

SHE WASN'T SCARED

The stinging sand blinded her as she walked along in the darkness of the storm. She wasn't scared. She knew the blindness and the storm would pass. They had in the past. They would this time too.

Rebecca had been born on a day like this. Her mother had told her the story so often that Rebecca thought she remembered the day itself, not just her mother's story about it.

Early in the morning on the day she would be born, her father said, "I'll be back before dark," but he wasn't. Not before the darkness of the storm, he wasn't. The winds began to cry and moan and the sky darkened not long after he left, as they often did across this dry New Mexico plain.

Her mother left the house to check on the sheep, especially on the ewe that also gave birth that day. As the sky grew even darker, she found the ewe and heard the lamb, but she couldn't see the newborn baby. She stumbled toward its cry as the sand whipped at her face, arms, hands, and legs.

This was a special lamb to Rebecca's mother. Her father had given the lamb's mother as a gift on the day Rebecca's mother and father

married. It was the kind of wedding gift that American Indian shepherds had given their children for generations. Her father wanted to remind them that by observing the animals they tended, the new couple could learn to care for each other and their young.

The newborn's cry grew faint. Another lamb probably would not have survived being separated from its mother on a day like this, but Rebecca's mother followed the cry, found the baby, cradled it in her arms, and carried it back to its mother.

Safely back in the house, signs soon came that another baby was going to be born that day. She wanted her husband to be there, and through the whistling, blowing wind, she heard him returning. He too had wanted to check on the safety of the newborn lamb, and on his wife who had been left alone on a day like this.

So as Rebecca walked along in the darkness of this storm, she wasn't afraid. She and the lamb had been born on a day like this. She knew that soon after her own birth, tiny bits of the sun had flickered across the New Mexico sky. They would this time too.

- 1 What is the story mostly about?
- A Why there are storms in New Mexico
 - B Why a shepherd girl was given her name
 - C Why Rebecca was not afraid of the storm
 - D Why the baby lamb was lost
- 2 Who in the story shared the same birthday?
- A Rebecca's mother and father
 - B Rebecca and the lamb
 - C Rebecca and her mother
 - D the lamb and its mother
- 3 The word generations in this story means -
- A their birthdays
 - B graduations
 - C stormy days
 - D different ages of time
- 4 Which of these best describes Rebecca's mother after the storm came?
- A frightened
 - B afraid to go out
 - C weak and helpless
 - D brave and caring
- 5 In this story, faint means -
- A unconscious
 - B weak
 - C passed out
 - D strong
- 6 Rebecca was born -
- A after the lamb was born
 - B before the lamb was born
 - C at the same time the lamb was born
 - D on a clear sunny day

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

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Materials Needed:

NYSTROM 12" or 16" Sculptural Relief Globe

Water-soluble marking pen

20" piece of string

OPTION: Notebook paper and pen or pencil for answers

1. Locate New Mexico on the globe. • Draw a **small x** in the center of the state.
2. What is the name of the river that runs from **north to south** through New Mexico? (It is labeled farther south on the globe along the Texas border.)

3. Four states meet at the **northwestern** corner of New Mexico. • Name the *three* other states that meet New Mexico there. _____
4. Locate **eastern** New Mexico, where Rebecca lived, on the globe. • What color is it on the globe? _____
5. Locate the land elevation key in the globe legend. • At what elevation range in feet is **eastern** New Mexico where Rebecca lived? _____
6. Sheep can be raised near desert areas because they can live without water for long periods of time.
 - Locate the symbol for desert in the globe legend.
 - Draw the desert symbol. _____
7. Locate the desert area in New Mexico. • Draw a line around it. • What part of New Mexico has desert? _____
8. Texas shares a border with New Mexico. • Locate the desert area in Texas. • Draw a line around it. • What part of Texas has desert? _____
9. Study the Scale in miles on the globe legend. • With a piece of string, measure the boundary lines between Texas and New Mexico.
 - What is the distance in miles along the north/south boundary? _____
 - What is the distance in miles along the east/west boundary? _____
 - What is the total distance in miles of the Texas/New Mexico boundary?

10. New Mexico is a sheep-raising state. • On the globe, locate other sheep raising states and countries listed below. • Mark each location with an **X**.
 - **STATES:** Texas, California
 - **COUNTRIES:** China, India, Pakistan, Iran, South Africa, Argentina
11. Write a paragraph about a time when other people were afraid but you were not.