

The Adventures of Mo

Teacher-Parent Guide

Chapters 1-15

©2024 Carol Patton, LLC

Chapter 1: Alaska

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. The animals in this chapter – a moose, polar bear, caribou, wolf, eagle, and reindeer – are native to Alaska.
- b. An ocean is mentioned.
- c. Alaska's state motto is North to the Future.
- d. Mo's home, Tongass (National Forest), is in Alaska.

Questions for Kids

1. What US states surround Alaska? (None. The state is in the extreme Northwestern portion of North America. It's bordered by Canada on the east, the Beaufort Sea and Arctic Ocean in the north, the Bering Sea and the Chukchi Sea in the west, and the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Alaska in the south.)
2. Mo is a white fluffy dog. Actually, he's an American Eskimo. In what US state do Eskimos live? (Alaska) What are Eskimos? (Native Americans who live in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and eastern Siberia.) Where are Canada, Greenland and Siberia?
3. Blue the whale thought Florida was in the Lower Forty-eight. What is the Lower Forty-Eight? (The Continental US or the lower 48 US states in North America.)
4. Mo wondered if he would ever return to Tongass. What and where is Tongass? (Tongass National Forest is in Juneau, Alaska). Can you find it on a map?
5. Many people visit Alaska to see the Northern Lights. What are they? (Also called aurora borealis, they are a spectacular display of colored lights commonly seen in the night sky in the northern hemisphere. These lights are caused by the interaction of the Earth's magnetic field and the Sun's solar wind.)
6. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race, known as the Iditarod, is an annual, 1,000-mile dog sled race in Alaska. It travels from Anchorage to Nome. Do you know what inspired

this race? (In 1925, children in Nome were dying of diphtheria. The nearest batch of medicine was in Anchorage, more than 1,000 miles away. Since sled dogs were used to deliver mail. The best drivers and dog teams were recruited to stage a round-the-clock relay to transport the serum.)

7. Alaska is the largest state in the country and twice the size of the second largest state. Do you know this state's name? (Texas)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. If you were Mo, would you leave your family, friends, and home to find the owner of the lost key? Why or why not?
2. Did you ever try to do something you were afraid of? (For example, learn how to swim?)
3. Share something you'd like to do now but have been afraid to try. How can you overcome your fear?

Chapter 2: Washington

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. The Space Needle is a famous observation tower in Seattle.
- b. Elliot Bay is in the Central Basin of Puget Sound. It's surrounded by the city of Seattle. Puget Sound is a sound or basin on the northwestern coast of the state of Washington.
- c. Everett and Tacoma are two cities in the state.

Questions for Kids

1. How many US states border Washington? (Just two: Oregon in the south and Idaho in the east.)
2. What province and country border Washington in the north? (British Columbia, Canada)
3. What ocean borders the state in the west? (Pacific Ocean in the west.)
4. What state grows the most apples in the US? (Washington has been the leading apple-growing state since the early 1920s.)
5. What's the only state to be named after a US president? (Washington)

6. Washington is one of eight states that have glaciers. Can you name other states with glaciers? (Alaska, Oregon, California, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Nevada.)
7. There are five major volcanoes within the state of Washington. Can you name one? (Mount Baker, Mount Adams, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, and Mount St. Helens, which erupted in 1980.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. If you were Mo, would you travel with Finchy to find the owner of the lost key? Why or why not?
2. Do you make quick judgements about kids at school you don't really know or rely on what other kids say about them?
3. Would you like to be judged by other kids who don't really know you?

Chapter 3: New Mexico

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy were visiting Chaco Culture National Historical Park. It's located in northwestern New Mexico, between Albuquerque and Farmington, in a remote canyon cut by the Chaco Wash.
- b. One man's shirt had the city "Albuquerque" printed on it.
- c. The Anasazi lived in the area 1,000 years ago.
- d. The truck driver is meeting someone in Sante Fe, a city in New Mexico.

