

Berry Beary Kind

Book 11

Discoveries



*In a very kind town called,
“Berry Beary Town”
Lived a very kind Bear called,
“Berry Beary Kind”*

Imaginary Stories

Berry Beary Kind

–Book 11–

Discoveries

1: Discovery Bear

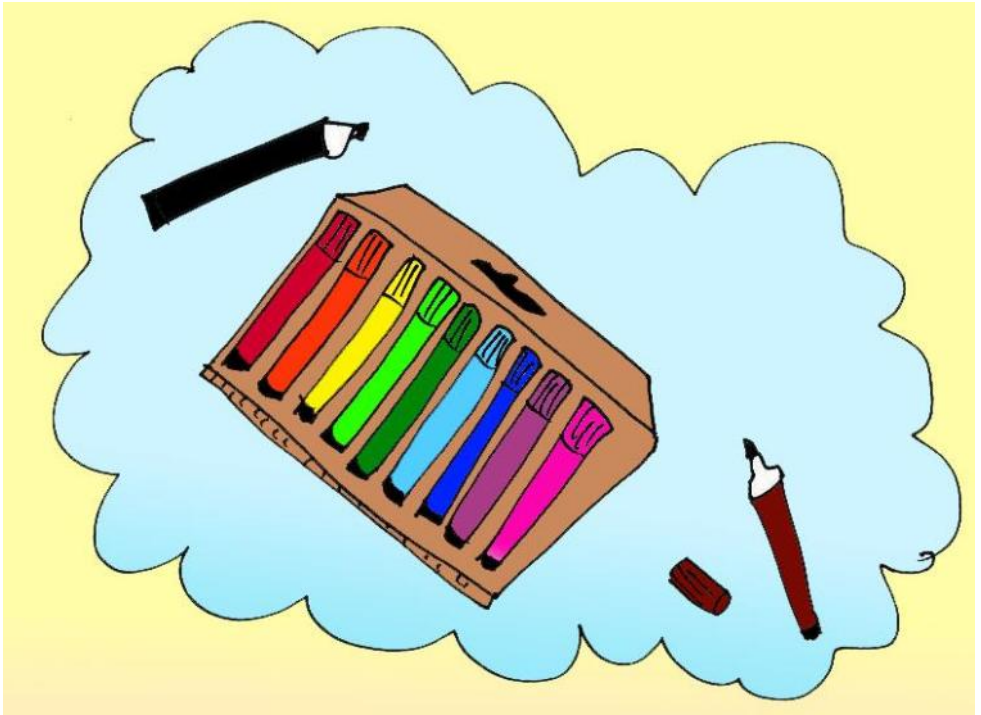
2: Delightful Discovery

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Cover photo: Jon Berg

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Discovery Bear

“Now, where did I put that set of coloured felt-tip markers?” Berry Beary Kind wondered. He wanted to make a “Thank You” card for his cousin together with some children who were going to be visiting that afternoon.

Berry Beary Kind’s cousin had helped him for several days during the week before to clear an area of land from all the overgrown bushes, so the children could play there more easily. Paths through the forested area had been made as well.

“It was a lot of work, and Cousin There-In-Time did most of it. I could never have done it if he hadn’t been there when I needed him.

I always appreciate it when others let me know that I've been a help to them. It always feels good to be thanked. Hmm, now where are those markers...?" Berry Beary Kind continued to search.

A tap on the window got his attention.

"Ah, talk about someone being there when you need them! It's Discovery Bear! Perfect timing!" thought Berry Beary Kind, as he waved and went to the door to invite him in.

"Hi, I was just passing by and I thought to drop in and see if there is anything that I can help you with!" Discovery Bear said while entering the house.

"As a matter of fact, there is!" Berry Beary Kind said, and explained about the markers he needed for the project he was about to do, and how the children were soon to arrive.

"I always like to be ready for things, and not to have to scramble to find what I need at the last minute. But I really have no idea where to find them."

"Well, let's see. The first thing to do when you are looking for something and can't find it is to close your eyes," Discovery Bear said.

"Oh, ha, ha!" Berry Beary Kind laughed. "You are right! I was feeling so rushed because I didn't have much time left until the children arrived, and I wanted to find those coloured markers right away, that I even forgot to just stop looking—to pray!"

So Berry Beary Kind and Discovery Bear stopped for a moment to pray and ask the Lord to help them.



After they paused, Berry Beary Kind suddenly said, “I just remembered! They are in my back pack! I was using them the other day on the train trip with my family. My younger brother was drawing to pass the time as the ride was rather long. It sure pays to stop and pray—and to listen! Jesus knows where everything is—we just need to ask!”

Sure enough, as Berry Beary Kind looked in his back pack there they were! –And just in time, as there was a little knock on his door.

“Come in!” said Berry Beary Kind to the happy team of children who were coming for their art project time.

“We even brought some extra art supplies!” the children said, and showed Berry Beary Kind their bag.

“So what did you bring? Let’s see. Coloured paper, glitter, glue, scissors, wrapping paper scraps, ribbon, stickers... wow! We’re going to have a fun time today!” said Berry Beary Kind.

“Hi children!” said Discovery Bear.

“Hi Discovery Bear!” the children greeted him. “Were you helping Berry Beary Kind to find something?”

