

Pronounce & Spell

prairie

hailed

wandered

visitor

aunt

Vocabulary: Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. built a **sod** house _____ grass-covered

2. He made sure the ... **hearth** fire was lit _____ the floor of a fireplace

3. Free as a **lark** _____ singing bird

4. to give you **schooling** _____ education

5. I can **hardly** read or write _____ barely; scarcely

6. **stormed** out of the house _____ rushed madly (angrily)

Comprehension Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. In what year did the Bidson family move? _____
_____ The Bidsons moved in 1880.

2. From where did they move? _____ They moved from Maine to Colorado.

3. How old was Noah? _____ Noah was nine when his family moved.

4. List four ways Noah helped the family on the prairie:
1. hauling water
 2. feeding the animals
 3. making sure the house was free of snakes
 4. making sure the hearth fire stayed lit
5. Who was coming to visit? Noah's Aunt Dora was coming to visit.
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Discussion

1. What was life like in 1880? Talk about how moving and setting up a house would be different then.
2. Look at a map. Locate Maine and Colorado. Discuss how the family might have traveled and how long the trip might have taken.
3. Talk about the reasons Noah's parents probably had for wanting a good education for Noah.
4. Reread the final sentence in the chapter. This is a sentence to remember. Noah believes the stars are unimportant and he believes reading is unimportant. Do you think he is correct about *either*, *both*, or *neither*? Explain.