

The Firebird



A story to accompany the *Firebird* Suite
by Stravinsky

Recording by The Philadelphia Orchestra

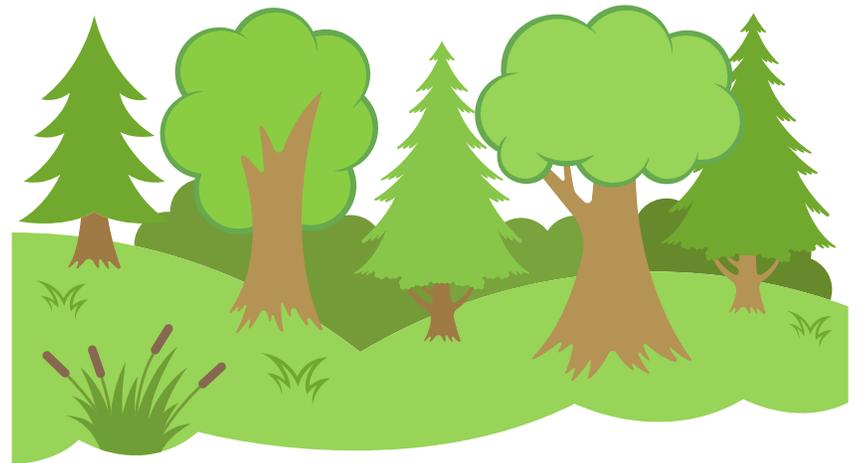


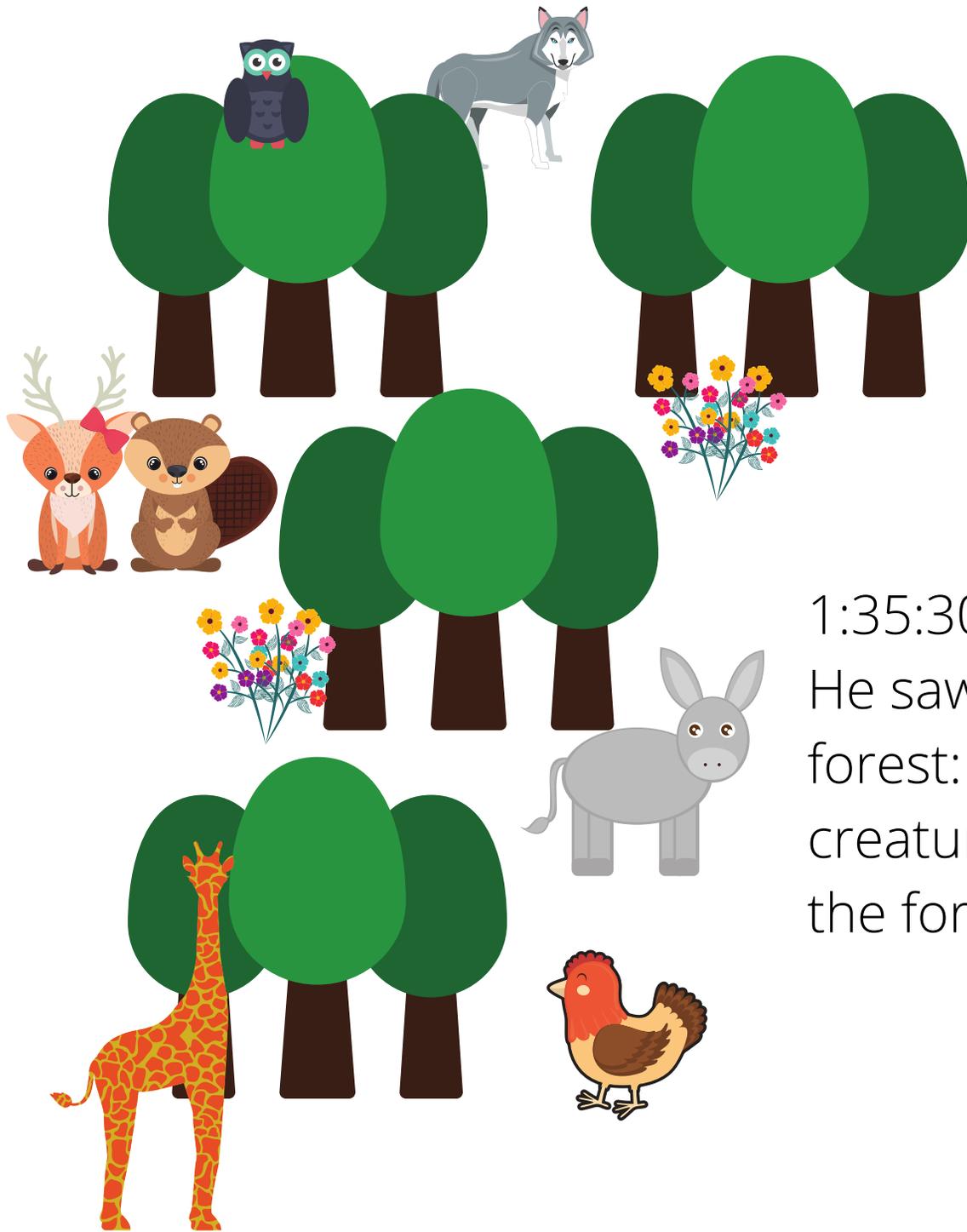
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Once upon a time, in a magical land, there was a prince. His name was Prince Ivan.

