

Additional Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions

Setting & Overview: Montana to North Dakota; 1801. From the moment an enemy tribe captures Shoshoni Naya Nuki in 1801, she plans an escape. She hides a buffalo skin and a knife, waits for a stormy day, and starts to run the thousand miles back to her people. She eats little and moves cautiously and quickly until she reaches her people over a month after she sets out.

Q: Why do the Shoshoni people move around? [chapter 1]

A: if they grew hungry, they wandered to look for food—they were hunter/gatherers, not farmers

Look at the map on p. 6, then find that area on a larger map of the United States.

Q: When the enemy tribe attacked, how did the Shoshoni people try to protect themselves? [chapter 2]

A: the women and children hid, the men tried to defend themselves with bows and arrows against the firesticks of the enemy

Q: How does Naya Nuki plan her escape? [chapter 3]

A: she watches the landscape carefully for a route and hiding places

Q: How does Naya Nuki work toward her escape? [chapter 4]

A: she becomes a model prisoner; she found a knife and stole a buffalo skin, made moccasins, and hid food; she waited for rainy weather to hide her steps from dogs, and memorized the patterns of people in the village

Q: What types of challenges does Naya Nuki experience? [chapter 6]

A: hunger, enemies nearby, cold, aloneness, wild animals, long distance (almost 1,000 miles) weather, dangerous terrain, river crossing

Q: What food does Naya Nuki find? [chapter 7]

A: wild artichokes, berries, and carrots

Q: Why does Naya Nuki not pick up the tempting items beneath the burial platform? [chapter 9]

A: taboos — she was afraid the Great Spirit would kill her

Q: How does Naya Nuki escape the grizzly bear? [chapter 9]

A: she ran as fast as she could and zigzagged because the bear could only run quickly in a straight line and she climbed a tree and stayed there all night

Q: What does Naya Nuki use to catch food? [chapter 10]

A: snares

Q: How does she get new skin for moccasins? [chapter 10]

A: she finds about 200 buffalo dead under a cliff, chased over the side by braves

Q: What almost stops Naya Nuki's trip? [chapter 11]

A: very bad illness

Q: How does Naya Nuki care for herself? [chapter 11]

A: she rests and finds a sulfur spring, from which she drinks and later bathes

Q: How is Naya Nuki almost captured? [chapter 12]

A: she comes over a rise and braves are riding right toward her; she hides behind a fallen log and a dog almost tracks her but is distracted by several jackrabbits

Q: What man-made items does Naya Nuki see that tells her she is almost home? [chapter 13]

A: a road and shelters made by the Shoshoni people

Q: Where does Naya Nuki stay in the snowstorm? [chapter 14]

A: she makes a snow-proof Shoshoni shelter

Q: How does Naya Nuki survive on her trip home? [chap. 15]

A: she eats little and drinks much, moves only when she feels confident that all is safe about her, escapes a grizzly, and finds food when needed

Q: Four years later, who does Naya Nuki see? [Epilogue]

A: Sacagawea with Lewis and Clark