“Well, yes I was, but I’ll let him tell you that story! I’ll see you tomorrow in the new play area that Berry Beary Kind and his cousin, Cousin There-In-Time helped to clear for you! We’re going to see if there is anything new to be discovered there!” Discovery Bear said as he left them to get going on their projects.

The children smiled. It sounded fun!





“Maybe there is a treasure hidden there!” Jellina whispered.

“Or maybe my dog buried his bone there and forgot about it!” Tiny Tony said, and the children laughed.

“I think we’ll find some new kinds of plants!” said Catylina, who was good at gardening.

“Can you please tell us what Discovery Bear helped you to find today?” the children asked

So Berry Beary Kind told them about the missing markers, and about their art project that day.



“Wow, I think Cousin There-In-Time will really like these cards that you all made. He’ll feel so glad to have helped,” Berry Beary Kind complimented them. “And I think we’re going to have a fun time tomorrow too!” he said, while opening the door and saying good bye to the children.

“Bye! Thank you for the fun art time! We’ll see you tomorrow!” the children replied, and off they skipped to their nearby houses.

The next day everyone was ready to enjoy the new grassy play area—the children with their parents were ready to enjoy this fun new place. It didn’t have anything fancy in it, but it was new and had room to run, and yes, some nooks to discover, and new paths to explore!

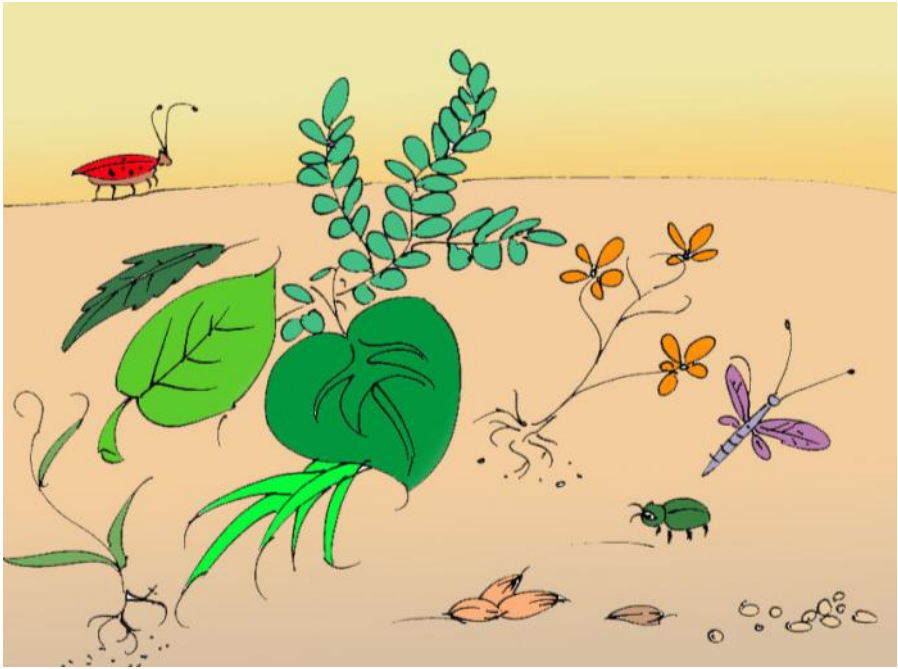
Discovery Bear was the one leading this day's outdoor activity, and he came prepared with a bag of "discovery items"!

"For today's time of discovery and exploration of this newly cleared area I will give some 'discovery items' to each family," Discovery Bear said.

Then he began handing out things like magnifying glasses, maps he'd drawn of the area and the pathways, note books and pens to take notes on things found, paper and tape to put plant samples on, bags to collect things in, jars, compasses and so forth.

"Now you and your families can explore wherever you like, and discover whatever you can. We'll meet again right here later on and can have a 'show and tell' of what each family found, or found out! Sound good?"



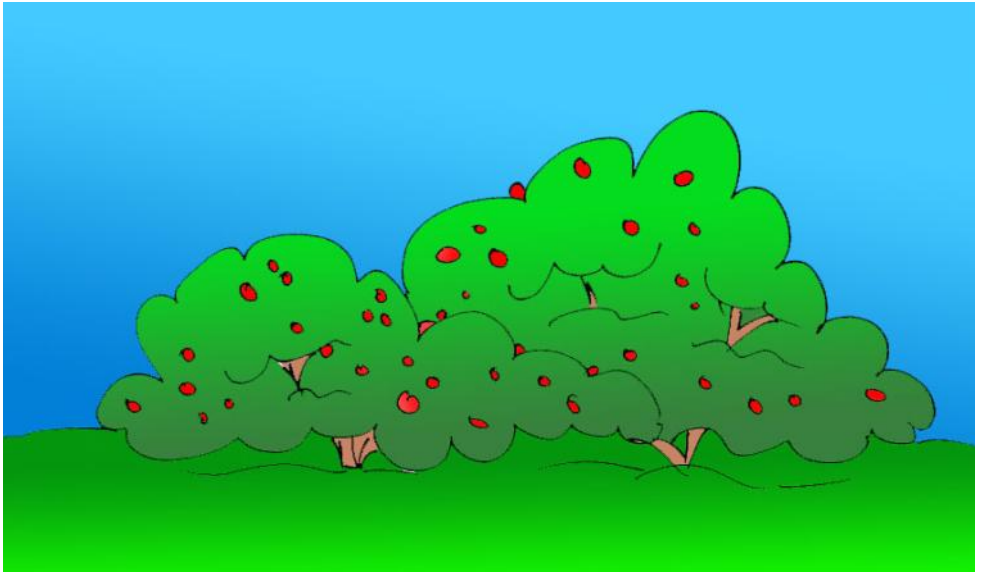


Everyone was eager to explore, and collect interesting things—and found all kinds of things: New types of plants, samples of bark, bugs, seeds and nuts, old bird’s nests, bits of paper that had blown in to the bushes long before. Someone even did find a dog’s old buried bone.

