

The Adventures of Mo

Teacher-Parent Guide Chapters 31-45

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Chapter 31: New York

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

- a. After leaving Massachusetts, Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 95 for more than four hours. They crossed three state lines and saw highway signs for the following cities: Newport, Stamford, and Yonkers. (Yonkers is a city on the Hudson River in NY.)
- b. A “Subway” sign is next to a staircase that leads underground.
- c. A dog named Trouble says this state is bordered by five other states, a country and two really big lakes. It was also the place of the first US capital.
- d. Trouble is auditioning in the Theater District and mentions Broadway plays.

Questions for Kids:

1. What are the five states that border New York?
 - a. South: New Jersey and Pennsylvania
 - b. East: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont
2. What lakes border New York? (Two Great Lakes: Ontario in the north and Erie in the west.) What country? (Canada)
3. What famous statute is on Liberty Island? Hint: It was a gift from France and stands for freedom and independence. (Statue of Liberty)
4. Niagara Falls is actually three waterfalls. Do you know their names? (American Falls and the lacy Bridal Veil Falls are on the US side and the Horseshoe Falls is almost entirely on the Canadian side.)
5. More than 800 languages are spoken in New York City. People speak more languages here than any other city in the world. If this is your native language, what part of the world do you come from?
 - a. Swahili (Central, Eastern or Southern Africa)

- b. Mandarin or Cantonese: (China)
 - c. Polish (Poland)
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6. New York was among the original 13 colonies. Can you name any others: (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.)
 7. New York is the only state that borders the Great Lakes and an ocean. What is this ocean's name? (Atlantic)
 8. New York City is made up of five boroughs. A borough is a town or district that's within a large city and has its own government or local services. Can you name any of these boroughs? (The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island)
 9. Where in New York are these popular places: Catskill Mountains, Adirondack Mountains and Finger Lakes? (Northern or Upstate New York)
 10. What is the oldest city in the state? Hint: It's also the state capital. (Albany-founded in 1614)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter is about an actor who's mean, insulting, and thinks she's better than the other actors. Were kids at school ever mean to you? Did they put you down? If so, what did you do or say?
2. If kids are mean or insult you, what can you do? There is usually more than one side to each story. Consider why they're acting this way. Did you do anything to cause their behavior? Is it jealousy? What could you have done differently?
3. If you still don't know, ask them why they're being mean. If they continue without explaining, ignore them. Walk away. If they push or scare you, tell your teacher. Sit somewhere different at lunch. Don't retaliate (say mean things to them) or instigate (stir up trouble). Instead, think about the nice things you've said to other kids, done for people, or what you've accomplished. It will help you feel better.

Chapter 32: Vermont

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

- a. After leaving New York, Mo and Finchy traveled along Interstate 91 North for almost six hours.

- b. The town of Putney is in Vermont.
- c. Mo and friends placed pancakes under maple trees for maple syrup. (Vermont is this country's top producer of maple syrup.)
- d. Vermont shares a border with three other states and a country. The state's name means green mountain in French.

Questions for Kids:

1. What states and country does Vermont border?
 - a. East: New Hampshire
 - b. South: Massachusetts
 - c. West: New York
 - d. North: Canada (Quebec, Canada)
2. What state is between Vermont and Maine? (New Hampshire)
3. The smallest state capital in the US is in Vermont. What is its name? (Mountpelier)
4. For the first six months of its existence, what was Vermont called? (The Republic of New Connecticut)
5. What is the largest city in the state? (Burlington)
6. Which one of these states has the highest humidity: (Vermont)
 - a. Vermont
 - b. Nevada
 - c. Colorado
7. Vermont ranks among the 10 coldest states in the country. Can you name the other nine states? (Alaska, North Dakota, Maine, Minnesota, Wyoming, Montana, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Idaho).
8. Vermont makes more than half of this country's natural sweetener. What is it? Hint: You put it on pancakes. (Maple syrup)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter is about Finchy showing a bird and Mo how much he cares about them. When's the last time you showed your family that you loved them? What did you do? What happened?
2. How do you typically show your friends that you like or care about them?

3. There are many ways to show people you care. Can you think of any?
(Help friends with their homework. Do chores without being asked. Give someone a hug. Listen without judging. Help your teacher. Surprise someone by baking his or her favorite cookies. (But don't eat any!))

