

# A THOUSAND MILES OF DESERT & MOUNTAINS

## Vocabulary

- 1) Yucca An edible type of perennial shrubs and trees with 40–50 species that are notable for their rosettes of evergreen, tough, sword-shaped leaves and large terminal panicles of white or whitish flowers. Almost all of the yucca plant can be used as food. The stems, leaf bases, flowers, emerging stalks as well as the fruit of most types of yucca are edible
- 2) galena Galena is a lead sulfide mineral. It is the world's most important ore of lead and a significant ore of silver
- 3) commissary A store that sells food and supplies to the personnel or workers in a military post, mining camp, lumber camp, or the like
- 4) monuments A type of structure that was explicitly created to commemorate a person or event, or which has become relevant to a social group as a part of their remembrance of historic times or cultural heritage, due to its artistic, historical, political, technical or architectural importance
- 5) ledge A narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff, or other surface. A lode or vein.
- 6) quartz A hard, crystalline mineral composed of silicon and oxygen atoms
- 7) isolated Far away from other places, buildings, or people; remote; Having minimal contact or little in common with others
- 8) prospector A person who searches for mineral deposits, especially by drilling and excavation
- 9) vicinity The area near or surrounding a particular place

## Writing

- 1) In the passage, George notes that he and Josephine covered 18 miles in 7 hours. Does this seem like a long way or not? What's the longest distance you have ever walked and where were you headed? Write a few sentences about what it felt like to be on your journey — during and after.  
Should discuss an on-foot journey.
- 2) George notes that the yuccas are in bloom. Look around your yard and neighborhood and make note of all the plants that are in bloom. Describe the plants by noting their color, size, leaf shape, and other details. Draw little sketches of the various plants next to your descriptions.  
Should discuss and include drawings of plants.
- 3) In the diaries George talks about a man named Towner who struggled in “this out of the way spot for almost 25 years.” Write a few sentences about something you’ve struggled with. How long did you struggle? Why was it a struggle? How did you resolve the struggle?  
Should discuss an experience of struggling with something.

4) George writes they have spent “two months looking for the ledge but having no success have given up the search.” Now that you have learned the mining related meaning of ledge, explain what George is saying in this statement.

Should discuss looking for and giving up on finding a ledge.

5) “There are two graves out on the mesa, an Indian and a white man.” Write a story using this sentence as the first line of your composition.

Should discuss graves, a mesa, an Indian and a white man.

6) George notes that McFarland was formerly from New York and addicted to cigarettes. He notes Kimball is interested in Christian Science. Why do you think George makes note of these kinds of details in the diaries?

Should discuss the reason(s) for/value of talking about details when keeping a diary.