After awhile they met for the ‘show and tell’ time Discovery Bear asked some questions like, “Can you tell what types of animals might live around here, from what you saw and discovered?” And, “Who can name some of the plants and trees that are here?” and “What side is North?” and so forth.

Then as a special surprise Discovery Bear said, “To end our fun time, I have hidden a treasure in this area—and I made a treasure hunt to help you to find it!”

“Fun! A treasure hunt!” the children said, ready to get going!



“The first clue is...” Discovery Bear began to read a slip of paper from his pocket, “Something red and shiny.”

The children began to think, wondering where to look. Then one boy looked at his paper with a taped on sample of a bush that had red berry-looking seeds. He’d found the bush down the path that led to the right.

“I think I might have an idea!” he said. “Let’s go down this way!” And off the children scurried, with their parents following their lead.

Discovery Bear smiled, the search was on, and they were off to a good start. It was good that they’d had that time to explore the area before the game, so they would know where to look! From one clue to the next the children ran here and there, and at last found the final clue, and yes the treasure!



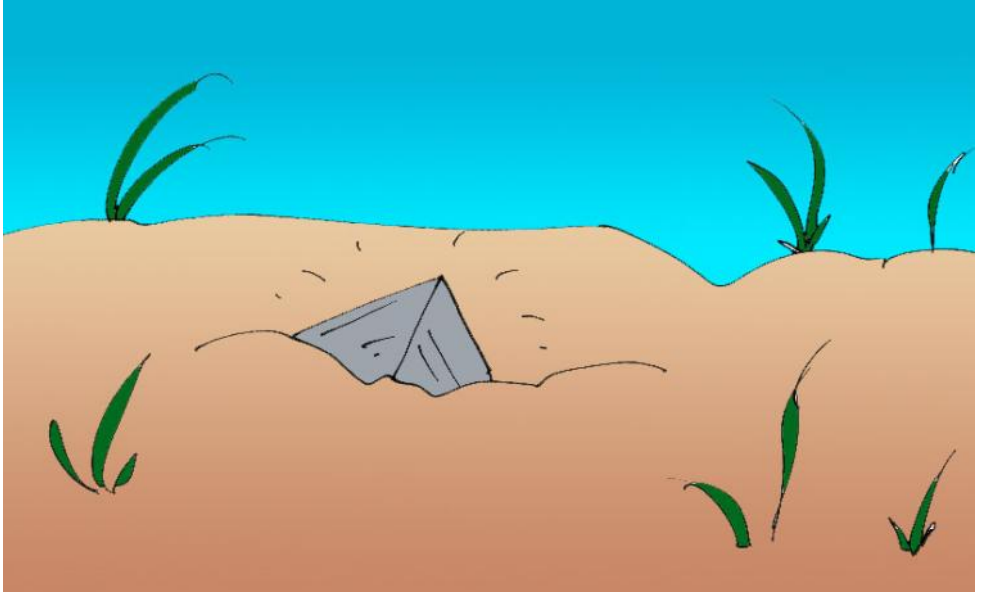
It was a bag placed up in a tree. It took some thinking and working together to get it down. Once they did, and the bag was opened there was something fun inside for each child—mini discovery kits, along with a bag of snacks!

Everyone had had a great day!

“Maybe you can read about some of the people who made great discoveries—and people who explored new places that others had never gone before!” Discovery Bear said to the children as they waved goodbye.

Once everyone was gone Discovery Bear looked over the area to make sure no one had dropped or lost anything, and sure enough there were a few hats and a toy or two. He gathered them up.

“I’ll bring them tomorrow to the playground where the children will play. I’ll be able to return them to whoever owns them,” Discovery Bear thought, and off he walked.



He was about to leave when he felt his foot tripping on something sticking out of the ground.

“Hmm, this root needs to be taken out of the way so no one else trips on it,” said Discovery Bear as he pulled on it, and used his mini saw on his pocket tool kit to make it safe.

“What’s this?” he said, realising that there was something just under the surface that could now be seen after pulling the root away.

He dug with his fingers a bit and then got a stick. Discovery Bear loved to discover things. He didn’t want to leave knowing there was something interesting to be found out!

After a long while he had cleared the dirt enough to see that it was a metal box!

“Wow! I’ve always wanted to find some sort of artefact or treasure!” he said lifting it up. It was a bit hard to open, but with his hand pocket tool kit he managed to do so.