Questions for Kids

1. In what part of the country is New Mexico? (It's in the Southwestern region of the US. It is one of the Mountain States of the southern Rocky Mountains, sharing the Four Corners region with Utah, Colorado, and Arizona.)
2. Can you find Chaco Culture National Historical Park on a US map? (It's in the northwestern part of New Mexico.)
3. Can you find Albuquerque and Sante Fe on a US map?
4. Who were the Anasazi, also called "Ancestral Pueblo" or "Ancestral Puebloan." They were ancient Native Americans who once lived in the Four Corners region of the United States. Where is the Four corners? What states make up the four corners?

(Southeastern Utah, northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and southwestern Colorado.)

5. What do you think happened to the Anasazi? After living in the Four Corners for more than 1,000 years, they were gone. (Scientists believe that a megadrought, deforestation and topsoil erosion made it impossible to grow enough food to feed the tens of thousands of people living in the region. So they left their homes at Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde in search of a better life elsewhere.)
6. If you could talk to the Anasazi, what questions would you ask them about how they lived or what happened to them?

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Mo wanted to return the t-shirt, cap, and sunglasses he borrowed from the gift shop. He wasn't a thief. Did you ever take something that didn't belong to you? Did you ever borrow something and not return it?
2. How did it make you feel? Would you do it again? Why or why not?
3. How would you feel if someone took something from you? Would you respect and trust someone who stole?

Chapter 4: Idaho

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy were in the Sawtooth Mountains.
- b. Ketchum is a city in Idaho.
- c. The Basques mainly live in three US states: California, Nevada, and Idaho.
- d. Potatoes are named after Idaho.

Questions for Kids

1. Idaho borders six states and a province in a different country. Can you name them?
 - a. West: Washington and Oregon
 - b. South: Nevada and Utah
 - c. East: Montana and Wyoming.
 - d. North: British Columbia, Canada
2. If you flattened all of Idaho's mountains, the state would be the size of the second largest US state. What is this state? (Texas)

3. Who were the Basques? (They were from Southwestern Europe—mostly Spain and France. They traveled to California because of the Gold Rush of 1849. When they didn't find any gold, some moved to Idaho and also Nevada to find work like herd sheep.)
4. What is the name of Idaho's longest river? (The Snake River, which is 779 miles long.)
5. What other states does the Snake River enter? (It starts in Wyoming, arcs across southern Idaho, and turns north along the Idaho-Oregon border. The river then enters Washington and flows west to the Columbia River.)
6. Idaho is full of gems and nicknamed "The Gem State". What kinds of gems can you find in the state? (The state produces 72 types of gemstones, including rare star garnets, amethysts, rubies, and diamonds.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. By planting the garden on the roof of the delivery truck, Finchy not only did something nice for Mo, but showed him how much he cared.
2. What have you done recently to show someone that you care?
3. How did it make you and the other person feel?

Chapter 5-Arizona

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Tohono O'odham Reservation is in Arizona.
- b. Kitt Peak National Observatory is in Arizona.
- c. Casa Grande is a city in Arizona.

Questions for Kids

1. What states and country does Arizona border?
 - a. Northwest: Nevada
 - b. North: Utah
 - c. East: New Mexico
 - d. West: California
 - e. South: Mexico

2. Scientists live at Kitt Peak National Observatory. What do they do? (They use optical and radio telescopes to study outer space and try to improve life on Earth.)
3. What questions would you ask the scientists about outer space? What would you like to learn?
4. What famous National Park is in Arizona and Utah? (Grand Canyon)
5. What crashed in Northern Arizona more than 50,000 years ago? (A meteor that weighed several hundred thousand tons. The crash site is called Meteor Crater and also Barringer Meteor Crater, the largest impact crater discovered in the United States.)
6. This type of cactus lives in Southern Arizona and is the largest cactus in the US. It's a large, tree-sized cactus that can live up to 250 years, grow up to 60 feet tall, and take more than 50 years to grow its first arm. What's the name of this cactus? (Saguaro Cactus.)
7. About 1,000 years ago, a group of Native Americans lived in Southern Arizona. They were farmers known for building hundreds of miles of canals throughout the valley to irrigate their crops. Then they disappeared. What was their name? (Hohokam Indians)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Finchy was brave by snatching that piece of paper from the scientist. Have you done something brave like learn how to swim, start a new school, or stand up to a bully? What happened?
2. Did you ever help someone do something brave? How did it make you feel?
3. Being brave or courageous can help you grow and learn. What lessons have you learned?