## Math

Indian Springs: quick facts

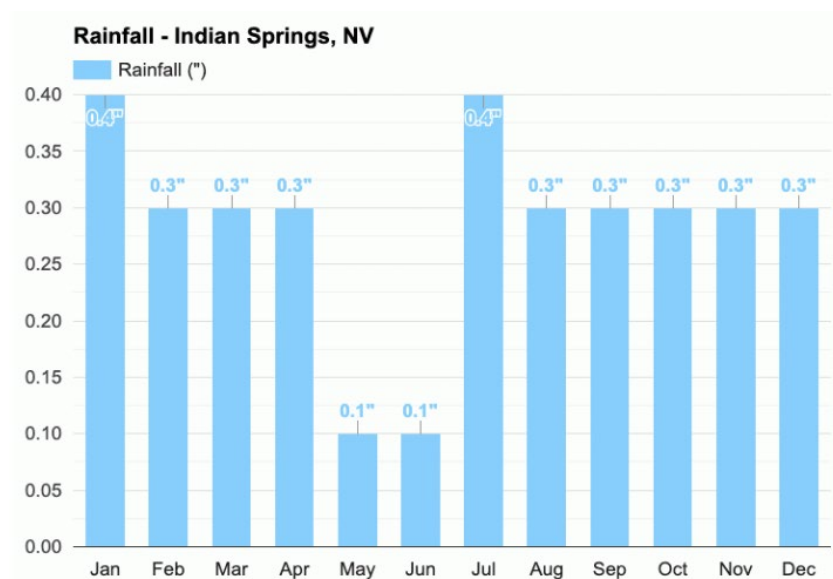
Spring runs 50 inches of water

Temp is 78 degrees

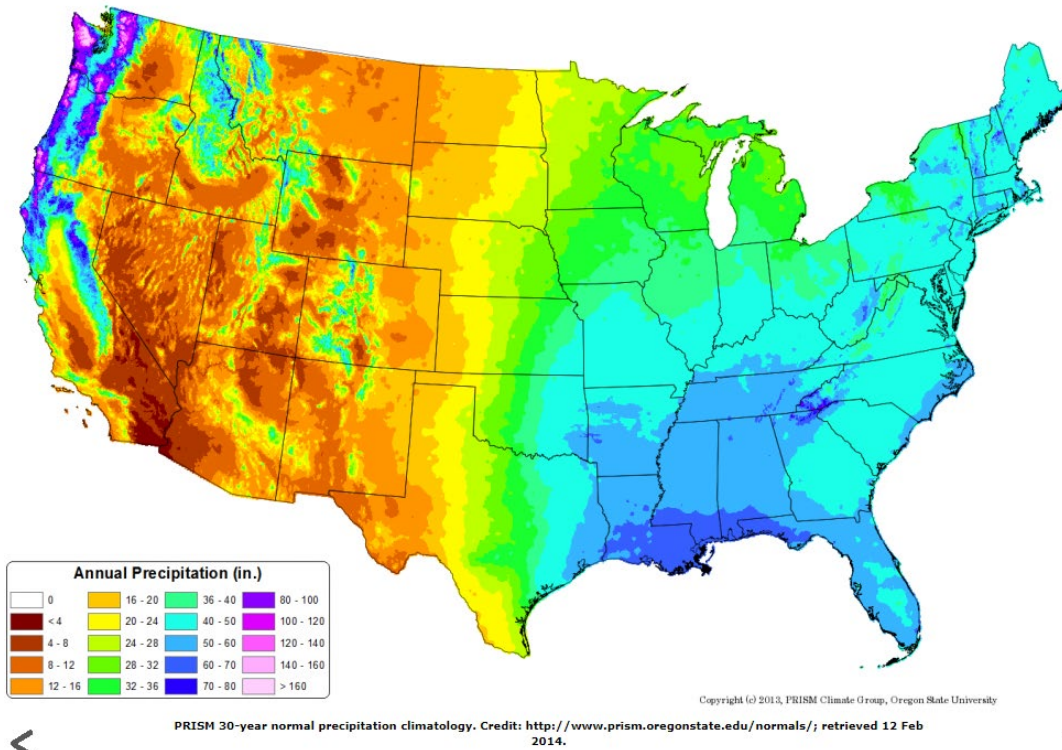
Elevation is 3,136 feet

Avg. rainfall is less than 3 inches

1. Indian Springs Nevada is considered a desert and gets very little rain each year.
  - a. Look at the bar graph and find which months have the least amount of rain? **Answer: May and June**
  - b. Which ones have the highest amount of rain? **Answer: Jan and July**
  - c. What is the average rainfall from January to July?
    - i. *Hint: Add up the amount of rain each month and divide by the number of months.* **Answer:  $(0.4 + 0.3 + 0.3 + 0.3 + 0.1 + 0.1) = 1.5$  and then divide by 6 = **0.25 inches****