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Prince Ivan was never allowed to go to the forest, but one day he decided to go against orders and ventured into the unknown woods.





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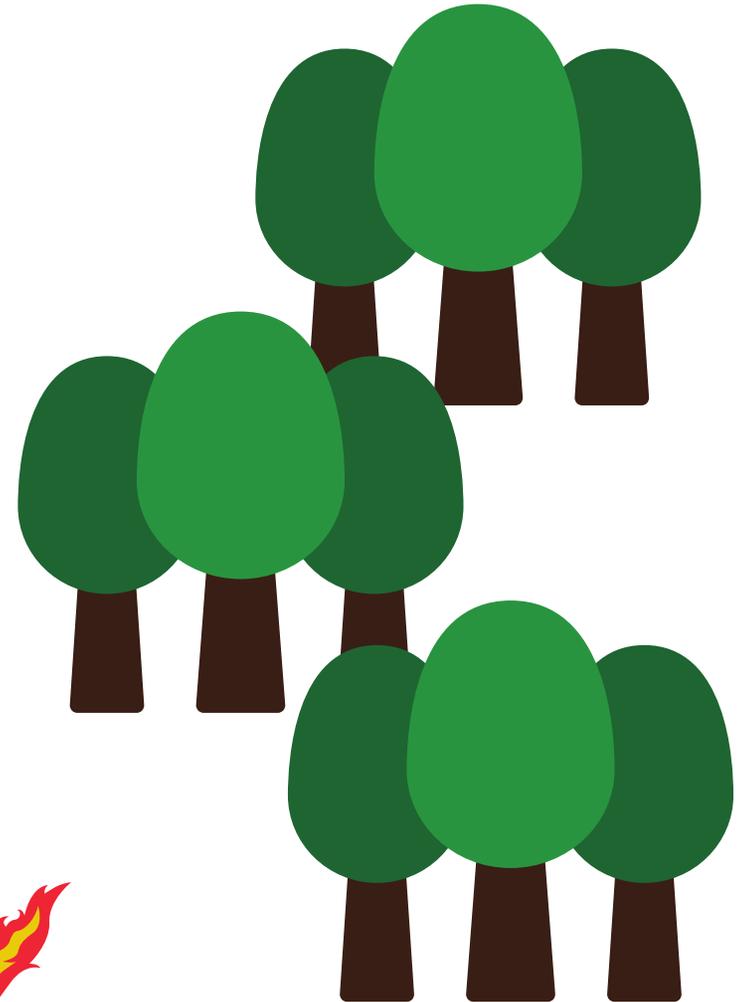
He saw many magical things in the forest: all kinds of birds, plants, and creatures. It was very peaceful in the forest.

1:36:28

Not knowing the forest well, he easily got lost.

1:36:50

Before he started to panic though, he saw a different but beautiful creature approach him. He believed it was a “Firebird,” although he had never seen one before! The creature flew in excitement around Prince Ivan, wanting to play.





1:38:00

As the Firebird got closer, it signaled Prince Ivan to follow. Not knowing what else to do, he agreed. Suddenly they arrived at a big dark castle. It was the magical castle of Kastchei the Deathless. Prince Ivan heard stories about it, but never thought it existed.