Chapter 6-Montana

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Elvis, a 77-million-year-old dinosaur lives here.
- b. Phillips County Museum is in this state.
- c. Blaine County and Treasure County are in Montana
- d. Archeologists discovered many dinosaur skeletons, bones, and skulls along the dinosaur trail in Montana.

Questions for Kids

1. Montana shares a border with four states and three Canadian provinces . Can you name them?
 - a. East: North Dakota and South Dakota
 - b. South: Wyoming
 - c. West: Idaho
 - d. North: British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, which are Canadian provinces.
2. Montana was home to some of the most famous dinosaurs, such as Edmontosaurus, Triceratops, and Tyrannosaurus. What did they look like? What did they eat? How did they live?
3. What's the weather like in Montana? Does it have four seasons? Would you need a winter jacket and gloves? (It has four seasons. The coldest temperature ever recorded in the Lower 48 states was 70 degrees below zero in Rogers Pass, Montana in 1954.)
4. Glacier National Park in Montana contains 7,000-year-old glaciers. What is a glacier? (They are huge, thick masses of ice. They form when lots of snow falls in one location for many years. Over decades , even centuries, the snow on the bottom gets squished down by the weight of falling new snow. This compressed snow becomes ice, forming a glacier.)
5. Montana is home to the world's shortest river. It's only 201 feet long. What is its name? (The Roe River in Great Falls.) The state is also home to the longest flowing (undammed) river in the country at 692 miles long. What is its name? (Yellowstone River.)
6. In Montana, there are twice as many (fill in the name of an animal) as there are people. Can you name the animal? (There are nearly twice as many cows as people.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Do you think the cats were mean to Mo and Finchy by tricking them? Why or why not?
2. Did you ever play a mean trick on your family or friends? What happened? Did they get scared or angry?
3. Did anyone play a mean or scary trick on you? How did that make you feel?

Chapter 7-Wyoming

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote.
- b. It has the smallest population of any state.
- c. Cody, Wyoming, is five hours (driving time) from Devil's Tower in Wyoming.
- d. Jackson and Cheyenne are cities in Wyoming.

Questions for Kids

1. What six states surround Wyoming?

North: Montana

South: Colorado

East: South Dakota and Nebraska

West: Idaho

Southwest: Utah

2. What famous national park is in this state? (Yellowstone, which is the home of Old Faithful, a hot-water geyser.)
3. What's the state's biggest city? Hint: it's also the state capitol. (Cheyenne)
4. A famous national park is located in Wyoming in a valley called Jackson Hole. What's the name of this national park? (Grand Teton National Park)
5. This city in Wyoming was named after Buffalo Bill. What is its name? (Cody. William Frederick Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, was an American soldier, bison hunter, and showman.)
6. Wyoming's nickname is the Equality State for two key reasons. It was the first state to allow women to serve on juries and hold public office. It elected the country's first female governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, who served from 1925-1927. Do you know the second reason? (It was also the first state to grant women the right to vote.)
7. Wyoming has the smallest population of any US state. Which state has the most residents? (California has the largest population of any US state.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. The dogs at this powwow couldn't agree on anything, yet they were good friends. Do you always agree with your family or friends?

2. If you disagree with someone, do you get mad? Do you argue?
3. What should you do when people disagree with you?

Chapter 8-Oregon

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Bend is a city in Oregon.
- b. The Deschutes River is in Central Oregon
- c. Springfield and Eugene are cities in Oregon.

