

Hiking the Appalachian Trail

by Kate Paixão



Eight-year-old Maya and her parents were on vacation. They were hiking in the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachians are the longest group of mountains in eastern North America. These mountains start in the northern U.S. state of Maine. They end in the southern state of Georgia.

Maya's family was walking on a road that goes from one end of the Appalachians to the other. It is called the Appalachian Trail. Maya and her family had started near their home in Maryland. A native of Maryland, Maya had never left her state before. A native is someone who was born in a place. The family's first stop was in West Virginia.

Every evening, Maya and her family would make a campfire. She loved that! She also enjoyed sleeping in a tent each night. Maya wanted to remember everything that happened on her vacation. Whenever she came across a new animal, such as a beaver or a quail, she would draw a picture of it in her journal.

Maya learned that she had to be quiet if she wanted the animals to stay. She also drew a field of daisies. Maya thought that flowers were easier to draw than animals. They didn't run away!

native na - tive

Definition

adjective

1. being the place of birth of a person, or having to do with a person's place or situation of birth.

He missed his native country.

She is a native speaker of English.

2. belonging to a person or persons because of their place of birth.

Spanish is his native language.

noun

1. a person born or raised in a particular place.

Mr. Howe is a native of Canada.

Advanced Definition

adjective

1. being the place of birth or origin.

his native land

2. originating with a person at birth; natural.

native intellect

3. belonging to a person or persons because of the place or situation of their birth.

French is his native language.

4. occurring in nature.

native limestone

5. having origins in a particular country or area.

native arts and crafts

noun

1. an original inhabitant of a given place, such as the aborigines of Australia.

2. a person born or raised in a given place.

a native of Kansas

3. an animal or plant found naturally in a given place.

Lions are natives of Africa.

Spanish cognate

nativo: The Spanish word *nativo* means native.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. In July, people in some places in Australia celebrate the history of Aboriginal Australians. Aboriginal Australians are the **native** people of Australia. As part of the week-long celebration, people wear traditional costumes, paint their faces, and perform dances.
2. Thirty years ago, people never would have seen such a clash of predators (animals that capture and eat other animals). Burmese pythons are **native** to Asia. But over the last few decades, many pet snakes have escaped or been set free in Florida by owners who were tired of caring for them.
3. Scientists say about 80,000 different types of trees and plants can be found in the Amazon rain forest. More kinds of fish live in the Amazon River than in the Atlantic Ocean. The river flows through forests that are home to jaguars, armadillos, snakes, monkeys, crocodiles, and anteaters. Along the river live about 170 different groups of **native** people.
4. Some of the 4 million people who live in the Arctic have also found themselves on shaky ground. As the frozen land thaws, buildings and roads have weakened. Inuits (IH-nyoo-wets), a group of **native** people in the region, fish and hunt Arctic animals, including polar bears. They depend on those animals as their main source of food. Inuit hunters are also falling through thinning ice.

trail trail

Definition

verb

1. to follow behind.

The slower cars trailed the faster ones.

2. to follow the track of.

The police trailed the suspect all day.

3. to go or follow slowly.

The young child trailed behind her parents as they walked through the park.

noun

1. a path or course through a forest or other rural place.

The group followed the trail through the forest to the top of the mountain.

Advanced Definition

transitive verb

1. to drag along behind, esp. on the ground.

The boy trailed his coat as he walked home.

2. to follow the trace, track, or scent of.

The hounds trailed the fox.

3. to follow behind.

The slower car trailed the leaders during most of the race.

intransitive verb

1. to drag or be dragged, esp. along the ground.

2. to go or follow slowly or lazily along.

3. to drift or float away.

Smoke trailed upwards from his pipe.

4. to be behind in a competition.

Our team trailed by ten points.

5. to become weaker; dwindle.

His voice trailed away as he lost consciousness.

noun

1. a path or course across rough territory, through woods, or the like.
2. a track or scent left behind by a moving person, animal, or object.
3. a series.

a trail of broken hearts.

4. something that trails or hangs loosely.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. The boys adjusted their bags, tied their shoes tight, and started off down the **trail** following behind Uncle Max.
2. Some ants are scout ants. They hunt for food. When a scout ant finds food, it goes back to the nest. The ant leaves a scent **trail** along the way.
3. The **trail** was nothing more than a narrow path. The ground was hard and rough. She stubbed her toe on a rock poking out from the dirt. The ground here seemed full of stones and rocks.
4. What do you like best about biking? Is it the freedom of riding over to your best friend's house? Is it the strong, confident feeling you get by using your muscles to power a piece of metal and rubber down the road? Or is it the thrill you get from barreling down a bumpy mountain **trail** that jolts your bones and sprays you with mud?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What were Maya and her parents doing on their vacation?

- A. driving
- B. sleeping
- C. hiking

2. Where does this story take place?

- A. in a town in Maryland
- B. on a highway in West Virginia
- C. on a trail in the Appalachian Mountains

3. The Appalachian Mountains start in the northern state of Maine and end in the southern state of Georgia. Maya and her parents started hiking the Appalachian Trail near Maryland.

Based on this evidence, what can you conclude about where Maryland is?

- A. It is south of Georgia.
- B. It is between Maine and Georgia.
- C. It is north of Maine.

4. Based on the information in the story, how could Maya and her parents be described?

- A. They don't like Maryland very much.
- B. They are good at drawing flowers.
- C. They like to spend time in nature.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. The Appalachian Trail goes from one end of the Appalachian Mountains to the other.
- B. Maya likes making campfires and drawing flowers and animals.
- C. Maya has fun while hiking on the Appalachian Trail with her family.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Maya's family was walking on a road that goes from one end of the Appalachians to the other. It is called the Appalachian Trail."

Based on these sentences, what does the word "trail" mean?

- A. state
- B. mountain
- C. road

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Maya wanted to remember everything she saw on her vacation, _____ she drew the animals she came across.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. What two states did Maya and her family hike in?

9. How did Maya feel about her vacation on the Appalachian Trail? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. If Maya went hiking on the part of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, would she be _____

likely to have a good time? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