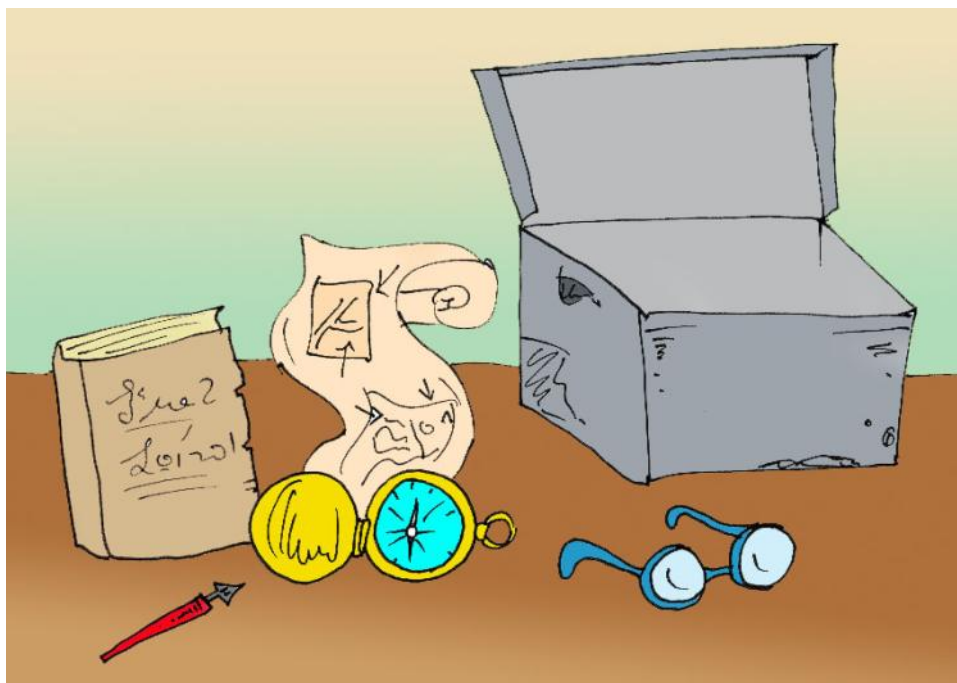
“A real discovery kit—from years gone by! Must have been left by someone who first discovered this part of the land—before it was all grown over like it has been now for so long,”

Discovery Bear wondered, while seeing all that was in it. A very old compass and map, some spectacles, pen and a very old looking book with notes in it. It was written in a language that he didn’t understand. But that didn’t matter.

“I’m so curious to find out what it says...I’m going to discover what language it is and try to get it translated. It probably tells a lot about what this person found in this area!” determined Discovery Bear.

Happily he went off to his house with his very own discovered treasure.

“I think I’ll place this stuff in the museum later, so everyone can see it!” he concluded.



Delightful Discovery

Berry Beary Kind was in his garage. His hands were greasy while trying to find out what was wrong with his quad. He'd checked nearly everything, and got things in tip top shape. But there was something that was still not quite right. A funny noise sounded whenever he'd turn on the motor. What could be causing it?

A knock was tapped on the metal garage door, and Berry Beary Kind looked up to see his friend, Discovery Bear—who had just gotten back from a long trip.

"Ah! My dear friend!" Berry Beary Kind said, as he set down his tools and went to say hello.

"You always seem to know the right time to show up! I was just in the middle of trying to find out what's not working right on this quad here."



Discovery Bear was always happy to be a help, and he loved to solve mysteries and was soon drawn into the fix-it session. Together they looked, tried things out, examined it, and prayed for the answer to the problem.

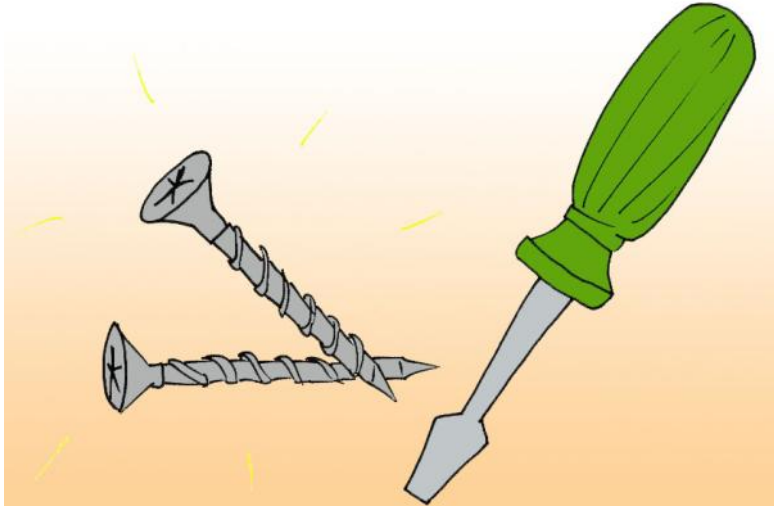
“Why don’t we go into the house for awhile and take a break. I have some fresh juice in the fridge,” Berry Beary Kind said. “You could tell me about your last travels abroad. You must have made all kinds of discoveries on your way!”

“That sounds like a great idea,” Discovery Bear said, as they walked to the house, washed hands and sat down with a drink.

Berry Beary Kind looked up eagerly to hear what Discovery Bear would have to say. He’d been to a part of the world that Berry Beary Kind had little knowledge of. If there was some new area to be explored, Discovery Bear was always the first one in the town eager to travel and see what he could see.

He made sure to bring back interesting items, stories and pictures, so that all who wished they, too, could travel, but didn’t have a chance, would be able to feel like they went there too.





Berry Beary Kind and Discovery Bear discussed when it would be best to give his “show and tell” to those of the town wanting to hear it.

“Can you tell me at least a little bit about your trip, now, even though I know you’ll save the rest for the main presentation?” Berry Beary Kind asked.