Questions for Kids

1. What states and ocean border Oregon?
 - a. North: Washington
 - b. South: California
 - c. East: Idaho
 - d. Southeast: Nevada
 - e. West: Pacific Ocean
2. Oregon has the deepest lake in the country. What's its name? (Crater Lake.)
3. In 1997, elementary school students requested that the state legislature designate this as its official state beverage. It did. What's the beverage? (Milk.)
4. Where is the deepest canyon in the country? Hint: It's not the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Utah. Can you name it? (At 7,913 feet deep, Hells Canyon is deeper than the Grand Canyon by almost 2,000 feet.)
5. Portland, Oregon is one of four American cities that has an extinct, dormant volcano within city limits. Do you know its name? (Mount Tabor) What are the other three cities? (Pilot Butte in Bend, Oregon, Jackson Volcano in Jackson, Mississippi, and Diamond Head in Honolulu.)
6. The name of which city in Oregon was decided by a coin toss? (Portland. The city's founders were two settlers – one from Boston and the other from Portland, Maine. Both wanted to name the city after their hometowns so they settled for a coin toss.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Did Mo put himself in danger by using the paddle board on the river? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever tried something dangerous? What happened?
3. Would you try something dangerous if other kids dared you or if you wanted to impress someone? Imagine the consequences of your actions. What could happen if something went wrong? Could you hurt herself or perhaps someone else?

Chapter 9-Utah

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Since the last chapter – Oregon – Mo and Finchy traveled along I-84 East.
- b. Great Salt Lake and Ogden are both in Utah.
- c. The name of the business center was “Something” (Utah) Data Center.

Questions for Kids

1. In what part of the country is Utah? (Utah is in the Southwest region of the US). What six states border Utah?
 - a. North: Idaho and Wyoming
 - b. East: Colorado
 - c. South: Arizona
 - d. West: Nevada
 - e. Southeast: New Mexico
2. Utah’s southeastern corner touches Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. It’s the only place in the country where four states come together. What is this area called? (Four Corners.)
3. This data center is nicknamed Bumblehive. What is it’s real name? (Utah Data Center. Alternate name: The Intelligence Community Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative Data Center.)
4. What does this data center do? (It processes and stores information to help strengthen and protect our country.)
5. What’s unique about the Great Salt Lake? (It’s two to nine times saltier than the ocean. It’s even too salty to support fish.)
6. What’s the capital of this state? Hint: It’s the only capital in this country with three words. (Salt Lake City.)

7. In this adventure, Finchy uses a computer to search for Florida. He discovers a chain of islands off the southern coast of Florida. What is their name? (Florida Keys.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Mo and Finchy were caught in a restricted area doing something they weren't supposed to be doing. Did you ever caught doing something you were told not to do? If so, what happened?
2. Did you tell the truth or say something that wasn't true to avoid getting into trouble?
3. Telling the truth makes you feel good about yourself and earns the respect of those around you. Although people won't always like what you have to say, they will trust and respect you.

Chapter 10- Minnesota

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Since leaving Utah, Mo and Finchy traveled for two days along I-94 east.
- b. Moorhead, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul are cities in Minnesota.
- c. The mansion on Summit Avenue is a popular tourist attraction – the James J. Hill House.

Questions for Kids

1. What states and Canadian provinces surround Minnesota?
 - a. North: Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Ontario
 - b. West: North Dakota and South Dakota
 - c. South: Iowa
 - d. East: Wisconsin and Lake Superior
2. What is this state's nickname for Minneapolis and Saint Paul? (Twin cities.)
3. How many lakes are in this state? (It's known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" but some claim it has more than 15,000 lakes.)
4. Minnesota is home to the second largest lake in the world. What is its name? Hint: It's one of the Great Lakes. (Lake Superior. The Caspian Sea in Central Asia is considered the world's largest lake. It's almost five times the size of Lake Superior.)