Chapter 33: New Hampshire

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

- a. After leaving Vermont, Mo and Finchy travel along Interstate 91 North and US 302 East for about three hours.
- b. They passed highway sign for cities called Claremont and Lebanon before arriving in a village called North Conway. These are all places in New Hampshire.
- c. The White Mountains are in New Hampshire.
- d. The state's nickname is the "Switzerland of America".
- e. New Hampshire borders three states, a country, and an ocean.
- f. This state was one of the original 13 colonies and became the ninth US state.

Questions for Kids:

1. What are the three states that border New Hampshire?
 - a. West: Vermont
 - b. South: Massachusetts
 - c. East: Maine along with the Atlantic Ocean
2. New Hampshire was the first British colony to declare its independence from what island nation? (Great Britain)
3. New Hampshire was also the first state to create its own set of rules or laws that guide how the state works. What is this document called? (A state constitution)
4. Thirty US states have a coastline. Which one has the shortest? (New Hampshire. Its coastline is about 18 miles.) Which state has the longest coastline? (Alaska with almost 34,000 coastal miles.)
5. The first American to travel into space was from New Hampshire. What was his name? (Alan Shephard., Jr. His flight lasted about 15 minutes. He traveled 116 miles into the atmosphere.)

6. The majority (at least four-fifths) of Vermont is covered by forest. It's the second most forested state in the country. What state is No. 1? (Maine).
7. New Hampshire enjoys all four seasons – Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. But which states don't? (All states have four seasons, but not every city does. Arizona is a good example. Many parts of the state have two seasons: hot and red hot. But one city in northern Arizona – Flagstaff – has all four seasons.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter is about how Mo helped rescue a lost bear cub. But then he becomes too proud of himself, too full of himself, to see beyond himself. Did that ever happen to you when you did something wonderful for someone but ignore what others might also have done in the background?
2. Think of the last time you helped someone. What did you do? Were you the only one or were other kids or adults involved behind-the-scenes?
3. It's fun to be in the spotlight. It can make you feel very important. But chances are, others may have helped, too. Take your fair share of praise but make sure to thank or acknowledge others who were involved.

Chapter 34: Pennsylvania

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

- a. After leaving New Hampshire, Mo and Finchy travel on Interstate 95 South for more than seven hours, passing three states and a city named Bensalem, which is in Pennsylvania.
- b. The truck driver heads toward Market Street, a major street in Philadelphia.
- c. Independence National Historic Park and Liberty Bell Center are in Philadelphia.
- d. Betsy Ross and Benjamin Franklin lived in Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell is also on display in the visitor center next to Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Questions for Kids:

1. Name the states and Great Lake that border Pennsylvania.

North: New York and Lake Erie

East: New York and New Jersey

South: Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia

West: Ohio and the panhandle of West Virginia

2. The chocolate capital of the US is in Pennsylvania. What's the city's name? (Hershey)
3. Name three historic documents that were written in Pennsylvania. (The Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg Address).
4. In what city were the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence debated and adopted? (At Independence Hall in Philadelphia)
5. Only one of the 13 original American colonies (currently a state) was not bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. What is its name? (Pennsylvania)
6. What historic event happened in Independence Hall in 1776? (This country's Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in the building's Assembly Room.)
7. In 1863, during the Civil War, a three-day battle was fought in Pennsylvania. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire war. It's often described as the war's turning point and ended the Confederacy's hope of a northern invasion. What is this battle's name, which is named after a city in the state? (The Battle of Gettysburg)
8. There are four US states that call themselves commonwealths. Pennsylvania is among them. Can you name the other three states: (Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.)
9. What's the difference between a commonwealth and a state? (There is no difference. The people who drafted these state constitutions legally declared or designated them as commonwealths, which means that the state governments were intended to serve the well-being of the people.)
10. What is the Mason-Dixon Line? (It was a boundary line drawn in the 1760s between Pennsylvania and Maryland that symbolized the border between the North and the South and between slavery and freedom. The line now forms part of the borders of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter addresses the four basic directions: north, south, east, and west. Do you know which way faces north? Stand up and face north, south, east, and west.
2. Look at a map of your state. Pick one fun place you would like to visit. How would you get there? In what direction would you need to travel?
3. Pick a US state you would like to visit. In what direction would you need to go? In what direction would you need to travel to return home?