So they chatted a while, laughed a bit, and then got back to work on the trouble with the quad. Discovery Bear was such a one, that if there was something that needed to be discovered, he just couldn’t put it fully out of his mind until he found out what it was. This came in handy when it was a friend that needed help—he could be counted on to help until the solution was discovered.

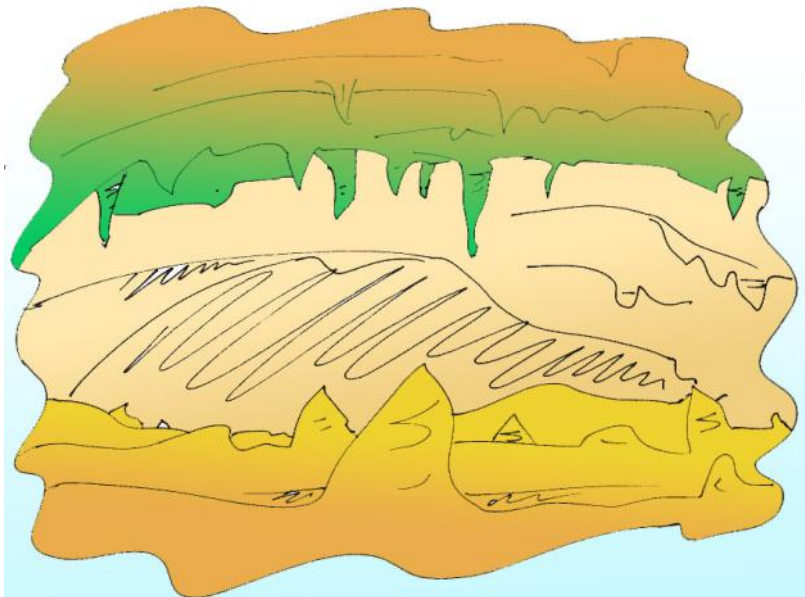
It was late in the afternoon when with joy the two hard working Bears found just what the trouble with the quad was. Some screws had been worked loose, though rust had kept them from falling off. The vibrating of the motor made things wiggle and create the sound he heard.

Ah! How nice it was indeed to have a good working quad once again, ready to help those in need. Berry Beary Kind invited Discovery Bear to join him and his family for dinner that night, as a way to thank him for his persistent help.

The following Saturday afternoon was Discovery Bear’s presentation and story-telling time, for all in the town that wanted to hear of his recent journey and explorations.

“The caves were HUGE!” Discovery Bear began to tell of the mountainous region they travelled through. He showed some samples of the stalactites and stalagmites he brought with him.

“Much of the caves have yet to be explored, as they just go on and on in this mountain range. We had to bring long-lasting torches, and plenty of warm clothes, and of course a good compass to find our way through and out again.

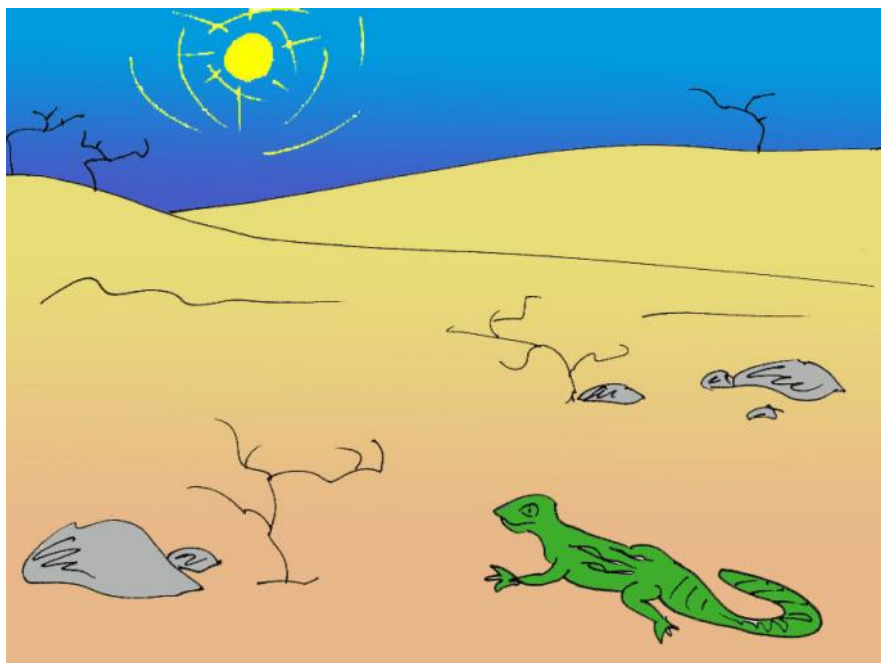


“We used ropes to climb up and down in the precarious areas. It really was something amazing. It was almost like a mountain king’s majestic secret palace.”

Discovery Bear continued on.

“Beyond the mountains, past the lush forests lay a land area that was parched and dry. It was almost like it had once been a river bed, but now the water had been redirected due to some change from an earthquake or landslide or volcano, and what used to be a grand pool of water is now bare land. We don’t know how long it’s been like this, but we decided to travel through it and see if anything living was there, besides the few shrubs and an occasional lizard.”

“It was a hot and dusty afternoon, as we crossed on foot, carefully keeping track of our location, using the sun as a compass.”



