

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Tall Tales

### Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox

Paul Bunyan and his enormous blue ox, Babe, were the greatest lumberjack team the world had ever seen. They could chop down entire forests in a single day without breaking a sweat. But one summer, something truly unusual happened.

The sun had been shining nonstop for weeks, and the rivers were drying up. Paul and Babe were thirsty, and so were the animals in the forest. Paul scratched his chin. "We've got to find water, Babe," he said. Babe let out a low moo and nodded.

Paul decided to dig a giant hole to find water. With his trusty axe, he carved out a path through the forest until he found a flat, open spot. "This looks like a good place," Paul said, gripping his shovel. He dug and dug, while Babe pushed the dirt aside with her massive hooves. After hours of hard work, they finally struck water!

But the water didn't just trickle up—it gushed out like a fountain! It sprayed everywhere, creating a new lake. "What do you think, Babe?" Paul asked as he wiped his brow. Babe trotted over and took a big sip from the cool, fresh lake. Her tail wagged happily, and she mooed in approval.

Soon, animals from all over the forest came to drink from Paul's new lake. Deer, bears, rabbits, and even a few beavers gathered by the water's edge. "Looks like we did a good thing, Babe," Paul said, smiling. Babe mooed again, and this time it sounded like she was laughing.

And so, Paul Bunyan and Babe not only helped the forest but created the bluest lake anyone had ever seen. Some say that if you visit the lake today, you can still see Babe's hoofprints along the shore.