Chapter 35: Connecticut

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

- a. An outdoor aquarium sits on the coast.
- b. After leaving Pennsylvania, Mo and Finchy traveled for four hours along Interstate 95 North, crossed three state lines, and passed cities called Stamford and New Haven, which are located in Connecticut.
- c. Connecticut claims to be the birthplace of the hamburger and speed limits for cars.
- d. A seven-year-old boy in Connecticut designed the emblem or image for the state's capital city when it turned 200 years old.

Questions for Kids:

1. What states and body of water surround Connecticut?
 - a. North: Massachusetts
 - b. East: Rhode Island
 - c. West: New York
 - d. South: Long Island Sound, an inlet or arm of the Atlantic Ocean
2. What US states border the Atlantic Ocean? There are 14 states that have a shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean. Besides Connecticut, what are their names? (From north to south: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.)
3. Connecticut had two state capitals from 1701 to 1874. One was in New Haven. Where was the other? Hint: It's the current state capital (Hartford).
4. In 1639, the Connecticut Colony wrote and adopted the Fundamental Orders. Some consider it to be the first written constitution and is why the state earned its nickname. What's the state's nickname? (The Constitution State.)
5. Connecticut ranks third as the state with the smallest land area. What are the first two states? (Rhode Island followed by Delaware.)
6. Connecticut's state flag displays three grape vines. What do they represent? (Either the colonies of Connecticut, New Haven, and Saybrook or the first three area towns established by Europeans (Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor).

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter is about Finchy and a whale who can't seem to get along. Did you ever argue with kids you barely knew or just met?
2. What types of things did you argue about? Did you listen to their side? Did you try to understand their feelings?
3. Here are some things you can do the next time you have an argument:
 - a. Listen to what people are saying. Why are they angry? How do they feel?
 - b. Respect their feelings.
 - c. Don't call anyone names. Treat them the way you would like to be treated.
 - d. Apologize if it's your fault. Make it real. Say "I was wrong because..." or "I am sorry for..."
 - e. Explain how you feel.
 - f. Never get violent. Instead, walk away if things get heated. This gives everyone a chance to cool off.
 - g. Realize that no matter what you say or do, some kids will have a hard time apologizing or forgiving.

Chapter 36: Rhode Island

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

- a. Point Judith is in Rhode Island.
- b. A ferry shuttled people and animals to and from Block Island, which is part of Rhode Island.
- c. Mo and Finchy traveled for about one hour, mostly along Interstate 95 and US-1 North.
- d. Newport and Kingston are cities in Rhode Island.
- e. Rhode Island is the smallest US state in size, borders two states, and faces the ocean.

Questions for Kids:

1. What states and body of water surround Rhode Island?
 - a. North and East: Massachusetts
 - b. West: Connecticut
 - c. South: Atlantic Ocean

2. What was Rhode Island's original name? It was the longest name of any US state from 1663 to 2020. (It was originally called the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. In 2020, Rhode Islanders voted to remove "and Providence Plantations" from the state's name.)
3. Between 1681 and 1854, Rhode Island rotated its capitals between five cities: Providence, Newport, Bristol, East Greenwich, and Kingston. In 1854, Newport and Providence became the only capitals. Since 1901, there has only been one capital. What is its name? (Providence)
4. Which US state was the first of the original 13 colonies to declare independence from Great Britain? (Rhode Island)
5. Rhode Island was the last of the 13 colonies to ratify or sign the U.S. Constitution. Why? (It insisted that the Bill of Rights, which guarantees certain freedoms, be added to the Constitution before they would sign it.)
6. Everyone in Rhode Island lives within 30 minutes of the ocean. What is this ocean's name? (Atlantic Ocean)
7. Bottlenose dolphins visit Narragansett Bay. How do you pronounce this bay's name? (Neh·ruh·gan·suht Bay). What city in Rhode Island is located at the head of Narragansett Bay? (Providence, which is the state capital.)
8. There are more than 30 islands in Narragansett Bay. Can you name one of the three largest islands? (The largest is Aquidneck Island followed by Conanicut and Prudence.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. This chapter is partly about trust, which is an important part of all friendships. What is trust? When you trust people:
 - a. You can safely share your thoughts and feelings. You know they won't gossip or say nasty things behind your back.
 - b. They are honest. You can trust they will tell you the truth.
 - c. They support you. You trust or know they will help you, not hurt you.
 - d. They follow through on their promises. Example: A friend borrows something from you and then returns it.
2. Do you trust your friends? Why or why not?
3. Can they trust you? Why or why not?

