FireFlies

THE KID'S SAFETY SOURCE

Feature Firefighter

Meet Firefighter Roy Mason

His friends call him Bear because he is a big huggable guy. He drives the tiller on Ladder 10. The tiller is the back of the Ladder Truck. The Ladder Truck is so long that specially trained drivers, like Bear, steer the back of the truck through traffic. Driving the tiller is a very important job. When the truck gets to the emergency, Bear either helps with search and rescue or cuts holes in the roofs of burning buildings. This lets the smoke out so the other firefighters can see where they are going.

Bear was born in Panama City, Panama. That is in Central America. Can you find it on a map? He moved to the United States when he was nine years old. He can speak both Spanish and English. He is bilingual. He moved to Seattle because he likes beautiful mountains and green trees. He has been a firefighter at Station 10 in Pioneer Square for over 20 years.

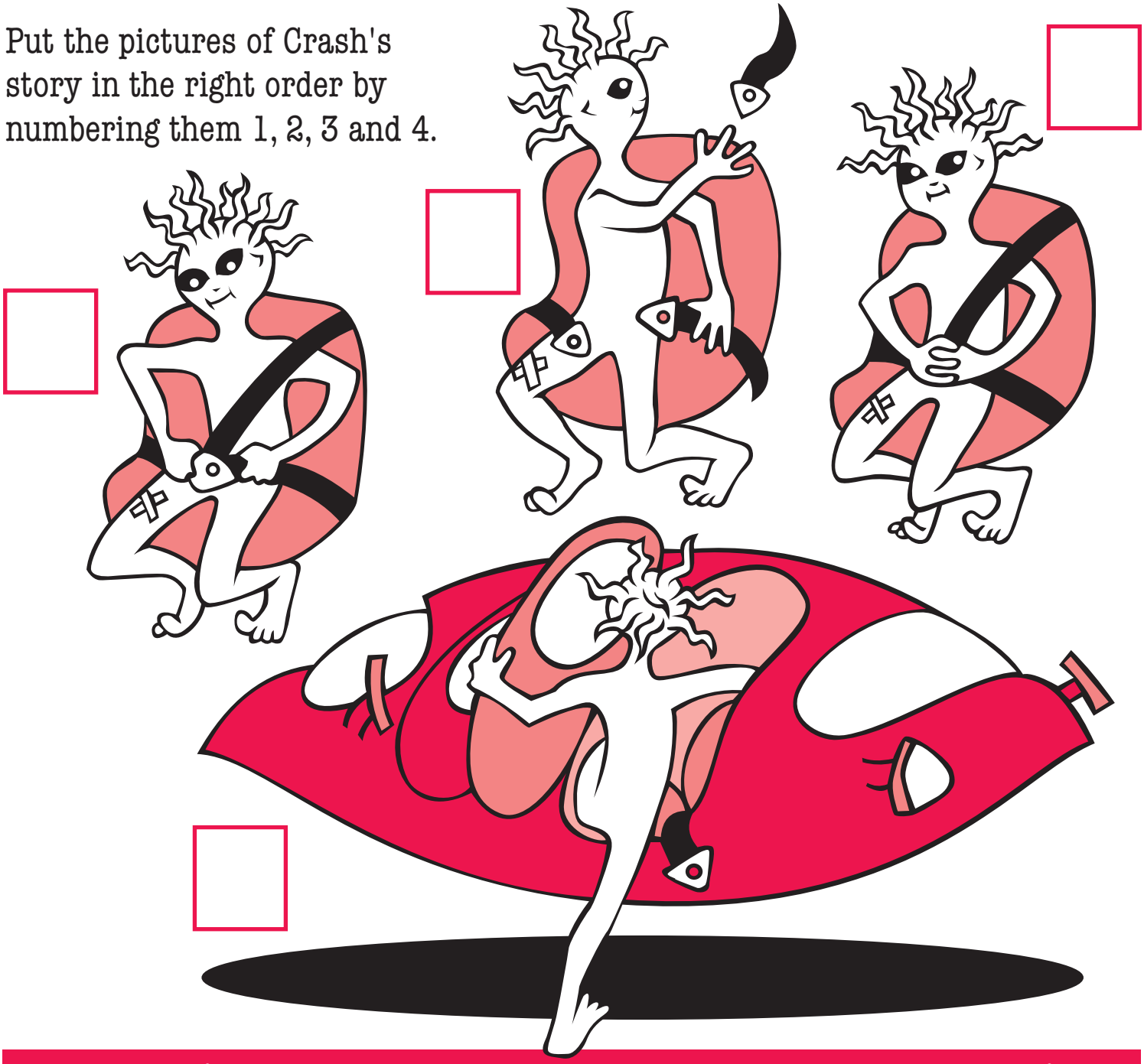
Ask Bear how he stays safe when driving the tiller through the streets of downtown Seattle and he will tell you that there are three important things he always does. The first thing is he always puts on his seatbelt. The second thing he does is adjust all the mirrors so he can see all around him. Third, he puts on his headset so he can talk with the driver of the fire truck. The driver and Bear work as a close team. They are both driving the same truck at the same time and have to work together.

Bear wants you to know that there are important things you can do to be safe in a car. "Always ride buckled up" he says, "and check to make sure everyone else is buckled up, too." Kids should be quiet so the driver can focus on the road. All of these things will help you stay safe, like Bear. He taught these things to his kids so they can be safe drivers and passengers. He wants you to be safe too.

Abroche su cinturón de seguridad is Spanish for Buckle your seatbelt.

Make it click!

Wearing a seatbelt when you ride in a car is very important. Just ask Firefighter Bear Mason.

Crash thinks it is important to wear a seatbelt whenever riding in the car (or space ship). When Crash's mom drives the family to the store, Crash rides in the back seat. It is safer there. Crash always wears a seatbelt and never takes it off while the car is moving. Crash is careful to be very good and quiet in the car so the driver can pay attention to the road.

Put the pictures of Crash's story in the right order by numbering them 1, 2, 3 and 4.