

Nursery Story




In this section you will find a story aimed at nursery age children.

The story is all about Oslo the beaver who has been moved to Scotland from Norway. The idea is to give children an idea about the Scottish Beaver Trial, what a beaver is and how they change their environment, making it better for many other species.

Oslo the Beaver

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Oslo the Beaver



Oslo the beaver felt very tired.

He had just moved all the way to Scotland from his lodge in Norway.

He thought that Scotland would be a good place to live. After all a long time ago beavers just like Oslo lived in the very same place that the humans had chosen for his new home.

Oslo decided to go for a walk to meet his new neighbours. He was excited because he had been told that everyone in Scotland was very friendly.



Oslo started to walk through the forest when suddenly he heard a tiny voice.

“A beaver! Oh no! You’ll cut down the trees and leave nowhere for insects like me to live!” A little red ladybird peered down from a leaf.

“That’s not what I do at all!” said Oslo, “the logs I cut down will make good homes for insects and the new leaves that will grow will be a perfect place for greenfly so you will have lots of food. AND the pools of water that I make will be a great place for all sorts of insects to live like beautiful dragonflies and busy pond skaters. I really hope we can get along, I just want to feel at home.”

“Hmmm,” said the ladybird.



While she was thinking Oslo kept going on his walk.

He came to a little burn and when he looked in he could see a fish hiding under some weed. He could also see a frog sitting very still, pretending to be a leaf.

“Why are you hiding from me?” asked Oslo. He was feeling quite sad, no-one here seemed to like him.

“Please don’t eat us!” said a bubbly voice from under the waterweed “we’re not very tasty, yuck!”

“I wouldn’t eat you,” said Oslo “I don’t eat fish or frogs, I’m a vegetarian! My dams will make lovely ponds for you to lay your eggs in and there will be lots more insects living there for you to eat. I really hope that we can get along, I just want to feel at home.”

“Hmmm.” said the fish and the frog.



While they were thinking, Oslo had a look for some tasty waterlilies to eat. Suddenly he heard a shout.

“Oi!” an angry voice shouted across the burn “You’d better not be eating all of my fish!”

“Or mine!” said another voice.

An otter swam fast towards him and a bright blue kingfisher flew down from a tree.

Oslo felt quite scared but in brave voice he said “Of course I’m not eating fish, I’m a beaver, I don’t like fish. The ponds I make will mean that there are lots of fish for you to eat. I really hope we can get along, I just want to feel at home.”

“Hmmm.” said the otter and the kingfisher.



While they were thinking, Oslo noticed a little hut hidden amongst the leaves. He could smell humans! They were watching him through binoculars.

“I don’t want beavers here,” said one voice “they will cause floods, ruin forests and they will eat all the fish in the rivers.”

“Oh no,” said another voice “beavers will help to stop flooding in towns by making dams in wild areas and they make forests more natural by helping make space for new leaves and trees. Beavers also help fish by making ponds for them to lay their eggs in.”

“Good” thought Oslo “I’m glad that some humans understand me. I wish my other neighbours were the same. I just want to feel at home.”



Oslo spent a long time after that gnawing down trees to make his lodge and dam, so he would have somewhere safe to live.

Little by little everything that Oslo had said came true.

New leaves grew from the tree stumps and insects loved to live in the old tree trunks. The pond he had made was full of insects, fish, frogs and birds, and the otters had plenty to eat.



One day as Oslo was working at his dam he heard a noise. When he looked up he could see all the animals from the area looking at him.

“THANK YOU!” they all squeaked, squawked, buzzed, bubbled, croaked, whistled and called.

“Ahhh,” thought Oslo “now I feel at home.”