



Plains Rider

Katie loves to sit at the feet of her grandfather as he rocks in his old wooden rocking chair and tells fascinating tales of their Apache Indian ancestors. They lived on the plains of Arizona. Before European settlers brought horses to North America, the Apaches walked from one place to another or used sleds pulled by dogs to help them transport their belongings. After horses were introduced to the area, however, the Apaches quickly adapted, became expert riders, and could travel much faster.

Katie was especially fond of her grandfather’s story about a young Apache boy who sat proudly atop the fastest horse in his village. Whenever he could, he would ride out onto the plains and let his horse run like the wind. He gripped the horse’s belly tightly with his strong legs, turned his face to the sun, and let his arms fly freely. It made him feel like a bird in flight, and it was amazing. The story always made Katie imagine herself on a beautiful horse, galloping across the plains, racing the wind. Maybe she would get a chance to do that someday.

1. Katie and her grandfather have American Indian ancestors from which tribe?

2. Where did their Indian ancestors live?

3. Who brought the horses to North America that the Indians learned to ride?

4. Which of her grandfather’s stories was Katie’s favorite?

