

## The Adventures of Mo

### Teacher-Parent Guide Chapters 46-51

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#### Chapter 46: Arkansas

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

- a. After leaving Louisiana, Mo and Finchy traveled for about five hours, partially along Interstate 49 North.
- b. They crossed a state line.
- c. Texarkana and Hope are cities in Arkansas.
- d. Crater of Diamonds State Park is in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

#### Questions for Kids

1. What states surround Arkansas?
  - a. North: Missouri
  - b. East: Tennessee and Mississippi (The majority of Arkansas' eastern border is formed the Mississippi River.)
  - c. South: Louisiana
  - d. West: Texas and Oklahoma
2. What's unique about the Crater of Diamond State Park? (It's the only public diamond mine in the US where people can search for real diamonds.)
3. This city in Arkansas has a twin city by the same name across the border in eastern Texas. What is its name? (Texarkana)
4. In 1932, the first woman elected to the US Senate was from Arkansas. What was her name? (Hattie Caraway.)
5. Even though the letters that spell "Kansas" are in the state name of "Arkansas", both states are not similar in how they're pronounced. Why? (Kansas—pronounced KAN-zuhs—is the English pronunciation. Arkansas—pronounced AHR-kuhn-saw—is the French version and also similar to the way Native Americans said it.)
6. The 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the US was born in Hope, Arkansas. What is his name? (William J. Clinton. )

7. The Ozark Mountains are in five different states. Besides Arkansas, can you name the other four states? (Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Illinois.)
8. The Ozark Mountains are bordered by five major rivers. One of them is The Mississippi. What are the other four rivers? (The Missouri, Osage, Neosho, and Arkansas.)

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo asks his new bird friends why humans seem to care more about owning things than being nice, smart or helpful. How would you answer Mo's question?
2. Do you have more stuff than you need? How much is enough?
3. Rank the following in order of importance:
  - a. Helping others
  - b. Owning stuff like toys, designer clothes, and video games
  - c. Learning about the people and world around you

### Chapter 47: Mississippi

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

- a. Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge is in Mississippi.
- b. After leaving Arkansas, Mo and Finchy traveled for about eight hours along Interstate 20 East and US 49 South.
- c. Jackson, Collins, Wiggins, Gautier, and Vicksburg are cities in Mississippi.
- d. The second longest river in the US is the Mississippi River.

### Questions for Kids

1. In what part of the country is the state of Mississippi? (Southeast). What states border it?
  - a. North: Tennessee
  - b. East: Alabama
  - c. South: Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico
  - d. West: Louisiana and Arkansas. The Mississippi river forms its western border and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

2. What's the biggest city in the state? Hint: It's also the capital city. (Jackson)
3. From the late 1600s to the late 1700s, the land that became the state of Mississippi was claimed by three western European countries. Can you name them? (France, Great Britain, and Spain)
4. This US state is one of 10 that experience this type of storm every year, generally during the spring and late fall. What type of storm is it? (Tornado. In 2023, Mississippi had 41 tornadoes and 184 in 2022.)
5. Besides Jackson, the capital city, can you name the other four cities in the state with the biggest population? (Gulfport, Southaven, Hattiesburg, and Biloxi.)
6. What is the state's most valuable crop? Hint: It's used to make clothing. (Cotton)
7. Where is the world's largest man-made beach? It's in Louisiana but where? (This beach in Harrison County stretches 26 miles. It was constructed as part of the Harrison County Shore Protection Project to protect communities along the coast and control erosion.) What's erosion? (When land, soil or rocks are worn away by wind, water and other natural forces and moves them from one place to another.)

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo convinces the cranes to teach Finchy how to dance so he can perform in their show. Why did Mo do this? (He wanted to make his best friend happy.)
2. Supporting your friends or family can make them happy or feel good about themselves. Think of all the different ways you can do this:
  - a. Whenever they doubt their abilities, tell them you believe in them.
  - b. If friends want to run for class president or try out for the soccer team or school play, encourage them.
  - c. By letting someone know you believe they can do it, they can start seeing the possibilities instead of their limitations.
3. Imagine someone encouraging you to do something you never thought was possible. How would it make you feel?

