**“Something hidden; go and find it”**

**Vocabulary preview**

**a. Try to put the words below into groups 1-4. One has been done for you.**

hollow bridge ledge carriage

saddlebag ford trough boulder

branch tow sack fork slough

bed crest trail ridge

torrent buggy creek thoroughfare

1. topographical features

2. means of transportating good objects and/or people

1. man-made paths

2. waterways *torrent*

3. means of transporting objects and/or persons

4. topographical features

**b. Number the expressions in the box to match the meaning of the underlined words in the sentences below.**

\_\_\_ someone who measures areas of land \_\_\_ area of ground lower than surrounding ground \_\_\_ narrow surface along the side of a cliff or wall \_\_\_ to cross a waterway by walking or driving through the water \_\_\_ climb a steep object such as a mountain or wall \_\_\_ light vehicle pulled by a horse

1. There was no bridge so we had to ford the stream.

2. Scaling a mountain can be exciting but also dangerous.

3. Frank drove the buggy into town.

4. The slopes were so steep that sometimes we had to walk along narrow ledges.

5. The soil in mountain hollows is normally quite fertile.

6. Surveyors are among the few people who have actually explored the most remote regions of the Appalachians.

**Before you read**

Be prepared to discuss you answers with a partner.

1. What experiences do you have with camping in the wild and hiking? Do you own the appropriate equipment, such as a pup tent, a camp stove, hiking boots, a sleeping bag?

2. Do you enjoy the challenge of pitting yourself against nature?

3. How many names of trees do you know in your mother tongue?

**Global reading**

You are going to read an excerpt from Chapter I of *Our Southern Highlanders* entitled “Something hidden; go and find it”. What aspect of the Appalachia do you think will be dealt with? Why do you suppose the author gave the chapter this title? The title is written in quotation marks, which suggests that it is a citation. Find the source.

