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IMAGINATION OVER KNOWLEDGE

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## The First Ice Skates

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away called Finland, there were brave hunters who needed to find a way to keep hunting in the winter. It was very cold in Finland and the ground was covered in snow and ice. The hunters couldn't walk or run very well on the slippery ice and going around the ice would take too much time. They also had to find a way to preserve energy, since hunting in winter was hard. So they had to find a way to move around on the ice more easily.

One day, a clever hunter had an idea. He took some leather straps and some bones from animals and tied them to the bottom of his shoes. When he tried them out, he found that he could glide over the ice with ease!

The other hunters were very impressed and they all wanted a pair of ice skates too. Soon, everyone in the village was using ice skates to hunt. And the invention paid off, with the skates they could cover much more ground than on foot while perserving energy.

But the ice skates weren't just useful for hunting. There were many lakes in Finland and in the winter, the



villages would be separated by ice. The people needed a way to get from one village to another, and the ice skates allowed them to travel over the ice safely. They used the ice skates to visit their friends and family in other villages.

Thanks to the ice skates, the people of Finland were able to do all sorts of things in the winter that they couldn't do before. They were able to hunt, visit their friends and family, and even have fun skating around on the ice. And the ice skates became a very important part of Finnish culture and history.