### Chapter 48: Alabama

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

- a. After leaving Mississippi, Mo and Finchy traveled for almost six hours along Interstate 65 North.
- b. Mobile, Homewood, Madison, and Huntsville are cities in Alabama.
- c. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Space Camp are in Alabama.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Alabama? What states and bodies of water border it?
  - a. North: Tennessee
  - b. East: Georgia
  - c. South: Florida and Mobile Bay
  - d. West: Mississippi
2. What was the first rocket that landed on the moon? (Apollo 11). Where was it built? (Alabama. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon on July 21, 1969.)
3. What’s the climate like in Alabama? Does it snow? How hot does it get? (Snow is rare. The winters are mild and summers are hot and humid. The high humidity mostly comes from the moisture that evaporates from the Gulf of Mexico.) How does the weather in Alabama compare to your state?
4. What part of the country is Alabama in? (Southeast)
  - a. Northeast
  - b. Southeast
  - c. Midwest
  - d. Southwest
  - e. Northwest
5. Roughly 70 percent of Alabama is forest, which could cover five US states: Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and one more state. What is its name? Hint: It’s the smallest US state in size. (Rhode Island)
6. What state has the longest constitution in the country? (Alabama. It has almost 950 amendments that cover everything from mosquito control to bingo.) What state has the shortest Constitution? (Vermont)
7. What is Alabama’s greatest natural resource? Hint: Western US states need more of it. (Fresh water. Over 132,000 miles of streams and rivers flow through the state. Approximately 10 percent of the fresh water for the entire continental United States – Lower 48 – originates in or flows through Alabama.)

8. What city in Alabama is the only one in the US that gets its mail delivered by boat year-round? (Magnolia Springs. The route includes mailboxes on docks and piers along the Magnolia River, Fish River, and Weeks Bay.)

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy train like astronauts and discover what it would be like to live on Mars. Would you like to be the first kid to live on Mars?
2. What would you miss most if you lived on Mars? Prioritize the following:
  - a. Family, friends, and pets
  - b. Riding your bike or playing outside
  - c. Your favorite foods
  - d. Playing sports
  - e. Going to school
  - f. Something else?
3. Would you rather live on the Moon than Mars? It would only take you three days to travel to the Moon. However, Mars would take roughly three years since it's about 140 million miles from Earth.

### Chapter 49: Georgia

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

- a. After leaving Alabama, Mo and Finchy traveled for more than three hours, mostly along Interstate 75 South.
- b. Shannon, Cartersville, and Woodstock are all cities in Georgia.
- c. This state was named after King George II of Great Britain.
- d. Georgia grows the most peanuts in the US.
- e. Georgia is the largest US state west of the Mississippi River.
- f. Georgia Female College (now Wesleyan College) was the first college in the US to award degrees to women.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Georgia? What states and ocean border it?
  - a. North/Northeast: Tennessee and North Carolina
  - b. East: South Carolina and the Atlantic Ocean

- c. South: Florida
  - d. West: Alabama
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2. There's only one county in the state named after a woman – Hart County, named after Nancy Hart. Why is she famous? (She helped fight against the British during the Revolutionary War. )
  3. The world's largest sculpture is the Confederate Memorial Carvings on the face of Stone Mountain near the city of Atlanta. It depicts three Confederate Figures of the Civil War. Who are they? (President Jefferson Davis and Generals Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee.)
  4. The largest swamp in North America is in southeastern Georgia. What is its name? (The Okefenokee Swamp)
  5. Although Georgia is nicknamed “The Peach State”, it ranks third for producing the most peaches. What are names of the first two states? (California followed by South Carolina)
  6. Georgia is the world's top producer of which nut? (Pecans)
  7. In 1943, Georgia became the first state to change the legal voting age from 21 to 18. What amendment to the US Constitution lowered the voting age for all Americans to eighteen years? (The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which was ratified in 1971.)
  8. Cumberland Island, just off the coast of Georgia, is home to what animals? (Wild horses. They're descendants of those brought over by the Spanish perhaps as far back as the late 1500s.)
  9. Although Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River, it could fit roughly 11 times into the largest US state. What is this state's name? (Alaska)

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, a fish holds a grudge against another fish. Do you remember the last time you were mad at someone? Did you hold a grudge? What happened?
2. If you did something wrong or made a mistake, could you apologize? Is it easy or hard for you to say, “I'm sorry”. Why?
3. Staying mad at people makes you feel bad. Forgiving them or also apologizing for something you've done wrong makes you feel good. Why? It can help you move on more easily, strengthen your relationship, and help you regain trust in each other.