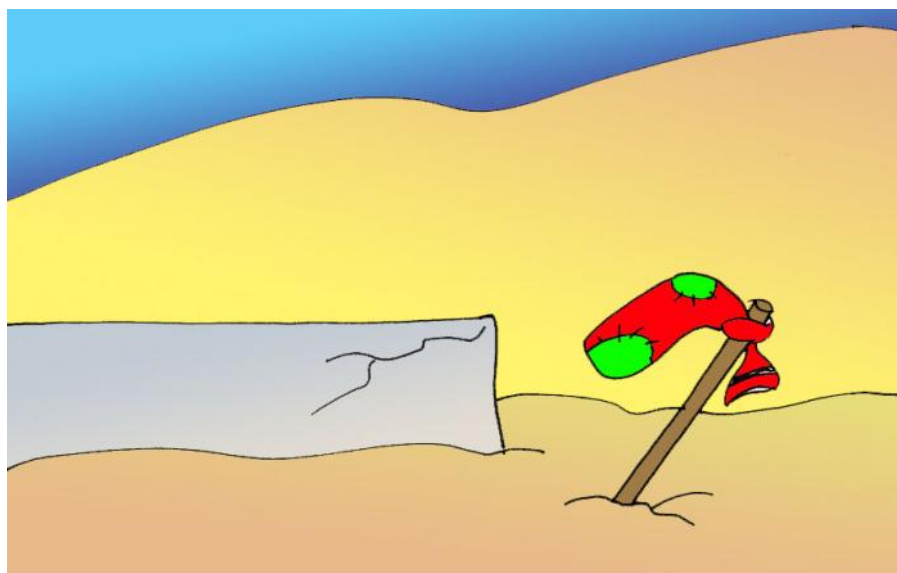
“Not much to be seen here, it seems,” I had said to the team.

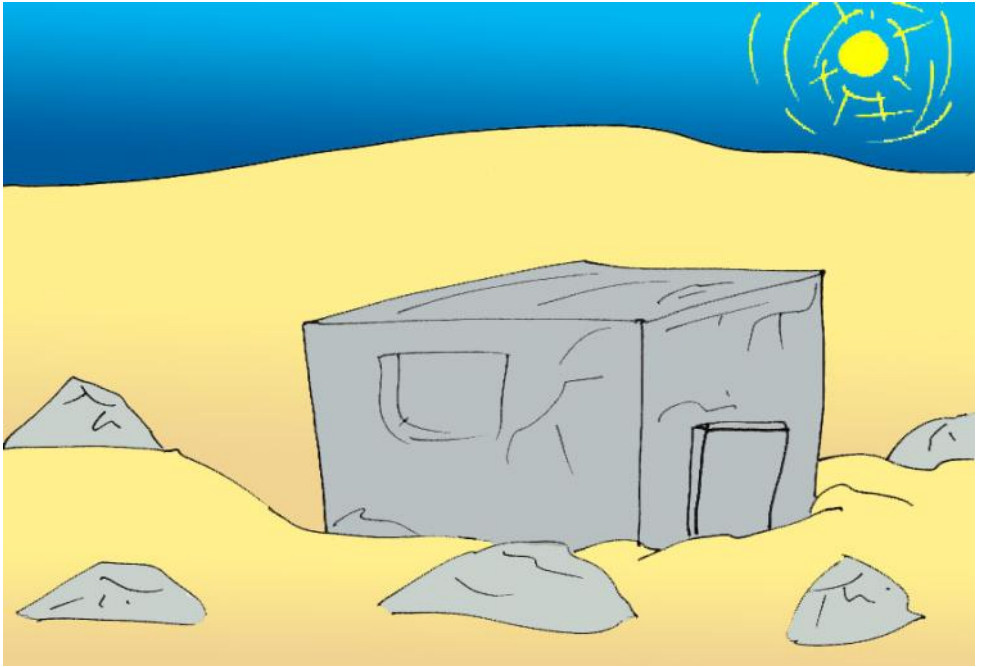
“I really didn’t think we’d find anything spectacular, and we were ready to head back to a place with clean running water, and a good bite to eat,” Discovery Bear continued telling his story to those listening.

“But as we were turning, something caught my eye. It didn’t look like much, but since I knew I’d most likely not return there again—there simply wasn’t any reason to—I thought I’d check it out before leaving.

“At first it looked just like a very straight edged rock, but on closer inspection it wasn’t a regular rock at all! –It was a part of a constructed building, long abandoned and buried over time. We marked the place with a big stick and a flag made with one of my socks.

“We’d come to check it out the next day—when we wanted to return with shovels and gear to try to discover if indeed it was an old building.”





Everyone was eagerly listening to Discovery Bear’s story, and passed around the photos he’d taken of it all, as well as pieces of the old discovered buildings.

Discovery Bear continued.

“When we went in our 4-wheel drive vehicle to a village a couple hours away, to rest, take a swim in the river, and get a good supper, we also talked to the people living around there. There were stories that some of the older people said, that their great-grandparents told them, of what they used to call their ‘twin village’. It used to be right where the now barren land was.

“So, it started to become apparent that indeed what I saw was some remains from the village there, that now was so empty and quiet. Where had the people gone, and why? I had so many questions.

“We set off very early in the morning, along with a growing crowd of strong folks from the village who also wanted to find out this mystery. We started just after dawn and dug our way down. With all of us using our strength and persevering, we dug down until it seemed we’d uncovered one of the buildings. The soil was sandy, so it wasn’t too hard. The building was made of clay, rocks and bricks. The design looked simple and we knew that there must have been many more around to form a village.

