

HIKING IN THE FOREST

by
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Antoine loved to explore. He would go on long hikes in the forest looking for new things. He enjoyed watching the birds and the animals in the trees above him. He would sit for hours watching squirrels, deer, chipmunks and other animals scurry around on the floor of the forest.

One day, Antoine and his friend David went for an overnight hike in the mountains. As they prepared for the hike, they packed their backpacks. They had warm clothes, insect spray, dried food, coffee, a sleeping bag, a tent, and all the other things they might need.

Antoine and David had gone on many of these trips together. They enjoyed taking time to get away from the city and most of all they enjoyed being in nature.

They left early in the morning. The drive to the National Forest would take about two hours. They stopped for gas and bought some snacks to eat on the trip. Antoine liked to buy beef jerky while David liked to eat donuts.

The drive was easy, and the time went by quickly.

Now they were in the forest approaching the entrance to the park. The park ranger at the gate asked them where they were going to go and what they were going to be doing while in the park. They told him they were going to hike to the top of the mountain.

He had them sign the big book so they would know who had come and who had

left the park. He took their identification cards and copied the information. He also wrote down the license plate number of the car. The rangers do this so if someone was missing, the rangers could quickly find out whom it might be.

Antoine and David drove about two kilometers into the park where they found a place to park the car. After getting all of the equipment out of the back of the car, they put their backpacks on, adjusting them so they would be comfortable. Then they walked down the road until they found the marker for the trail.

It was a left turn to go up the steep trail to the top of the mountain. The trees were tall and provided shade from the bright sun above. The trail was marked with yellow ribbons so it was easy to find their way.

Antoine did not like to stay on the main trail all the time. Sometimes he liked to explore the woods to the right or to the left. About halfway up the mountain Antoine suggested they leave the trail and make their own path to the top. David agreed.

They put a red ribbon on a tree, and then headed into the woods. They continued to tie markers onto trees so if they got lost they would be able to find their way back to the main trail.

The forest was thick. Since no one had walked here before the branches on the ground made it difficult to walk. The sticks made noise when they broke. This was exactly what they liked.

After about an hour, they came to a rock cliff. It was steep and it was tall. Both Antoine and David were good climbers. They had brought along climbing equipment. They tied the ropes and began to climb up the side of the cliff.

About halfway up the cliff they found a cave. They decided to go inside to see how deep the cave was. The cave was dark, so they took their flashlights and turned them on in order to see where they were going. They were excited. They slowly walked deeper into the cave. They found a small opening. They had to take off their packs to go through.

After going through the hole, they found themselves in a big room. When they flashed their lights against the walls, they were surprised to see drawings of deer, trees,

and people. Someone had been here before and had drawn many pictures. The drawings looked like they were very old.

David took out his camera and began to take pictures of the drawings on the walls. He walked all the way around the room. They were so excited at seeing the drawings they did not want to leave.

The paintings on the wall had red, blue, green, yellow, and black paint. The pictures showed the everyday life of a Native American village.

Antoine suggested they should go back and report what they had found to the park ranger at the gate. They marked their trail to the cave to make it easy to find it again. They followed the red ribbons on the trees to return to the main trail.

Once they found the main trail, they ran to their car. They were so excited at what they had found they did not even feel tired.

When they got to the car, they took off their backpacks and threw everything into the trunk. Antoine got into the car followed by David. They drove back to the entrance of the park and parked across the lot from the entry house.

They ran quickly to the gatehouse and told the guard what they had found. They forgot the camera, so David went back to the car to get it.

When the ranger saw the pictures, he got excited too. He called his supervisor to come and look at what Antoine and David had found.

When he got off the phone, he told them to drive up to the lodge and meet the supervisor in his office.

They got into their car and drove up to the lodge. It was about five kilometers to the lodge. It seemed to take forever since they were so excited about what they had found.

They showed the supervisor the pictures they had taken. All of the people who were in the lodge looked at the pictures as well. They were all amazed.

Just then, the people in the lodge felt the ground begin to shake. It was an earthquake. The whole building shook. Everyone ran outside. The flagpole was swaying

back and forth, as were the trees in the forest.

After about five minutes the earthquake stopped. Everyone was a little surprised and shaken. Earthquakes were very rare in that part of the country.

As soon as the earthquake stopped, and the supervisor thought it would be safe, he said they should go to the cave to see what the two hikers had found.

The park rangers got the equipment they needed for the trip and loaded it into the ranger's truck.

They drove down to the spot where the red ribbons began and followed the ribbons to the cliff. What they found surprised them. Rocks had fallen from the cliff because of the earthquake, making it unsafe to climb.

The supervisor said, "We'll have to come back later when the cliff isn't so dangerous."

A few months later, another group went to find the cave. They never found the opening. The earthquake had hidden the cave forever. The pictures taken by Antoine and David were the only proof that the drawings were real.



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. squirrel _____ | a. steep rock face |
| 2. chipmunk _____ | b. wildlife, landscape |
| 3. nature _____ | c. marked path in the forest |
| 4. snacks _____ | d. deep hole in the ground |
| 5. jerky _____ | e. handheld light, torch |
| 6. trail _____ | f. junk food |
| 7. cliff _____ | g. small red or grey animal |
| 8. cave _____ | h. dried beef sticks |
| 9. rope _____ | i. brown and black animal |
| 10. flashlight _____ | j. cord, line |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Antoine and David like to hike. | T / F |
| 2. They went to the beach. | T / F |
| 3. The ranger wrote down their identification. | T / F |
| 4. They used yellow ribbons to mark their trail. | T / F |
| 5. The main trail led to the cave. | T / F |
| 6. The car was parked near the trail. | T / F |
| 7. The supervisor did not believe them | T / F |
| 8. They went to the lodge to meet the supervisor. | T / F |
| 9. The ranger at the gate called the supervisor | T / F |
| 10. There was a tornado. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What did Dave and Antoine find in the cave? _____
 - a) gold
 - b) ancient artifacts
 - c) Native American wall paintings
 - d) a book

2. What did the hikers use to find their way back to the main trail? _____
 - a) blue paper
 - b) yellow sticks
 - c) black roses
 - d) red ribbons

3. What did they do to prove that they had seen the paintings? _____
 - a) they copied the pictures
 - b) they drew copies of the pictures onto their backpacks
 - c) Dave took pictures with his camera
 - d) the ranger took pictures

4. The pictures on the wall were what colors? _____
 - a) black and white
 - b) red, yellow, green, blue, and black
 - c) black, yellow, orange, green, purple
 - d) red, green, blue, orange, black

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What did they see on the walls of the cave?

2. Who took photos of the walls?

3. What color were the ribbons on the main trail?

4. To whom did they talk to at the entrance to National Park?

5. What did they use to mark the path so they would not get lost?

6. How long did it take to drive to the National Park?

7. What did they pack in their backpacks?

8. What did Antoine buy to eat at the gas station?

9. Where did they find the cave?

10. What did they turn on so that they could see inside the cave?