Chapter 37: New Jersey

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

- a. After leaving Rhode Island, Mo and Finchy traveled mostly along Interstate 95 South and Garden State Parkway.
- b. The truck driver was making a delivery to a hotel off the ocean.
- c. A boardwalk is in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
- d. The Ripley's Believe It or Not? museum in New Jersey was tilted. It also displayed strange and weird objects. (This location closed in Dec. 2022, after this chapter was published. However, other "Ripley's" are still open in different states.)

Questions for Kids:

1. Where is New Jersey? What states and ocean surround it?
 - a. North: New York
 - b. West: Pennsylvania
 - c. South: Delaware
 - d. East: Atlantic Ocean
2. At least 60 towns nationwide boast a boardwalk. The first one was built in 1870 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. What is a boardwalk? (The boardwalk featured in this chapter houses many shops, restaurants, and casinos. It's more than five miles long, built with wooden planks, and faces the Atlantic Ocean.)
3. From 1775 to 1783, more battles and skirmishes were fought in New Jersey than anywhere else in the former British colonies. What was the name of this war? (American Revolution)
4. Besides the Atlantic Ocean, what other bodies of water surround this state? (Delaware Bay, Hudson River, and Delaware River)
5. The first-ever baseball game was played in Hoboken, New Jersey. It lies across from New York City's smallest borough, which is also the smallest county in the state (by land size). What is the name of this borough? (Manhattan)
6. What state first signed the Bill of Rights? (New Jersey)
7. What is the Bill of Rights? (It's the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution that guarantees civil rights and liberties to Americans, such as freedom of speech, press, and religion.)

8. In 1761, Cape May, New Jersey, became the nation's first seaside resort and was a popular destination for wealthy families. It's located where two bodies of water meet. What are their names? (The Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean.)
9. Cape May was also a stop on the Underground Railroad, and some homes still have remnants of secret rooms and underground tunnels. What was the Underground Railroad? (It was a network of people who worked together to help escaped slaves travel to states in the North and to the country of Canada, where slavery was illegal.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. In this chapter, Mo tries to solve a difficult problem and then comes up with a creative solution. Have you ever faced a problem that was difficult to solve?
2. What was the problem? How did you solve it?
3. Next time you get stuck or challenged, consider trying these approaches:
 - a. Brainstorm: Explain your problem to your friends or parents. Ask them to share all of their ideas on how to solve it, no matter how silly they may be. Their ideas can generate more ideas and offer a creative solution.
 - b. Roleplay: Sometimes, difficult problems involve people. If a friend is mad at you, for example, but you don't understand why, switch places. Pretend to be your friend while your friend pretends to be you. Then talk about what happened. You'll each have a better understanding of how the other person thinks and feels.

Chapter 38: Delaware:

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

- a. After leaving New Jersey, Mo and Finchy traveled for about 90 minutes along the Atlantic City Expressway West and Interstate 95 South.
- b. They stopped at a building in a city called Wilmington, which is in Delaware.
- c. Many stores incorporated the words "First State" in their name. This is the state's nickname since it was the first to ratify or sign the U.S. Constitution.

Questions for Kids:

