

CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

Divide the group into three smaller groups and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

BOY

I'll get this right!

CHIEF

hit thighs rhythmically

MOUNTAIN

Pooff, Pooff!

Far away in our dry South Western country is an Indian village, set in front of a high **MOUNTAIN** ____, towering up out of the desert. It is considered a great feat to climb this **MOUNTAIN** ____, so that all the **BOYS** ____ of the village were eager to attempt it. One day the **CHIEF** ____ said, "Now **BOYS** ____, you may all go today and try to climb the **MOUNTAIN** _____. Start right after breakfast, and go each of you as far as you can. Then when you are tired, come back; but let each **BOY** ____ bring a twig from the place where he turned.

Away the **BOYS** ____ went, full of hope, each feeling that he surely could reach the top. But soon a small **BOY** ____ came back, and in his hand he held a leaf of cactus and gave it to the **CHIEF** _____. The **CHIEF** ____ smiled and said, "My **BOY** ____, you did not reach the foot of the **MOUNTAIN** ____; you did not even get across the desert." Later a second **BOY** ____ returned. He carried a twig of sagebrush. "Well," said the **CHIEF** ____, "You got up as far as the **MOUNTAIN** ____ springs. Another came later the some bucks horn. The **CHIEF** ____ smiled when he saw it and spoke thus, "You were climbing; you were up to the first slide rock."

Later in the afternoon, one **BOY** ____ arrived with a cedar spray, and the old **CHIEF** ____ said: Well done, you went halfway up. An hour afterward, a **BOY** ____ came with a switch of pine. To him the **CHIEF** ____ said, "Good, you went to the third belt; you made three quarters of the climb."

The sun was low when the last **BOY** ____ returned. He was a tall, splendid **BOY** ____ of noble character. His hand was empty as he approached the **CHIEF** ____ but his face was radiant. He said, "My father, there were no trees where I turned back. I saw no twigs, but I saw the shining sea." Now the old **CHIEF'S** ____ face glowed too as he said aloud and almost sang, "I knew it! When I looked on your face, I knew it. You have been to the top. You need no twigs for token. It is written in your eyes and it rings in your voice. My **BOY** ____, you have felt the uplift; you have seen the glory of the **MOUNTAIN** ____."

Oh, ye Scouters', keep this in mind, then; the badges we offer for attainment are not prizes. Prizes are things of value taken from another. Scout badges, though are merely tokens of what you have done, or where you have been. There are mere twigs from the trail to show how far you have gotten in climbing the **MOUNTAIN** ____.