, though, so he followed them. saw that Frost was at their heels, so they quickened their pace. They were marching faster and faster until they ran away. They are warm as long as they run. Whenever they stop, they start freezing. They run... and Frost drops behind. But once they slowed down, Frost and started to catch up with them. Frost and started to catch up with them. faster... leaving Frost and and far behind. And thus the is became the fastest of all animals. Old Tungusic think that there is no animal in the taiga or tundra that could run faster (or a 🔊 that could fly faster) than the 🦣 .. 🗸 can fly and fly but then it sits down on the ground and needs a rest. acan run for a day, two, three... and they still keep running. No one can catch up with them. They race with the but the cannot get them. are running and the ground beneath their hooves rumbles like a .



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