1. Delaware is bordered by three states and an ocean. What are their names?
 - a. North: Pennsylvania

- b. South and West: Maryland
 - c. East: Delaware River, Delaware Bay, New Jersey and Atlantic Ocean
1. Delaware is the second, smallest-sized state. What's the first? (Rhode Island)
Delaware is 96 miles long and varies from 9 to 35 miles in width.
 2. How did Delaware earn its nickname, "First State"? (It was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.)
 3. During the American Revolution, why did Thomas Jefferson call Delaware a "jewel" among states? (Its location along the East Coast made it strategic or useful for trade and military operations during the war.)
 4. Delaware only has three state forests: Blackbird, Redden, and Taber. Which state has the most national forest land? (Alaska)
 5. In 1777, during the American Revolution, British soldiers were marching to seize Delaware's capital city. So it was moved to Dover, which was in a safer location and more centralized. Dover has been the capital city ever since. What was the name of Delaware's first capital city? (New Castle)
 6. Delaware's average elevation or altitude is just 60 feet above sea level. What does that mean? (Sea level is the average height of the ocean's surface. Elevation is how high land, mountains, and other objects are above sea level.) Which two states have land or areas below sea level? (California and Louisiana. This makes them more vulnerable to flooding from storms like hurricanes.)
 7. Delaware only has three counties, the lowest of any state. What state has the most counties? (Texas has the most counties—254 – followed by Georgia, with 159 counties.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. Have you ever lied to get what you want, avoid getting into trouble or impress your friends? If so, did your lie hurt someone or get someone else into trouble?
2. How would you feel if people lied about you? Could you trust them?
3. When you lie, you are not respecting yourself, the person you lied about, or the people you lied to. It always takes more courage to be honest than lie because you're taking responsibility for your words or actions.

Chapter 39: Maryland

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

- a. Edward Warren– the first American to ride in a hot air balloon – lived in Maryland.
- b. Alice was born in Catonsville, a city in Maryland.
- c. The animals grew up in Baltimore, Maryland’s largest city.
- d. After leaving Delaware, Mo and Finchy traveled for about ninety minutes along Interstate 95 South.
- e. The state’s official dog is the Chesapeake Bay Retriever.
- f. The Baltimore National Aquarium is in Maryland.

Questions for Kids

1. Where is Maryland? What states, ocean and river border the state?
 - a. North: Pennsylvania
 - b. East: Delaware and Atlantic Ocean
 - c. South: The Atlantic Ocean and Virginia
 - d. West: West Virginia
2. What is the Mason-Dixon Line? (It served as a boundary line between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Before the Civil War, Maryland and other states south of it were slave states and Pennsylvania and other states that were north of the line were free states.)
3. The Chesapeake Bay is in Maryland and five other states. Can you name any of them? (Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and also Washington, D.C., which is a city, federal district, and the US capital.)
4. Which US state doesn’t have any natural lakes? (Maryland. Its lakes are all man-made and were created for recreation and as reservoirs, often through dam construction. But it does have 4,000 ponds.)
5. Why is Maryland called “Little America” or known as “American in Miniature”? (Its land is diverse and offers a little bit of everything: sandy dunes in the east, low marshlands with wildlife near the Chesapeake Bay, rolling hills of Oak Forests in the Piedmont Region, and pine groves in the mountains in the west.)
6. There are only eight states smaller than Maryland. Can you name them? (Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.)

7. How does Maryland's geography compare to the state you live in? Does it have sand dunes, mountains, or natural lakes? What does your state have that Maryland does not?
8. In 1790, Congress established a federal district to serve as the nation's capital. The land to create this district originally belonged to two states– Maryland and another state. Can you name this other state? (Virginia)
9. Since 1845, the US Naval Academy has been located in this city, which was also the US capital from 1783-1784. It's now Maryland's capital city. What is the city's name? (Annapolis)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter:

1. Do you have a phobia (something you're afraid of like heights, dogs or water)?
2. Do you avoid things that make you afraid or do you try to overcome your fears? If so, how? What do you do?
3. This approach can help you better manage your fears:

Gradually expose yourself to the object, animal, place or situation that makes you afraid or anxious. For example, if you're afraid of the water, start by splashing your feet in a shallow pool. Make the experience fun or enjoyable. Then take baby steps. Never force yourself. (Consider dipping your toes in a swimming pool or standing on the first step of the pool) Be patient. It's all about building your confidence and having a positive experience.

Chapter 40: West Virginia

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

- a. After leaving Maryland, Mo and Finchy traveled for nearly five hours along Interstates 81 South and 64 West.
- b. White Sulphur Springs and Alderson are cities in West Virginia.
- c. Ronceverte is a city in West Virginia.
- d. Organ Cave is in the state.
- e. The shape of this state looks like a frog tilting downward.

