

Where Was the Mouse?

By Judy Bock, 2001

Read the following scenario to your students. At the end of each paragraph is the key word for a picture. With the computer hooked up to a projector, zoom in and pan around the core map so students can see the eye-level view of that part of the map.

The train had stopped. It was a bright and sunny morning. Mouse jumped off of the train. He had been traveling for a long way all through the night and decided to see all that he could. What did he see? (Train Station)

He was hungry. Mouse spotted a building in the distance. He ran to it. It was warm inside. As he scurried along the baseboard, he saw two young girls cutting vegetables. “Best not to scare them,” he thought as he found his way into the pantry. He found some corn meal in a cloth sack. It tasted good. (Jonathon Miller Residence)

Off he went to explore. More buildings! A carriage house, a barn, and a chicken coop. (Outbuildings)

It was getting late, but he was very excited to discover more about this place. He came to a meadow with grasses growing in it. He found some clover. It smelled so sweet and made a nice dessert to his corn meal dinner. He watched the farm laborers cut the alfalfa grass and hoist it into the wagon as he munched on the sweet clover flowers. (Meadow, clover/alfalfa, farm laborers)

He saw some trees in the distance. He dashed over to get a closer look. The grass was shorter here. He was tired, and it was getting dark, so he decided to explore the trees in the morning. He nestled down into a small patch of clover and fell asleep under the stars.

Mo-o-o-o-o! Mouse awoke with a startle! He was in the pasture with grazing beef cattle! He decided to investigate the grove of trees. He found that it was a grove of crab apple trees. Just the perfect thing to have for breakfast if they were ripe. And they were. (crab apple grove)

He was a little afraid of getting stepped on by one of the cows, so off he scurried in the direction of the house. He was surprised to come to a field of corn. He wasn't really very hungry, but stopped to nibble on a kernel of corn. (corn)

The corn tasted good, but now he was thirsty. He sniffed the air and headed north to find a pond. It was the pond for the cattle, but luckily, they were out in the pasture. He drank until he was refreshed. (pond, cows in pasture)

He heard voices. He was a little lonely! He went to check it out. He carefully worked through the pasture to avoid the cows until he came to a small brick school house. He saw the same two little girls he had seen in the house. (school)

He stayed for awhile and started to learn his ABCs when all of a sudden there was a loud scream. The youngest girl had spotted him. He ran out just in time before being stomped on. It was getting late, and he was lost, hungry, and tired. He followed the road. (road)

Eventually, he came to a woodland. Here he took a nap in the cool shade of the oak trees. (oak tree grove)

When he awoke, he nibbled on some nuts which squirrels had left. Although the birds sang, he was lonely, so back he went to the house. Rather than go inside, he scouted around. He found a lovely garden with all kinds of vegetables. Here, too, were rabbits. The birds in the trees were singing lovely song. He decided to find a nice place for a nest and to live here for awhile. (garden)

Was mouse in the country or in the city? How do you know?

What kinds of things would mouse find in the city?