

Springboard into Comprehension

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Sequencing Life on Venus

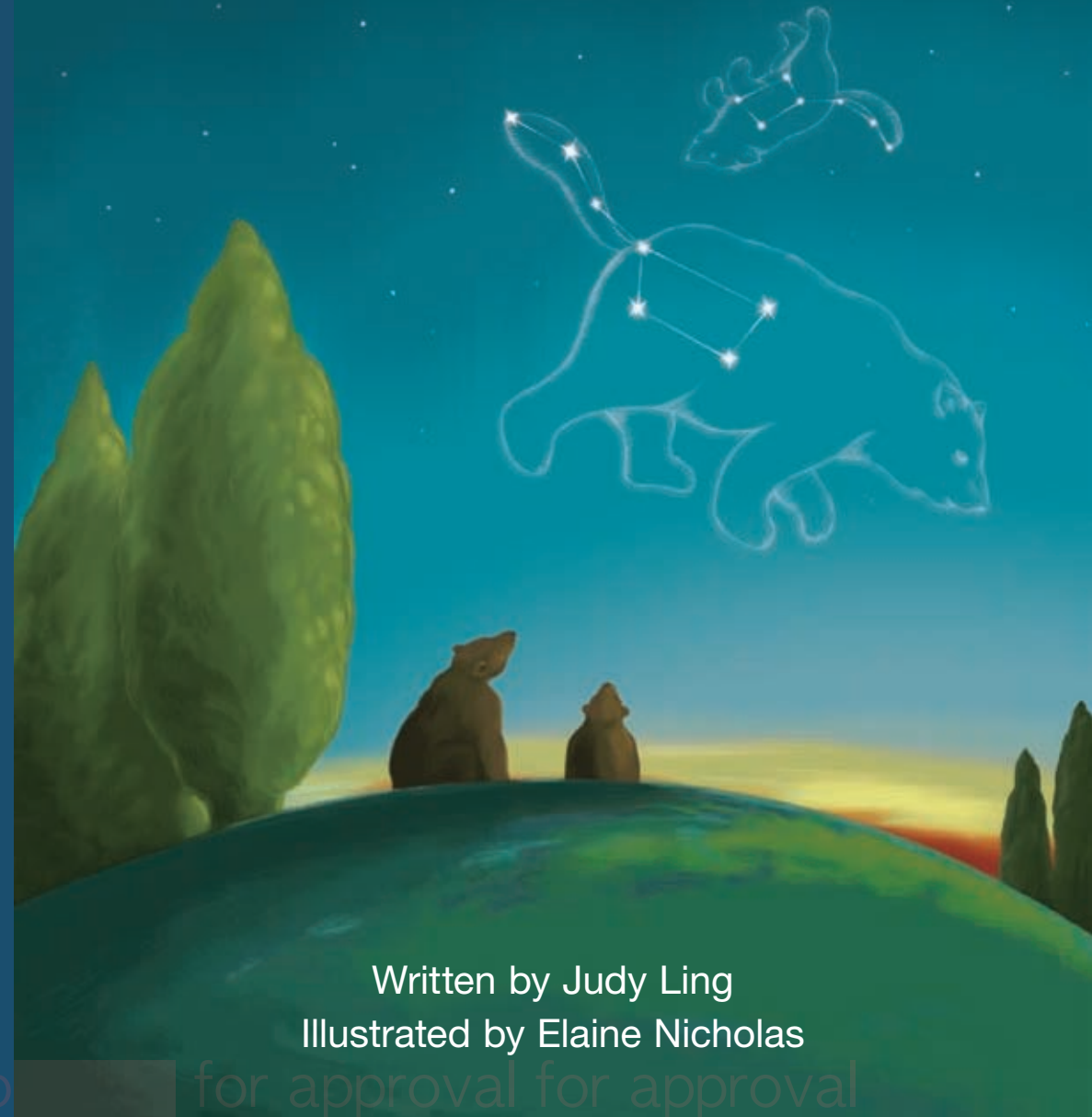
Compare and Contrast Communities of the Desert

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Why Are There Bears in the Sky?



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Illustrated by Elaine Nicholas

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If you look at the sky on a clear summer's night, you will see a group of seven bright stars that look like a soup ladle. There are also other stars that are not so bright. These stars make a pattern. The ancient Greeks called this pattern the Big Bear, because they thought it looked like a bear.

Close by is another pattern of stars called the Little Bear. Both bears have very long tails. They are always high in the sky. They never come close to the ocean, like other stars.

But how did these two bears get into the sky? It all started a very long time ago.



Callisto was a follower of Artemis, the goddess of hunting. Callisto dressed as Artemis dressed. She tied her hair with a white ribbon. She pinned her clothes together with a brooch. She carried a bow in her hand.



One day, Hera, the queen of the gods, heard about Callisto. She heard about how beautiful Callisto was. Hera was the wife of Zeus, the king of the gods. She was a very jealous goddess. She believed that no one else could be more beautiful than her. When she heard about Callisto, Hera was very annoyed.

When she thought about Callisto, Hera became angry. She often heard stories about Callisto. She heard that Callisto was a good hunter. She heard that Callisto lived deep in the forest. She also heard that Callisto had a baby son. Hera was very cruel. She decided to do something to harm both Callisto and her son.