5. What is Minnesota's largest animal? (Moose, which live in the northwestern and northeastern parts of the state and can weigh more than 1,000 pounds.)
6. Minnesota is also known for the world's biggest skyway. Downtown Minneapolis has a nine-mile-long system of aboveground walkways that stretches between city buildings on more than 73 blocks. The city also has the world's biggest (fill in the blank) in the country. Hint: This is where people shop. (Mall of America, the nation's biggest mall, has more than 500 stores, a seven-acre amusement park, and full-size roller coasters inside. It's about the size of 78 football fields!)
7. Alaska is the most northern US state. Which state is second? (Minnesota)
8. Minnesota ranks among the country's 10 coldest states. Can you name the others? (Alaska, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Maine, Vermont, and Iowa.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Why do you think Finchy didn't ask Kit questions about building nests?
2. Were you ever embarrassed because you didn't know the answer to a question? What happened?
3. Asking questions shows that you're curious, helps you learn, and makes you smarter.

Chapter 11: Texas

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Armadillos are most commonly found in the central and southernmost United States, particularly Texas.
- b. After leaving Minnesota, Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 35 South to Interstate 40 West.
- c. Dallas is a city in Texas.
- d. The truck driver talked about a Panhandle.
- e. Amarillo is a city in Texas.

Questions for Kids

1. What four states, body of water, and country border Texas?
 - a. North and Northeast: Oklahoma

- b. East: Arkansas, Louisiana, and the Gulf of Mexico
 - c. Northeast: Arkansas and Louisiana
 - d. Northwest: New Mexico.
 - e. Southwest: Mexico
2. Name the three rivers that define the borders of Texas. (The Red River forms the border between Texas and neighboring states to the north. The Sabine River forms the border with Louisiana to the east. The Rio Grande river forms the international boundary between the state of Texas and Mexico.)
 3. After Mo and Finchy left Minnesota, how many states did Mo and Finchy cross to get to Texas? (Four) What are the names of these states? (Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma)
 4. Amarillo is a Spanish word. What does it mean? (Yellow). Translate these Spanish words: “Gracias, mi ago”. (Thank you, my friend.)
 5. Every year on June 19, a federal holiday that started in Texas celebrates the freedom of enslaved people at the end of the Civil War. What is the name of this holiday? (Juneteenth)
 6. Texas is the only US state to have the flags of six different nations fly over it. Can you name them? (Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, United States, and the Confederate States of America. That’s how Six Flags amusement park got its name!)
 7. What are the names of the three most populated cities in Texas? (Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas)
 8. In 1836, there was a famous battle in San Antonio during the Texas Revolution for independence from Mexico. What was this battle’s name? (The Alamo.)
 9. Amarillo has the world’s largest supply of this gas that’s often used to blow up birthday balloons. What is the name of this gas? (Helium. Amarillo is known as the “Helium capital of the world.”)
 10. Bracken Cave outside of San Antonio, Texas, has the world’s largest colony of these flying mammals. What is this animal? (Bats. This cave is home to over 15 million Mexican free-tailed bats.)
 11. NASA's Johnson Space Center leads the International Space Station operations and missions and other advanced human exploration projects. Where is it located in Texas? (Houston)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

- 1 How do you think people will live and work in the year 2968?
- 2 Will kids still go to school? How will they learn? What sports will they play? What food will they eat?
- 2 What would you put inside a time capsule? What would you want people in the future to know about how you and your family and friends lived?

Chapter 12: Nevada

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. The truck driver is headed for a city called Pahrump, which is in Nevada.
- b. Ben and Maggie are going to Pahrump to search for buried treasure—silver. (Millions of dollars in silver may still be buried in Pahrump on ranch land that was once owned by Las Vegas casino heir Ted Binion. This was a national story for many years. May be fun to discuss.)
- c. The truck driver drives on State Road 160 and along a mountain pass called Mountain Springs Summit. (This mountain pass is in the Spring Mountains of Southern Nevada.)