30-yr Normal Precipitation: Annual  
Period: 1981-2010

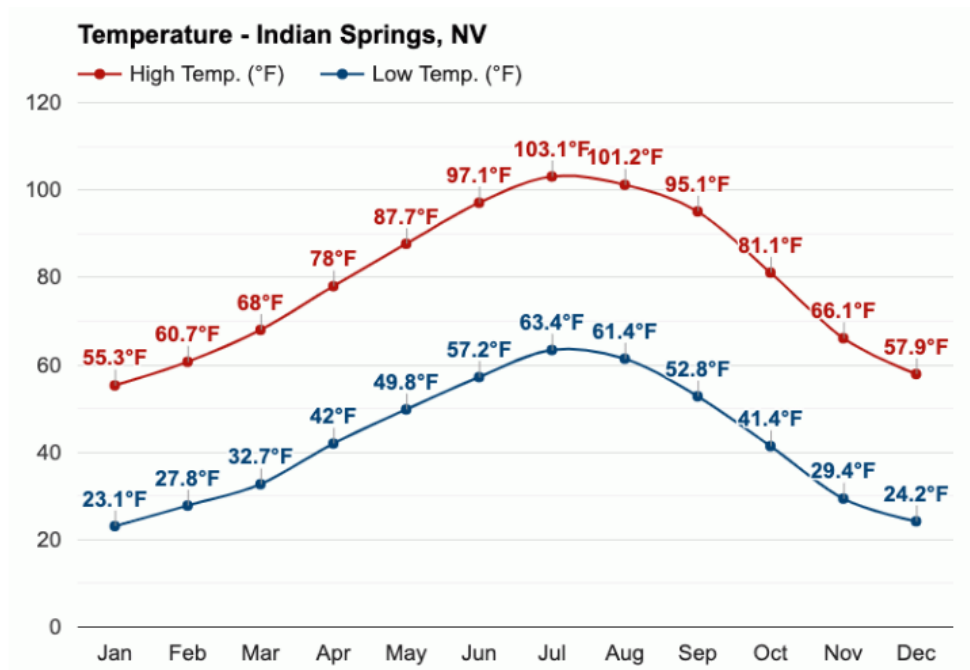


Take a look at the map above of the United States and find Nevada. Look at the key to see what the colors can tell you about the amount of precipitation (rain/snow) in our state.

2. Take a look at the map above of the United States and find Nevada. Look at the key to see what the colors can tell you about the amount of precipitation (rain/snow) in our state.
  - a. What is the annual precipitation in Las Vegas? **Answers: less than 4, 4 – 8 in**
    - i. Reno? **Answer: around 8 – 12 in**
  - b. What other state has similar amounts of precipitation? **Answers may vary – any western state: CO, NM, AZ, CA, OR, ID, WY, WA, UT**



- This map shows the physical characteristics of our country which includes the height or elevation of the land or mountains. Find Nevada and describe the elevation compared to the elevation of Mississippi.
  - The highest peak in Nevada is Boundary Peak near Mono Lake and rises to 13,140 feet above the sea. The lowest point is near the Colorado River at the southern-most part of the state and is 479 feet above the sea. Find the difference between the highest and lowest points. **12661 feet**
- George and Josephine wrote that the temperature was 78°. Based on the graph below, what month do you think they were in Indian Springs? **April** What other month or months could they have been in Indian Springs based on this graph? **May and October**

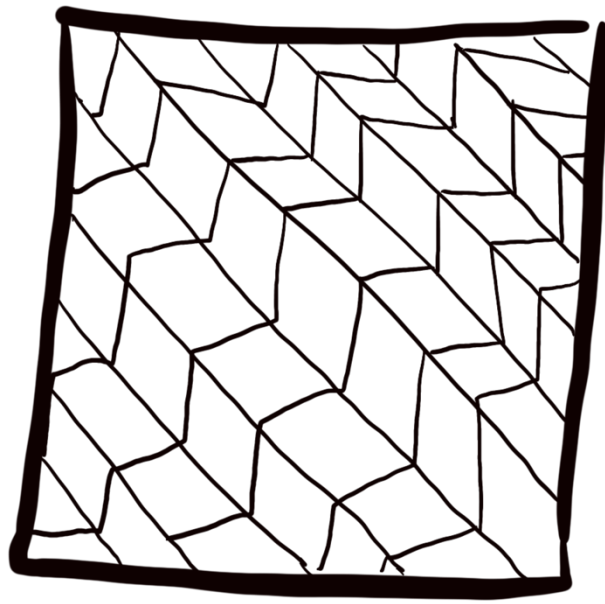


## Art

George and Josephine thought the yucca plant in bloom was so beautiful they snapped a picture of it and included it in their diaries. Using Emily Reid's tips from the last episode, use color and line to experiment with drawing or painting a yucca plant that is *not* realistic. Use the basic form of a yucca as your starting point and then use your imagination to create a plant that might be a distant cousin to the yucca — you can still see its essence but maybe the leaves are purple and the flowers silver. It's up to you and your imagination.

Should be an unrealistic/abstract drawing of a yucca plant.

This week's Zentangle pattern looks like this:



Don't forget to try pressing a cutting from your yard! Cuttings can be flowers or shrubs. Arrange the cutting between two pieces of paper and press it flat by putting a couple heavy books on top. The amount of time you will need to leave it depends on the thickness and amount of moisture in the plant. Check your progress after a week by gently removing the books and gingerly peeling back the top piece of paper. If the cutting looks flat and dry, you're done! If not, replace the paper top sheet and books and leave it to dry longer.

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