

## Chapter 12 Traveling to Yuma



Rafael and the other migrant farmworkers usually spent about eight months in the Salinas Valley, from April to November. Then they spent the months from December to March in Yuma, Arizona. When it is too cold in Northern California, tender crops grow well in the Southwest. Like Salinas, Yuma has rich soil and water. However, it has many more days of sun. In the winter months, Yuma produces most of the lettuce in the U.S.

Rafael began to collect his belongings for the long, 10-hour drive to Yuma. Isabel heard him whistling as he packed his bags, happier than he had been in a long time. "I passed my eye test at the DMV," he said proudly. "So, this year *I'm* driving to Yuma."

Rafael promised Isabel that he would take it easy at work. Although his vision was greatly improved, he was nonetheless sixty-five years old. He had aches and pains, and the job might become too hard for him. "I can still retire at the end of this season," he declared. "Believe me, I will stop if I don't feel strong enough."



On the trip from Salinas to Yuma, the landscape changed dramatically. The dark green hills and valleys of Northern California changed into the dry, desert scenery of Arizona. Rafael looked out of the window of his truck. He had taken this journey for thirty-five years. For many of those years, he had traveled with his wife and daughter. Had it been an easy life? No, it certainly hadn't. For now, however, the journey felt more comfortable than his rocking chair.

### Answer the questions.

1. How long did Rafael and the other migrant farmworkers usually spend in the Salinas Valley?
2. Where did they spend the months from December to March?
3. When it is too cold in Northern California, where do the tender crops grow well?
4. What do both Salinas and Yuma have? Which place has more sun?
5. What does Yuma produce in the winter months?
6. What did Isabel hear her father doing as he packed his bags?
7. What test did Rafael pass at the DMV?
8. What did Rafael promise Isabel that he would do?
9. How old was Rafael and what did he have? How might the job become for him?
10. How did the landscape change on the trip from Salinas to Yuma?
11. For how long had Rafael taken this journey?
12. How did the journey feel to Rafael?

## Complete the story.

Arizona	belongings	California	crops
DMV	farmworkers	lettuce	months
November	soil	Southwest	winter

Rafael and the other migrant \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> usually spent about eight months in the Salinas Valley, from April to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>. Then they spent the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> from December to March in Yuma, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>. When it is too cold in Northern \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>, tender \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> grow well in the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>. Like Salinas, Yuma has rich \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> and water. However, it has many more days of sun. In the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> months, Yuma produces most of the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> in the U.S.

Rafael began to collect his \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> for the long, 10-hour drive to Yuma. Isabel heard him whistling as he packed his bags, happier than he had been in a long time. "I passed my eye test at the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup>," he said proudly. "So, this year *I'm* driving to Yuma."

## Meanings

Read each sentence. Look at the underlined word. Circle *a* or *b*.

- "I passed my eye test at the DMV," he said proudly.  
a. tenderly                      b. with satisfaction
- Although his vision was greatly improved, he was nonetheless sixty-five years old.  
a. almost                      b. still
- On the car trip from Salinas to Yuma, the landscape changed dramatically.  
a. greatly                      b. slightly

## A Conversation at Home

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. I passed my eye test at the DMV!  
B. That's great news. Congratulations!  
A. So, this year *I'm* driving to Yuma.  
B. Okay. But promise me that you'll take it easy at work.  
A. I will. You don't need to worry.  
B. I know that your vision has improved, but you're still sixty-five years old.  
A. Yes, I realize that. And I can still retire at the end of this season. Believe me, I will stop if I don't feel strong enough.

## Past-Tense Verbs

**A. Write the present tense of the irregular past-tense verbs below.**

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. spent _____   | 5. did _____   |
| 2. became _____  | 6. heard _____ |
| 3. began _____   | 7. had _____   |
| 4. thought _____ | 8. grew _____  |

**B. Read the answers below. Then write the past-tense questions.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, Rafael usually spent about eight months in the Salinas Valley.
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, Rafael began to collect his belongings for the long drive to Yuma.
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, Rafael felt strong enough to migrate to Yuma.

## Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. Rafael promised Isabel that he would \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ at work.
2. Although his vision was \_\_\_\_\_ improved, he was nonetheless \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
3. He had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the job might become too hard for him.
4. "I can still \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of this \_\_\_\_\_," he declared.
5. "Believe me, I will \_\_\_\_\_ if I don't feel \_\_\_\_\_ enough."
6. On the trip from Salinas to Yuma, the \_\_\_\_\_ changed dramatically.
7. The dark green \_\_\_\_\_ and valleys of Northern California changed into the dry, \_\_\_\_\_ scenery of Arizona.
8. Rafael looked out of the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_.
9. He had taken this \_\_\_\_\_ for thirty-five \_\_\_\_\_.
10. For \_\_\_\_\_ of those years, he had traveled with his wife and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

- |              | <b>d</b> | <b>t</b> | <b>id</b> |             | <b>d</b> | <b>t</b> | <b>id</b> |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. collected | _____    | _____    | _____     | 4. passed   | _____    | _____    | _____     |
| 2. changed   | _____    | _____    | _____     | 5. declared | _____    | _____    | _____     |
| 3. improved  | _____    | _____    | _____     | 6. whistled | _____    | _____    | _____     |

## What about you?

Circle *Yes* or *No*. Then write questions and ask your partner.

**Yes No** 1. I live in an area that has many days of sun.

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**Yes No** 2. I sometimes travel for 10 hours by car.

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**Yes No** 3. I sometimes take an eye test at the DMV.

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**Yes No** 4. I sometimes need to take it easy at work.

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**Yes No** 5. I sometimes have aches and pains.

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**Yes No** 6. I think the landscape changes dramatically where I live.

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**Yes No** 7. I sometimes travel alone.

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## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What items do you typically pack before you travel somewhere? Which belongings should Rafael collect before spending four months in Yuma?
2. What types of aches and pains are common for a sixty-five-year-old in Rafael's profession?
3. Have you ever taken a particularly memorable journey? If so, how did you travel and where did you go? Describe the experience.