

Name: _____

Date: _____

A Day In The Life Of Dr. John Fitzgerald

Code: EL1: LA, SS

Directions: First read the letter to Mrs. FitzGerald from her husband John. Then answer the questions on the back.

Darling Wife,

Last night we had rather an unpleasant time, but I was somewhat comforted with your letter of the Saturday after my departure, and was made happy in your saying that you are all well, or were so when I left. I said we had rather an unpleasant night of it, for we went to bed without our tents, and it began to rain about midnight. So I had to get up and make a shelter with a tent fly which I had laid on the ground as a sort of mattress. Doctor Newlands and I were bunking together. However, we finally made it comfortable and rain proof, and then slept on till morning.

Got up at 5 A.M. but did not march until 11 A.M., and then only went 8 miles and made the nicest camp we have yet had in among partially wooded hills, or rather, mountains. We had some fine mountain views yesterday and today. We were so high up that the whole extent of mountainous country was spread around us. Tomorrow we are to march about 18 miles and make camp on the Clearwater River, the same river that runs by the Agency, only we shall find it a mere mountain brook that can be easily forded by the men and horses. I shall think then of my darlings, and make the stream a little mental address about going down to Lapwai and leaving a message from me to those I so love.

Captain Spurgin, 21st Infantry, caught up with our army last night, and today some beef cattle arrived to serve as food for us all, poor things. We find for the last 3 nights hardly any grass for our horses and packmules. It is very poor, indeed, and we shall not get any better for 3 or 4 days to come. We are still some 50 miles from the summit of the Bitter Root range of mountains which, you know, is the dividing line between Idaho and Montana Territory. Then we shall have 60 miles more to Missoula. No Indians have been heard of yet, and I suspect that our mountain climbing this week and next will not accomplish any substantial result. The life we lead on such a campaign is very rough, and it would puzzle many to account for the fact that it is, to some extent, enjoyable. Only when the elements frown upon us does it seem discouraging. Last evening and night, and also this morning, everyone looked disgusted with everything, but we made an early and very pleasant camp after a short day's march, and presto, everybody is changed, and a generally cheerful aspect prevails.

I hope, Darling, that this scribble will find you all well. Tell Bert that Papa is coming back to his place at table and home just as soon as he can. Tell him that when I was riding along the big woods today, I came upon a poor little Indian pony which had been left behind, and it followed us into camp. If I was only going towards home, I would try and bring it in for him. Tell Bessie, my girl, that Papa yesterday saw a great many beautiful flowers along the way, and they made me think of my little girl. I wish I could send her some fresh ones. As it is, I will put in for you, Dear, and for her a sprig of heather in bloom which is all about our camp tonight. I gathered an armful of it to spread my blankets on for my bed tonight. I wish, Darling, you would write--every chance you get. I will endeavor to do the same.

Your loving,

John

Remember me to the Sternbergs and the Boyles

Questions:

1. Why did John say he had an unpleasant night? _____
2. What time did John get up? _____
3. How far did they march the first day? _____
How far were they going to march the second day? _____
4. What new food item arrived for dinner? _____
5. What was a problem for the horses and mules? _____
6. How far were they from the Idaho/Montana border? _____
7. What did John find along the trail that he wanted to bring home to Bert? _____
8. What were the names of John's children? _____ and _____
9. What was the name of the flower that was in bloom "all about the camp"? _____

Answer sheet

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QUESTIONS And ANSWERS

1. Why did John say he had an unpleasant night? He went to bed without a tent and it rained about midnight and they had to get up and make a shelter with a tent fly.
2. What time did John get up? John got up at 5 a.m.
3. How far did they march the first day? They marched 8 miles the first day.
How far were they going to march the second day? They were going to march about 18 miles the second day.
4. What new food item arrived for dinner? They received some beef.
5. What was a problem for the horses and mules? The past three nights the horses and mules did not hardly have any grass to eat.
6. How far were they from the Idaho/Montana border? The were located some 50 miles from the border.
7. What did John find along the trail that he wanted to bring home to Bert? John found a little Indian pony which he wanted to bring home to Bert.
8. What is the names of John's children? Bert and Bessie.
9. What was the name of the flower that was in bloom "all about the camp"? The flower that was in bloom around the camp is heather.