

Name _____

Fly to the Rescue

Fluency: Read with Purpose and Understanding Practice

If you choose this fluency passage, print this page. Read the passage silently to yourself. Then practice reading the passage aloud. When you are ready, read the passage aloud to a partner. Focus on reading with purpose and understanding by asking yourself the following questions:

- What is the topic of the selection?
- What is the purpose of the selection?
- How will the topic and purpose influence the way I read?

Fly to the Rescue

A Native American Tale

There was a time when the world was new, and many fish lived in the rippling rivers. A thirsty moose heard about the pure, tantalizing water in the river and came to drink. He drank so much that it seemed the river would soon vanish. In fear of losing their homes, the animals living in and near the river trembled. They wanted to drive the moose away; however, even the big, burly bear felt intimidated by the moose's incredible size.

Finally, a lowly fly volunteered to help. The other animals jeered at him. How could a tiny fly frighten a magnificent moose? The fly waited for the moose to appear, and he flew into action. The fly bit the moose's leg sharply. The moose stamped his foot, but the fly just bit him again.

Every time the moose stamped his foot, the ground sank lower and the water rushed in to refill it. The fly bit the moose all over his body, sending him into quite a frenzy! The moose dashed about, shook his head, stamped his feet, and snorted loudly, but the fly's bites continued unceasingly. At last the moose charged off, never to return. The fly was proud of his achievement and he boasted to the animals that had doubted him, "Even the very small can stand up for their rights."