“The older folks seemed to think, from stories they’d heard as children, that lack of rain caused those in that village to move—some said that they simply moved in with the existing village—their ‘twin village’, as the river nearby provided that place with what they needed.

“Perhaps some of the older folks were the descendants of the former dwellers of this forgotten place.

“A meeting was held in the village that night, to celebrate the discovery and to talk of excavating it all. ‘We could dig it all up, and set up a village there again! We have enough supplies here to get a town going, until a farm could be started, to supply crops for the village,’ one of the men suggested.

“Everyone liked that idea, and were glad for something mysterious and interesting to do. But there was one problem—the same problem that had driven the last inhabitants away in the first place. —The lack of water.

“It was a problem in deed. And there were other ideas given on how to solve it. ‘We could pipe water from the river here to the village, and set up an irrigation system for the crops...’”



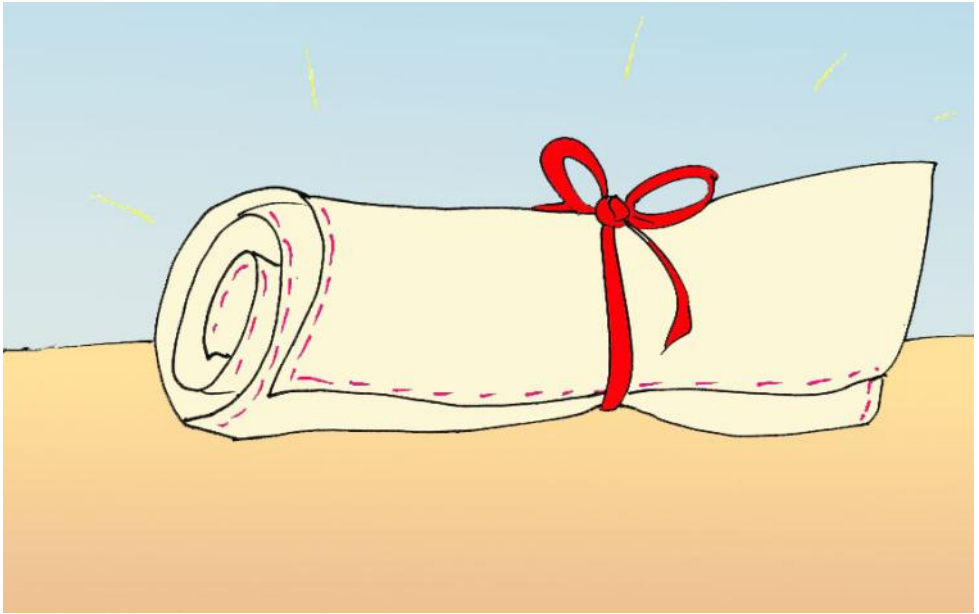
“Many stayed on late into the night, talking about all kinds of ideas to make the village a thriving place once again. But I’d had a long day, and was going to rise again real early to drive there for the last time before moving on, so I headed off to bed—on a sleeping bag under the stars near the glowing fire.

“When I awoke and was heading to my vehicle, a lady approached me. She said, ‘Excuse me, but I’m wondering if this might help you.’ And she handed me a roll of cloth that seemed to have an embroidered picture on it.

‘It belongs to my great-grandmother, who is very old, but still lives, bless her heart. She wanted me to show it to you.’”

Discovery Bear continued on with his fascinating story.

“I was very curious and so promptly unrolled it. It was hard to make out the details in the early dawn, as the sun had not yet fully risen.



“All the town was quiet now, after their late night discussions, all that is except the team that was coming again with me that day to see what else we could discover at the place of the forgotten village.

“‘May I take this with me for today? That way I can see what it is more clearly in the daylight,’ I asked. The lady was very glad that I would take it and hopefully find it useful in my quest to find out more about this village. I said good bye, took a drink of water and a handful of dry fruits, and headed off for a good day’s work and discovery.

“The work was well on the way, and it wasn’t until mid-day when I went to sit in the shade of my car to have a snack that I remembered the cloth that was given to me. It would be the perfect time to take a good look at it.



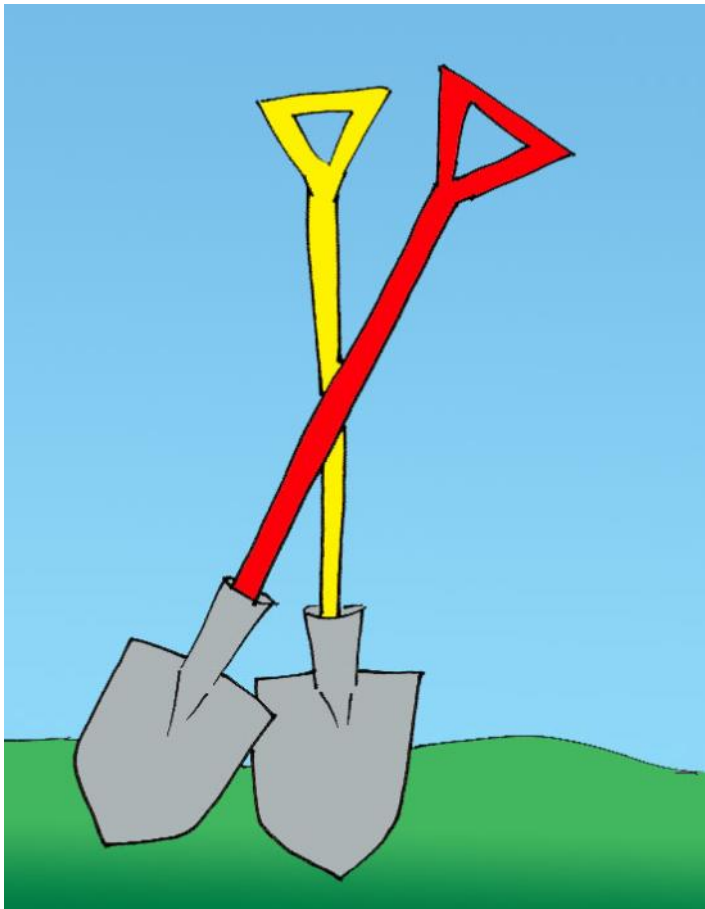
“As I observed it, at first it looked like nothing more than a well-done embroidered work of art, showing children playing outside one of these houses that we’d just discovered. But as I looked closer I noticed that there were goats drinking from a pond it seemed, and mountains to the back on the right of the picture.