Questions for Kids

1. What five states border West Virginia?

- a. North: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland
 - b. East: Maryland and Virginia
 - c. South: Virginia and Kentucky
 - d. West: Ohio and Kentucky
2. Why is west Virginia called the Mountain State? (It's the only state completely within the Appalachian Mountain region. Its average elevation is also higher than any other state east of the Mississippi River.)
 3. West Virginia ranks third as the state with the most forests. Can you name the first two states? (Maine followed by New Hampshire)
 4. Nine US states have panhandles (areas that look like a frying pan). West Virginia is among them. Can you name the other eight states? (Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas)
 5. Wyoming is this country's largest producer of coal followed by West Virginia. What is coal used for? (It's mainly used as fuel to make or generate electric power.)
 6. The world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope (The Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope) is in Green Bank, West Virginia, which is surrounded by a National Radio Quiet Zone. Where is this zone and what does that mean? (The 13,000-mile zone straddles the borders of West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland. So that the telescope can hear even the faintest sounds from outer space, scientists are not allowed to use cell phones or even a microwave to heat their lunch. Likewise, passing trains can't sound their horn!)
 7. Harpers Ferry is a National Historic Park in West Virginia. Why is it famous? (It lies in the Blue Ridge Mountains where West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland meet. In 1859, Harpers Ferry was the site of a bloody raid in the movement to end slavery and was among the events that led to the Civil War.)

Discussion Questions Related to Chapter

1. Have you ever been lost? Have you ever been separated from your mom or dad at public places like a shopping mall or amusement park?
2. If so, were you afraid? What did you do? Did you ask anyone for help? Who?
3. Memorize your address and phone number or carry them in your pocket.
4. If you get lost, even in a library, shout the name of the person you're with ---such as your mom's first name--so she can come and find you.

5. If you're in a safe place, sit down. Stay put until the person you came with finds you. Generally, a good person to ask for help is a mother with kids.

Chapter 41: Virginia

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

- a. After leaving West Virginia, Mo and Finchy traveled for nearly 40 minutes, mostly along Interstate 64 East and US 60 East.
- b. Lexington and Clifton Forge are cities/towns in Virginia.
- c. Richmond is the capital of Virginia.
- d. Norfolk is another city in Virginia.
- e. Virginia was named after Queen Elizabeth I of England, nicknamed the Virgin Queen of England because she never married.
- f. Virginia is also called the Mother of Presidents because more US presidents were born here than in any other state.
- g. Virginia handles the majority of the world's Internet traffic through massive data centers.

Questions for Kids

1. Where is Virginia? What states surround it?
 - a. Northeast: Maryland
 - b. Northwest: West Virginia
 - c. South: North Carolina and Tennessee
 - d. West: Kentucky
 - e. East: Washington, DC, the nation's capital
 - f. Southeast: Atlantic Ocean
2. The state of Virginia was one of the original 13 colonies. The colony of Virginia claimed land that later became four states and part of two others. Can you name any of these states? (West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, along with parts of Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.)
3. Eight US presidents were born in this state. What are their names? (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.)
4. Two wars fought in this country ended in Virginia. The American Revolution ended in Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. What was the name of the other war? (The Civil War ended at the Appomattox Courthouse in Appomattox, Virginia, in 1865).

5. What was the name of the first English settlement in the US, which also became the state's first capital? (Jamestown)
6. Why was West Virginia created? (In 1863, during the Civil War, people living in Virginia were divided between Union and Confederate supporters. When Virginia seceded from the Union, 50 Virginian counties protested by splitting off from the state to form their own state, which is West Virginia).
7. The world's largest naval base is in Virginia, which hosts personnel from the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard. What city is it in? (Norfolk, Virginia. It's called The Naval Station Norfolk.)

Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is partly about knowing what you're good at doing. What are your skills? (Math, reading, sports, art, making friends, helping people....)
2. The characters in this chapter also talk about Mo and Finchy's journey. Some would be too afraid to leave their home to search for the owner of the lost key. Others wouldn't even try because they would be afraid of failing – not finding Florida or the key's owner. Would you ever take a journey like this? Does anything scare you about it?
3. Do you think Mo and Finchy will ever find Florida or the owner of the lost key? What do you think the key unlocks?

Chapter 42: North Carolina

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

- a. The Research Triangle Park is in North Carolina.
- b. After leaving Virginia, Mo and Finchy rode for almost two hours, traveling mostly on Interstate 64 east, US 220 South and Interstate 81 South.
- c. Chapel Hill is a city in North Carolina.
- d. The Wright brothers make man's first successful flight with their powered airplane in (Kitty Hawk) North Carolina.
- e. More sweet potatoes are grown in this state than any other state.
- f. This state also makes the most furniture.
- g. The scientists grew up in Charlottesville, Raleigh, and Durham, all cities in North Carolina.

