In the East African savanna there lived a group of animals. It had not rained for 11 months. The land was dry.
The animals were hungry and thirsty. Lion called everyone together for a great meeting.
Elephant suggested digging to find water. Lion agreed with Elephant.
Rabbit suggested that someone go to Mother Nature.
Cheetah was the only one who knew where Mother Nature lived. Someone had to go to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.
The small jumping animals, with Rabbit as their leader, decided to go first. There were Rabbit, Frog, and Grasshopper. They got half way up, and got too tired.
Winged animals, with Owl as their leader, tried next. There were Owl, Hawk, and Blue jay. But they quit half way up, too, because they were weak for not having water for a long time.
Then the climbing animals, led by Monkey, decided to try. There were Monkey, Gorilla, and Cheetah. They made it almost to the top, but they started slipping on snow and ice.
Gecko decided to try. Everyone told him to give up. But he wouldn’t give up.
He made it all the way to the top. Mother Nature told Gecko to say, “Apiwa yusacedi,” just as the sun was setting.
Gecko began the climb down.
Lizard and Scorpion met Gecko on the way down, and told him, “Give us the magic word, in case something happens to you.” He told them to say, “Apiwa Yusa.”
They laughed at Gecko and ran down the mountain ahead of him. At the bottom of the mountain they stood on a great rock. They claimed to be the ones to reach Mother Nature. Everyone was excited.
They called out, “Apiwa Yusa! Apiwa Yusa!” but nothing happened.
Finally Gecko arrived. He stood on the rock and shouted, “Apiwa yusacedi!” Thunder roared. The clouds broke. Rain descended on everything. Gecko became the new leader of all the animals.
Lizard and Scorpion had to run away.