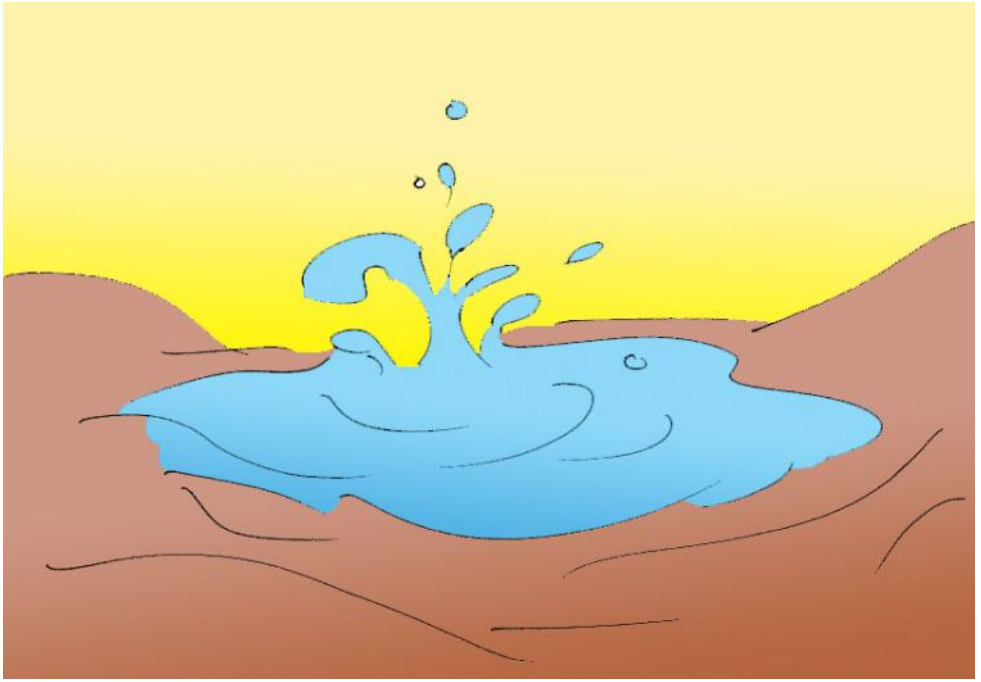
“I wonder if this is a depiction of what this very place here used to look like,’ I thought. I got out of the vehicle to look around. Then I spotted it. I stood in the very position to see the mountains just as they were shown on the cloth. The house shown in the picture would have been, yes, to my left.

“Work was already being done to dig it up. Could this cloth have been sewn by the mother that lived in that very place we were just then discovering? But what of that pond... was there a source of water then, and what became of it?

“I walked over to the corner, following the directions in the picture. I had noticed that this part of the land had a bit more greenery than the rest of the area. I asked a few of the men to help me check it out, and with shovels we got digging. Were we to find a hidden spring, what used to fill a pond?”

“It wasn’t more than an hour-and-a-half till we noticed that the lower we dug the wetter the soil got. We were on to something now. And by the end of the day, to our great delight, we saw water, clean, pure water, bubbling in a small way.”





“If a well was dug, or a way to channel this water and store it for use in the village, it would be what they needed. Perhaps pipes could be laid later on, and more water channelled from the river somewhat far away. But for now this was a start and would be enough to make this village liveable again.

“The villagers who wanted to help with the work would also make the roofs able to catch the rain and store it for people’s use.

There were enough ideas from everyone to make this abandoned place a new, happy village.

“When I got back to the village that night, I found the lady who gave me that cloth and returned it. I met her great-grandmother, and their family was the first to hear of the miracle of the water discovery, thanks to her picture. She smiled.

“I could tell that she was glad that she could help, in her own way, even though old and frail. She played a big part in the work on the new village.

“When I left the place to begin my trip home, I smiled. Just a simple discovery can bring new inspiration and rejuvenation to a person, a home and a town. And that’s why I love to discover as many helpful and wonderful things as I can.”

Discovery Bear ended his presentation, and everyone clapped. They loved feeling a part of his discoveries and travels.

“And who knows?” he added, “what things we have yet to discover about our own town. Keep your eyes open. There’s fun to be had, and great things to learn and do, if you look for them!”