Questions for Kids

1. Where is North Carolina? It's located in the southeastern region of the United States. It's surrounded by the following states:
 - a. North: Virginia
 - b. West: Tennessee
 - c. South: South Carolina and Georgia
 - d. East: Atlantic Ocean
2. The largest mansion in this country is the Biltmore Estate. It features 250 rooms, including 35 bedrooms and 65 fireplaces. It's in the heart of Asheville and what mountains? (The Blue Ridge Mountains)
3. Where are the Blue Ridge Mountains? They are a segment of the Appalachian Mountains, the largest mountain range in the eastern US. The Blue Ridge Mountains extend across eight states. Can you name any of them? (Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.)
4. Besides North Carolina, what other state is home to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park? (Tennessee)
5. What famous pirate called North Carolina home? (Blackbeard. In the early 1700s, he ransacked ships off the coast.)
6. In ancient times, the eastern half of North Carolina was underwater, and giant megalodon sharks roamed the waters. What city in this state is the easternmost point of North Carolina, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east? (Rodanthe)
7. What are the Outer Banks in North Carolina? (They are a group of barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina, separating the Atlantic Ocean from the mainland.)
8. What mystery – referred to as the Lost Colony – happened on one of these barrier islands in the late 1500s? (Roanoke Island was home to the first colony of English settlers. In the late 1500s, they disappeared. Since then, no one has ever discovered what happened to them. What do you think happened?)

Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy wonder what it would be like to be as smart as a robot but lack any of the five human senses. What are those senses? (Sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.)

2. If you could be a robot, how would your life change? Would you miss the ability to feel emotions like love, anger, happiness, fear, excitement, anxiety or shame?
3. If you could be a robot for a day, what would you do? What would you accomplish?

Chapter 43: South Carolina

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

- a. Mo and Finchy traveled for almost five hours, partly on Interstate 95 South.
- b. Charleston is a city in South Carolina
- c. Angel Oak is an historic landmark on Johns Island in South Carolina

Questions for Kids

1. Where is South Carolina? What states border it?
 - a. North: North Carolina
 - b. Southeast: Atlantic Ocean
 - c. Southwest: Georgia
2. What was the first US state to secede from the Union in 1860? (South Carolina)
3. The oldest (or among the oldest) living trees in the country is about 500 years old and lives on Johns Island in the state. What is the tree's name? (Angel Oak)
4. What is the name of the famous man-made island in South Carolina? It's known as the Golf Capital of the World because it has over 90 championship golf courses. (Myrtle Beach. It was separated from the mainland by the Intracoastal Waterway since 1936.)
5. With the exception of Florida, South Carolina has the most barrier and tidal islands (34) off its coast. Can you name the largest barrier island? (Hilton Head Island, which is also the most populated barrier island in the state, with about 40,000 residents.)
6. The first battle of the Civil War took place in this state. Where? (Fort Sumter. Confederate forces fired the first shots of the Civil War upon Federal troops at Fort Sumter at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861.)
7. There's an island in South Carolina that claims more than 4,000 monkeys as its local residents. No humans are allowed. What's the name of this island? (Morgan Island, which is also nicknamed Monkey Island.)

Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is about selfishness and compromise. Can you give an example of each? (Selfishness: Do my homework for me. Compromise: If you help me with my homework, I'll help you plant a garden.)
2. Have any of your friends asked you to do something you didn't want to do, maybe something that could hurt you or someone else? What happened?
3. How to tell when someone is being selfish:
 - a. They don't care about how their actions hurt you or others.
 - b. They take advantage of you or other kids. For example, they always ask for favors but never return them.
 - c. They put their needs above everyone else's needs.

Chapter 44: Tennessee

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

- a. Tennessee is nicknamed the "Volunteer State".
- d. After leaving South Carolina, Mo and Finchy traveled for about 11 hours, mostly along Interstate 22 West.
- e. Memphis is a city in Tennessee.
- f. Nashville, Knoxville, and Brentwood are also cities in the state.
- g. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is in Tennessee

Questions for Kids

1. Name the eight states that border Tennessee.
 - a. North: Kentucky and Virginia
 - b. East: North Carolina
 - c. South: Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi
 - d. West: Arkansas and Missouri. The western border is wiggly, formed by the Mississippi River.
2. Only one other US state is bordered by eight states. What is this state's name? (Missouri)
3. Why is Tennessee nicknamed the Volunteer State? (Its residents were eager to step forward or volunteer to serve in times of war.)