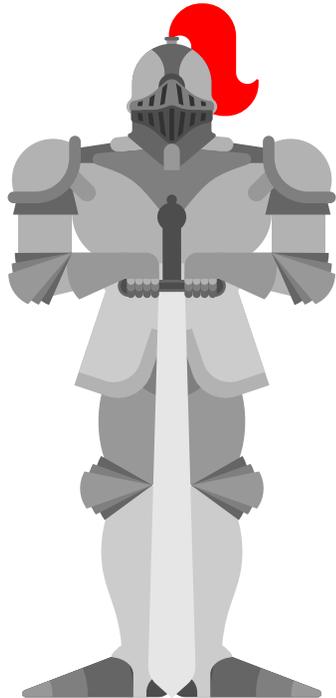
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Prince Ivan peeked inside
and saw 13 princesses
dancing slowly in a circle.
He realized they were the
ones he heard were being
held captive by Kastchei.



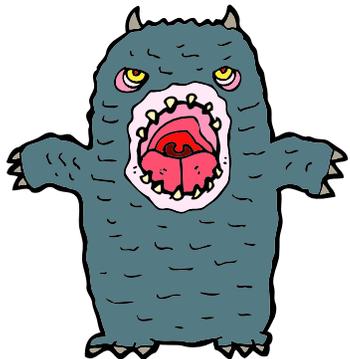
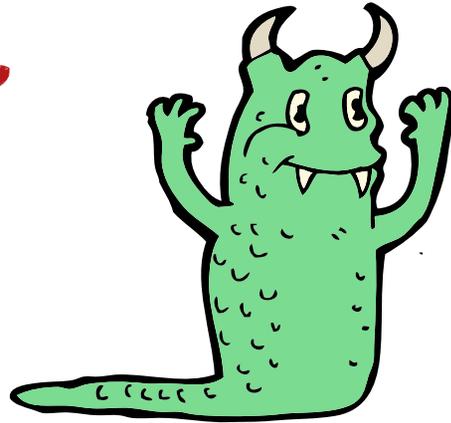
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He also saw many knight stones around the castle. A knight stone was created when a knight tried to rescue the princesses but instead were turned to stone by Kastchei.



1:40:04

Prince Ivan decided he must also try to save the princesses but was afraid that this would be his destiny, too. How could he save the princesses from the evil Kastchei?



1:42:50

With a magic bird on his side, Prince Ivan was a much more valiant knight. To protect him, the Firebird cast a spell over Kastchei and his monstrous troops. The spell made Kastchei and his army dance nonstop, until they were exhausted.

1:47:02

"Hold on!" said the Firebird to Ivan. "In order to release all in captivity, you must destroy Kastchei's soul, which is hidden in an egg."



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They split up and the Firebird lulled the hypnotized Kastchei to sleep.

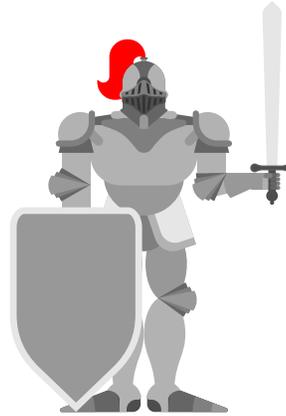
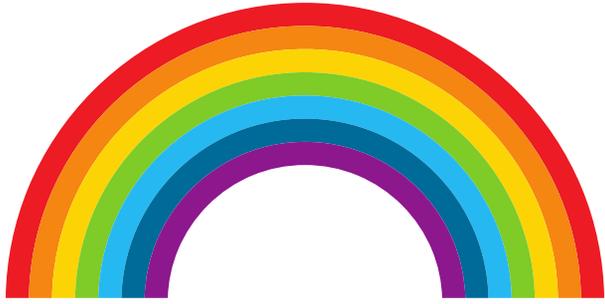
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Prince Ivan found the egg and destroyed it.



1:50:40

Kastchei lost all of his powers, the evil forces disappeared, and the magic castle vanished.



1:52:15

All the knight stones came back to life to comfort the freed princesses. Prince Ivan went off into the distance with the most beautiful princess, who became his bride. The dark woods began to fill with light and everyone danced to joyous music.