

Teacher Guided Questions

To develop the geographic concepts as you read *The Year on the Ranch* aloud, ask the following questions at the appropriate point in the story. Possible answers are included in parentheses.

1. Where is the family moving and why are they moving there? (*Out to the desert or country to live on a ranch. Papa wants to homestead the land to get it free. Papa wants to grow crops in the desert.*)
2. Where does the story take place? How do we know? (*The desert, Arizona, Yuma, junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers. The story says the ranch is close to the junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.*) You can point out this location on a map of Arizona.
3. What does Papa mean when he says, “The desert shall bloom as the rose?” (*He thinks the desert can grow plants. He hopes to change the desert by growing crops.*)
4. What is his plan to make the desert bloom like a rose? (*He wants to bring water from the rivers – Colorado and Gila.*) What is the term for bringing water from a river to grow crops? (Irrigation)
5. When the girls were grandmothers and returned to the ranch, what did they see? (*“Orchards and fields watered green by the waters of the rivers”*)
6. Was Papa correct about his dreams for the desert? (*Yes, it did blossom like a rose.*)

6. Which sentence best tells what the story was about?
- A. The family moved to a ranch because Papa lost his job in town.
 - B. The family moved to a ranch because Momma loved the desert.
 - C. The family had a bigger, better house on the ranch.
 - D. The family's life changed a great deal when they moved to a ranch.
7. Which sentence about the location of Yuma is written correctly?
- A. yuma is located where the Gila River joins the Colorado River.
 - B. Yuma is located where the Gila river joins the Colorado river.
 - C. Yuma is located where the Gila River joins the Colorado River.
 - D. Yuma is located where the gila river joins the colorado river.

Answer Key
THE YEAR OF THE RANCH
Student Worksheet

Accept reasonable responses.

1. Papa wanted to homestead the land. He wanted to plant crops and see the desert blossom as a rose. His father was a farmer until a flood destroyed his farm. Papa's land is higher.
2. An effect was:
B.
3. The ranch house was not as nice as the family's house in town.
Some examples from the story are:
 - The ranch house was a shack, a patchwork of old lumber.
 - It wasn't big enough for the 6 family members.
 - There was no bathroom.
 - There wasn't room for all of their furniture.
 - At first, water had to be carried from town.
4. Mama was not happy living at the ranch.
Some examples from the story are:
 - On the trip to the ranch, Mama's sat very straight and her voice sounded odd and tight. Emily thought Mama was going to cry.
 - Mama kept humming while she cooked on the kerosene stove. Mama didn't hum when she was happy, she sang when she was happy.
 - Everybody but Mama cheered when they killed scorpions on the screen. Mama hummed bravely when she went to kill one.
 - Mama was happy and sang when her cousin offered to lend them money so they could buy the land and move back to town.
5. Papa hoped to bring water from the Gila and Colorado Rivers to irrigate his crops.
6. D
7. C