4. What is the most visited national park in the US? (The Great Smoky Mountains National Park)
5. Paris, Tennessee, has a smaller replica of a famous tower that's located in Paris, France. What is the name of this tower? (Eiffel Tower)
6. What state has the largest underground lake in the US or possibly North America? (Tennessee. Called The Lost Sea, it's deep inside a mountain near Sweetwater in East Tennessee. It's also part of an extensive and historic cave system called Craighead Caverns.)
7. The top of Lookout Mountain in Tennessee is the only place in the US where you can see seven states at the same time. Name those states. (Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Alabama.)

Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is about determination or not giving up. Was there something you wanted to do but weren't good at? What happened?
2. Think about the last time you tried to do something that was difficult, whether it was at school or home. Did you ask for help, give up or get creative and try different ways like Mo did by using his tail instead of a paint brush?
3. The next time you learn a new skill or have to perform a difficult task, ask for help and also consider these steps:
 - a. Get creative. How else can you complete the task?
 - b. Choose what seems like the best method.
 - c. Try out the new approach.
 - d. Did it work? If not, make changes. Keep trying.

Chapter 45: Louisiana

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

- a. After leaving Tennessee, Mo and Finchy traveled for more than seven hours, mostly along Interstate 55 South.
- b. They crossed two state lines (Mississippi and Louisiana)
- c. Jackson is a city in Mississippi
- d. Alexandria is a city in Louisiana

- e. Louisiana's slogans were on many car license plates: "Land of Opportunity" or "Sportsman's Paradise".
- f. The Beauregard Watermelon Festival at the Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds is in the state.
- g. The state's name begins with the letter "L".
- h. New Orleans, where the country's first opera was also performed, is a city in Louisiana.
- i. The state's southern border faces the Gulf of Mexico.

Questions for Kids

1. Name the states and body of water that border Louisiana:
 - a. North: Arkansas
 - b. East: Mississippi and Gulf of Mexico
 - c. South: Gulf of Mexico
 - d. Texas: West
2. What partially makes this state unique is its Cajun culture. Who were the Cajuns? (They are descendants of French Canadians who once lived in the French Colony of Acadia, which is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and part of Maine. In the 18th century, the British drove the Cajuns from their home. Many settled in southern Louisiana. They are known for their music and food, which has bold flavors.)
3. New Orleans, a city in Louisiana, is known as the (fill in the blank) _____ Capital of the World. Hint: It involves music. (Jazz)
4. What state is the world's longest continuous bridge? (The Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana is the longest continuous bridge over water in the world. It links the urban area of New Orleans, Louisiana, with the smaller communities on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.)
5. What city in Louisiana was the first to hold an opera performance? (New Orleans)
6. During the 1800s, an American Pirate named Jean Laffite and his fellow pirates helped defend New Orleans from the British during what war? (The War of 1812. The pirates smuggled many goods in and out of the city. They fought against Britain in exchange for pardons for their crimes.)
7. More alligators live in Louisiana and another state than anywhere else in the country. More than one million alligators live in each state. Can you name the other state? (Florida)

8. What major river runs through Louisiana? (The Mississippi River is on the southeast coast of Louisiana, passing through New Orleans and emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.)

Questions Related to Chapter

1. This chapter is about judging others because of the way they think, look or dress. Are you afraid of kids who are different than you? Do you make fun of them or judge them? Why?
2. Oftentimes, you can have a lot of fun or share unique experiences with kids from different backgrounds. Next time you're at school, play with them at recess or invite them to eat lunch with you in the cafeteria. Although they may think or look different, you may be surprised at how much you have in common and can learn from each other.
3. Developing friendships with kids who think, act, or look different than you has many benefits:
 - a. You'll be less likely to judge people of different races and backgrounds, be more accepting of them, and won't feel as uncomfortable around them.
 - b. You may start seeing the world in a different way or from different views.
 - c. By sharing experiences, you both can develop more compassion, understanding, skills, and knowledge.