## Chapter 50: Florida

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

- a. After leaving Georgia, Mo and Finchy traveled for several hours, mostly along Interstate 75 South.
- b. The “Welcome to Florida” highway sign.
- c. Gainesville, Marion, Orlando, and Cape Canaveral are cities in Florida.
- d. A rocketship was off in the distance.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is Florida? What states and bodies of water border it?
  - a. North: Georgia
  - b. Northwest: Alabama
  - c. East: Atlantic Ocean
  - d. West: Gulf of Mexico
  - e. South: Straits of Florida
2. Florida is a peninsula. What does that mean? (Land that’s almost entirely surrounded by water but is still connected to the mainland.) What’s the only US state that has two peninsulas? (Michigan-the Upper and Lower Peninsulas). What state has at least 12 peninsulas? (Alaska)
3. In 2023, Florida ranked as the second hottest state in the US based on maximum statewide temperatures. What was the hottest state? (Hawaii. Texas ranked as third followed by Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Arizona, and Oklahoma.)
4. What is the name of the huge subtropical park in southern Florida? Hint: It’s one of the largest wetlands in the world and the only place on Earth where American alligators and American crocodiles live together in the wild. (Everglades National Park)
5. In 2023, scientists recorded over 17,000 nests of these four-legged reptiles in Palm Beach County. What are these reptiles named? (Sea turtles)
6. The Kennedy Space Center is in Florida. What does it do? (It launches space shuttles, such as Apollo rockets, to the moon.)

7. Cape Canaveral Space Force Station is also in Florida. What does it do? (It launches unmanned rockets, satellites, and probes to other planets.)
8. The Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station are owned by NASA, which stands for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. What does NASA do? (This US government agency explores the unknown in space and air, drives advances in science and technology to benefit people, and expands human knowledge through scientific discoveries.)
9. Florida is surrounded by water on three sides, which makes the state ideal for thunderstorms and lightning. What causes lightning? (Lightning is an electric current. Within a thundercloud way up in the sky, many small bits of ice (frozen raindrops) bump into each other as they move around in the air. All of those collisions create an electric charge. After a while, the whole cloud fills up with electrical charges. Source: [www.weatherwizkids.com](http://www.weatherwizkids.com))

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy find the owner of the lost key and discover what it unlocks. What did you think the key would unlock?
2. What do you think Mo and Finchy will learn about the moon or space?
3. When they come back from the moon, Mo may return home to Alaska and Finchy may remain in Florida with his cousin, Flo. Could they still be friends living so far away from each other? Could you be friends with someone who lived in another state? What would you have to do to stay friends?

### Chapter 51: Washington, DC

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

- a. This place was surrounded by two states – Maryland and Virginia.
- b. The Potomac River highway sign.
- c. The tall white building with pillars.
- d. The comment, “Thank you, Mr. President, for seeing me.”
- e. Mo and Finchy were hiding in the Oval Office.

### Questions for Kids

1. Where is the nation’s capital? What states surround it?



- a. North, Northeast, and Northwest: Maryland
  - b. South: Virginia
  - c. West: Potomac River, which divides it from Virginia
2. What is Washington, DC? Is it a city, state, or something else? (Washington, DC, is a 68-square-mile federal district that was formed in 1790.)
  3. What does DC stand for? (District of Columbia.) Why Columbia? (A poem written by Chief Justice Samuel Sewall of the Massachusetts Bay colony suggested that the American Colonies be called Columbina, the female version of Christopher Columbus' last name. Source: <https://americanhistory.si.edu>)
  4. Name one important government building in Washington, DC. (Examples: The U.S. Capitol, where the Senate and the House of Representatives meet; the White House, where the president lives and works; the Supreme Court Building, where many important court rulings are made, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Building, where laws are enforced and Americans are protected, and the Library of Congress, the world's largest library.)
  5. What is the name of the river that runs through Washington DC's east side? (Anacostia River)
  6. Who was the first US President to live in the White House? (John Adams, the second US President. The White House was completed a year after the death of George Washington, the nation's first president.)
  7. People weren't the only ones to live in the White House. What animals also lived there? (Invited pets included: dogs, a small bear, a lizard, guinea pigs, a pig, a badger, a blue macaw, a garter snake, a one-legged rooster, a hyena, a barn owl, a rabbit, a pony a hen, alligators, and opossums.)
  8. Cherry Blossom trees grow in three locations in Washington, DC: West Potomac Park, East Potomac Park, and on the Washington Monument grounds. Which country gave these trees to the US in 1912 as a gift of friendship? (Japan)
  9. Washington, DC averages 39 inches of rainfall a year. It rains slightly more than in the largest city of the state of Washington and of the Pacific Northwest. Can you guess this city's name? (Seattle)

### Questions Related to Chapter

1. In this chapter, Mo and Finchy learn a bit about how our country is run. Can you name the three branches of US government? (The Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the Legislative Branch.)

2. What does each branch do?
  - a. Executive Branch: This includes the president, vice-president, and their advisors who enforce the laws of the land.
  - b. Judicial Branch: This branch includes the US Supreme Court and other federal courts that interpret laws, enforce the rules of the US Constitution, and apply them to court cases.
  - c. Legislative Branch: This branch consists of Congress (members of the Senate and House of Representatives) whose main job is to make laws.
3. What is a democracy? (It's a form of government. Democratic countries are ruled by their people or citizens. They have a say in how their country is run by voting for government officials.)