Questions for Kids

1. What five states border Nevada?
 - a. North: Oregon and Idaho
 - b. East: Utah
 - c. Southeast: Arizona
 - d. West: California
2. Aliens are given their own highway in Nevada that passes through a town called Rachel, the only town on the 98-mile route. What is the name of this highway? (Extraterrestrial Highway.) Rachel is also the closest town to Area 51, a mysterious and classified area of the US Air Force.
3. What's the most populated city in Nevada? (Las Vegas)
4. What is the Las Vegas Strip? (It's a 4-mile stretch of road that has more hotel rooms than any other city in the world.)

5. Nevada was the first state to ratify the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution. What is the 15th Amendment? (It prohibits the federal government from denying citizens the right to vote based on their race, color or if they were former slaves.)
6. Nevada is the driest state in the US and also the most mountainous in the Lower 48. It has over 300 mountain ranges. What is the Lower 48? (This country consists of 50 states, but 48 are connected or adjoined. They are called the Lower 48.)
7. Can you name the two states that are not part of the Lower 48? (Alaska and Hawaii)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Do you think silver is still buried on Binion's ranch? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever been on a scavenger or treasure hunt? What were you searching for? Did you find it?
3. What would you do if you found millions of dollars of silver on Binion's ranch? Would you keep it? Donate it? Start a business?

Chapter 13: Wisconsin

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy drove from Nevada along Interstate 80 for more than two days, veered off State Highway 67, and then headed for a town called Eagle.
- b. Many of the cars on the highway had license plates with the same words: America's Dairyland.
- c. They were less than one hour from Milwaukee, a city in Wisconsin.
- d. Elkhorn was south of their location.
- e. Betsy gave Mo and Finchy a goodbye gift – cheddar cheese – and said, "Everyone in the world knows we make the best cheese".

Questions for Kids

1. Wisconsin is bordered by five states and two Great Lakes. What are their names?
 - a. North: Minnesota, Michigan, and Lake Superior
 - b. East: Lake Michigan
 - c. South: Illinois
 - d. West: Iowa and Minnesota

2. What do the German words “Guten morgen” mean? (Good morning in German. Germans were the largest immigrant group to settle in Wisconsin in the 19th century.)
3. How many Great Lakes are there? (Five) Can you name them? (To help kids remember, use the acronym HOMES: Lakes Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.)
4. Wisconsin is one of the nation's leading dairy producers and is known as "America's Dairyland". What dairy product is the state known for? (Cheese)
5. While Minnesota is called the “Land of Lakes’, what other state claims approximately 15,000 lakes? (Wisconsin. But many are unnamed, small lakes that would be considered ponds in Minnesota!)
6. What is the largest city in Wisconsin? (Milwaukee)
7. There are 22 islands in Lake Superior off the Bayfield Peninsula in northern Wisconsin. What are they called? (The Apostle Islands). Do people live on these islands? (Only one island is inhabited. The Town of La Pointe on Madeline Island.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy work with many different animals to make the world’s best and biggest apple pie. Do you have friends that are different than you? (Different race, religion or nationality? Maybe they speak a different language at home than at school?)
2. Do you reach out to kids who are different than you to be friends? Why or why not?
3. Consider stepping out of your comfort zone by making friends with kids who are different than you. Their thoughts or ideas may be different than your own, but can give you more skills and knowledge, help you respect the differences in people, and better understand the world you live in.

Chapter 14: North Dakota

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. After leaving Wisconsin, Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 94 West and then veered off exit 72. They traveled south on a county highway between Gladstone and Regent.

- b. The Enchanted Highway (chapter title that's also mentioned in the story) is a 32-mile stretch of highway that features some of the world's largest scrap metal sculptures.