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| If a corps of surveyors to−day should be engaged to run a line due west from eastern Virginia to the Blue Grass of Kentucky, they would have an arduous task. Let us suppose that they start from near Richmond and proceed along the line of 37° 50'. The Blue Ridge is not especially difficult: only eight transverse ridges to climb up and down in fourteen miles, and none of them more than 2,000 feet high from bottom to top. Then, thirteen miles across the lower end of The Valley, a curious formation begins. A As a foretaste, in the three and a half miles crossing Little House and Big House mountains, one ascends 2,200 feet, descends 1,400, climbs again 1,600, and goes down 2,000 feet on the far side. Beyond lie steep and narrow ridges athwart the way, paralleling each other like waves at sea. Ten distinct mountain chains are scaled and descended in the next forty miles. There are few “leads” rising gradually to their crests. Each and every one of these ridges is a Chinese wall magnified to altitudes of from a thousand to two thousand feet, and covered with thicket. The hollows between them are merely deep troughs.  In the next thirty miles we come upon novel topography. Instead of wave following wave in orderly procession, we find here a choppy sea of small mountains, with hollows running toward all points of the compass. Instead of Chinese walls, we now have Chinese puzzles. The innate perversity of such configuration grows more and more exasperating as we toil westward. In the two hundred miles from the Greenbrier to the Kentucky River, the ridges are all but unscalable, and the streams sprangle in every direction like branches of mountain laurel.  The only roads follow the beds of tortuous and rock−strewn water courses, which may be nearly dry when you start out in the morning, but within an hour may be raging torrents. There are no bridges. One may ford a dozen times in a mile. A spring “tide” will stop all travel, even from neighbor to neighbor, for a day or two at a time. Buggies and carriages are unheard of. In many districts the only means of transportation is with saddlebags on horseback, or with a “tow sack” afoot. If the pedestrian tries a short−cut he will learn what the natives mean when they say: “Goin' up, you can might' nigh stand up straight and bite the ground; goin' down, a man wants hobnails in the seat of his pants.”  James Lane Allen was not writing fiction when he said of the far−famed Wilderness Road into Kentucky: “Despite all that has been done to civilize it since Boone traced its course in 1790, this honored historic thoroughfare remains to−day as it was in the beginning, with all its sloughs and sands, its mud and holes, and jutting ledges of rock and loose boulders, and twists and turns, and general total depravity.... One such road was enough. They are said to have been notorious for profanity, those who came into Kentucky from this side. Naturally. Many were infidels—there are roads that make a man lose faith. It is known that the more pious companies of them, as they traveled along, would now and then give up in despair, sit down, raise a hymn, and have prayers before they could go further. Perhaps one of the provocations to homicide among the mountain people should be reckoned this road. I have seen two of the mildest of men, after riding over it for a few hours, lose their temper and begin to fight—fight their horses, fight the flies, fight the cobwebs on their noses.”  Such difficulties of intercommunication are enough to explain the isolation of the mountaineers. In the more remote regions this loneliness reaches a degree almost unbelievable. Miss Ellen Semple, in a fine monograph published in the Geographical Journal, of London, in 1901, gave us some examples:  “These Kentucky mountaineers are not only cut off from the outside world, but they are separated from each other. Each is confined to his own locality, and finds his little world within a radius of a few miles from his cabin. There are many men in these mountains who have never seen a town, or even the poor village that constitutes their county−seat.... The women ... are almost as rooted as the trees. We met one woman who, during the twelve years of her married life, had lived only ten miles across the mountain from her own home, but had never in this time been back home to visit her father and mother. Another back in Perry county told me she had never been farther from home than Hazard, the county−seat, which is only six miles distant. Another had never been to the post−office, four miles away; and another had never seen the ford of the Rockcastle River, only two miles from her home, and marked, moreover, by the country store of the district.”  When I first went into the Smokies, I stopped one night in a single−room log cabin, and soon had the good people absorbed in my tales of travel beyond the seas. Finally the housewife said to me, with pathetic resignation: “Bushnell's the furdest ever I've been.” Bushnell, at that time, was a hamlet of thirty people, only seven miles from where we sat. When I lived alone on “the Little Fork of Sugar Fork of Hazel Creek,” there were women in the neighborhood, young and old, who had never seen a railroad, and men who had never boarded a train, although the Murphy branch ran within sixteen miles of our post−office. The first time that a party of these people went to the railroad, they were uneasy and suspicious. Nearing the way−station, a girl in advance came upon the first negro she ever saw in her life, and ran screaming back: “My goddamighty, Mam, thar's the boogerman—I done seed him!” |

**Critical thinking skill**

**Identifying fact, speculation, and opinion**

It is important to be able to distinguish statements of fact from statements of speculation or opinion.

A statement of fact presents a state of affairs as having objective reality.

*This car costs $25,000.*

Speculation presents a state of affairs as plausible or possible on the basis of facts which are not available but could become available.

*It’s unlikely that she’ll be here in time for dinner.*

A statement of opinion expresses a personal attitude toward a state of affairs and cannot be demonstrated as true or false.

*My employer treats me unfairly.*

**Find the sentences in “Something hidden” corresponding to the statements below and read the surrounding text. Is each sentence a fact, speculation, opinion or a combination of two?**

1. The surveyors would have an arduous task.

2. The Blue Ridge is not difficult.

3. None of the ridges is more than 2,000 feet high.

4. There are ten distinct mountain chains in the next forty miles.

5. The perversity of the configuration is exasperating.

6. It may be necessary to ford a stream twelve times in one mile.

7. Many early settlers were infidels.

8. The road through the mountains may explain why many mountaineers are prone to killing.

9. Many men in the mountains have (had) never seen a town.

10. One woman has (had) never been to the post-office.

Find the following statements in the text. Which of these opinions (evaluations) are supported by facts?

1. The Blue Ridge is not difficult.

2. The formation that begins is curious.

3. The hollows between them are merely deep troughs.