Questions for Kids

1. Where is North Dakota? It's bordered by a country, two Canadian provinces, and three states:
 - a. North: The Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
 - b. East: Minnesota
 - c. South: South Dakota
 - d. West: Montana
2. One of the metal sculptures along the Enchanted Highway is Teddy Roosevelt. Who was he? (He was the country's twenty-sixth president.)
3. The state is also home to the International Peace Garden on the border with Canada. What is it? (It's a park or garden that symbolizes the friendship between the two countries. You can walk from the United States to Canada and back!)
4. This state holds the Guinness World Record for making the most of these. Any idea what they made? Here's a hint? It involves snow. (In Feb. 2007, 8,962 people made snow angels at the state capitol grounds.)
5. North Dakota is known for its Badlands, which are part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. President Roosevelt said the Badlands do not seem to belong to this earth. Why do you think he said that? Check out the online photos, such as those from the National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery-item.htm?pg=3079955&id=2c467f47-1dd8-b71b-ob86-daa9dc853b76&gid=CE3E23D6-1DD8-B71B-0B055A042D85AC3D> How would you describe the Badlands to your friends?
6. William Clark and Meriwether Lewis spent more time in North Dakota than any other place on their journey. Who were Lewis and Clark? Why were they famous? (They led a U.S. military expedition—the Corps of Discovery—to explore the Louisiana Purchase (which are now 15 states) and the Pacific Northwest.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy consider how they can improve their community when they return home. What have you done to make your school or community a better place?

2. What other things can you do, such as help your neighbor plant a garden or collect blankets to donate to animal shelters? Get creative.
3. How do these tasks or projects make you feel? Do you understand how you're helping your community?

Chapter 15: South Dakota

Where does this story take place? What state? Here are the chapter clues:

- a. Mo and Finchy see state highway signs for 79 South, Sturgis, Black Hills National Forest and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, which are in South Dakota.
- b. "Wild Bill Days" is an event in South Dakota. (Wild Bill Hickock's birth name was James Butler Hickok. He was a famous soldier, spy, outlaw, sheriff, actor, and card-player in the 1800s. He was shot and killed while gambling in Deadwood, South Dakota.)
- c. The Badlands are a national park in the state.
- d. The Black Hills in South Dakota is one hour south of their location. (It's a mountain range in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming.)
- e. Mount Rushmore (National Memorial) is a massive sculpture carved into Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills region of South Dakota.

Questions for Kids

1. Where is South Dakota? What states surround it?
 - a. North: North Dakota
 - b. East: Minnesota and Iowa
 - c. South: Nebraska
 - d. West: Wyoming and Montana
2. Mount Rushmore National Memorial took 14 years to complete and shows the faces of four US presidents. Can you name them? (Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.)
3. Since this state is among the least populated in the US, there's minimal light pollution. It has some of the darkest skies in the country. Stargazing is fantastic! On moonless nights, you can clearly see the Milky Way. What is the Milky Way? (It's a galaxy, which is a huge collection of stars, dust and gas. It contains our solar system and is home to all the stars we see in the night sky.)

4. In 1803, the US purchased land in this country from France. It was called the Louisiana Purchase. This land was then carved into states. South Dakota was one of them. Can you name any other states? (Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska and Oklahoma. This purchase also included most of the land in Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Minnesota.)
5. The Missouri River runs from the top of South Dakota to the bottom edge border with Nebraska, almost cutting the state in half. Which river is the longest in the country – The Missouri or Mississippi? (The Missouri River. It's 2540 miles long while the Mississippi River is 2340 miles long.)
6. One of the largest known T. rex skeletons was found in 1990 on the state's Cheyenne River Sioux reservation. What is her name? (Sue, who is 42 feet long.) What would you name her?

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo gets upset when he loses a game. How do you feel when you lose? How do you act? Do you get mad at the winner? Are you disappointed in yourself?
2. After you lose a game, what do you do to make yourself feel better? Consider turning losing into an opportunity to learn.
3. Are you a good sport? Sportsmanship is when people who are playing treat each other with respect.