

Arom Story Quest Ch. 4 – Pick a Nomba, Any Nomba...

After resting in the Glasslands for a couple days, you head back north, toward the desert where the Nomba tribe lives. Of course, Paral and Lel have sent a guide with you. And, guess who it is? Yeah, it's that weird lady from the other day. You can't help but laugh at your horrible luck. Even worse, she gets tired easily and climbs on your back, muttering to herself about science-y things like wormholes, time being the fourth dimension, Schrodinger's cat, photosynthesis, etc. You still don't know her name because every time you ask her anything, she always replies with nonsensical answers like, "The square root of negative one is i," or "e to the i pi plus one equals zero." Crazy lady! Gah!

Eventually, you make it to the mouth of a cave and you know you must be in the right place because all you can see for kilometers is golden, yellow sand. The weird lady gasps, points at the sand, and says, "Silicon dioxide!" You look up at her and say, "Yeah, sure, whatever, just go back to sleep."

Far to your right (looking south) you see the great mountain chain. In the distance you see what looks like a path leading deep into the mountains. Far beyond that, you are barely able to make out what must be the bamboo forest. Looking straight (to the east), you see a simple bridge connecting the desert island to the rest of the continent. You decide to travel across the bridge and into the heart of the desert island.

It's very hot, but thankfully you still have your Rubite jacket on, so you feel quite comfortable. Your strange, little friend looks pretty miserable, though, so you let her wear the jacket for a bit... Eventually, you come across what looks like a pool of water with palm trees surrounding it. You run after it and dive in, only to find yourself submerged, not in water, but in hot sand. "Why didn't I ever pay attention during classes when they talked about mirages?" you ask yourself.

You start to feel very hot, tired, and angry. You start to punch the sand with your fists, which only makes them burn and sting with pain. Exhaustion finally overcomes you and you pass out.

* * *

When you wake up, you are in a shaded area surrounded by palm trees. There is a large pool of water on your right. "Am I dead?" you wonder. Then, a small person dressed in sand-colored clothing comes up to you and says:

"You'll be fine. Just drink water. My name is Mai!get. I am part of the Nomba tribe. You are now recovering in the oasis we call "The Braai." We call it that because this is where we cook the seafood we catch from the ocean. If we carry seafood too far in this heat, it will spoil, so we cook it here first. There are four oases on this island. This one lies the furthest to the southwest. You are very lucky my falcon, !Nari, found you. She was out looking for the chief, Dantago, when she spotted you. We are getting quite worried about the chief. He left almost a week ago and hasn't yet come back. I have sent !Nari every day, but she always comes back with no news. I would like to ask you to help find him, but it is against our tradition to tell you where he went..."

Task: It may be against the Nomba tradition to speak of the sacred place where the chief, Dantago, went, but they can give you clues so you can figure it out... Answer the questions below. Match each answer to a letter in the Key. Write the letter in the space above its problem number to find out where the chief went.

The chief went to the

6 2 1 7 3 10 8 7 4 11 9 8 7 5

1. The name of the Queen of the Glasslands is _____.
2. A severe shortage of food is called a _____.
3. How many oases are on Nomba Island?
4. One type of bamboo in the Bamboo Forest can grow _____ in a single day!
5. What is the name given to a shape with three sides?
6. What is the place value of the digit 5 in the number 542.6?
7. What is the largest 3-digit number you can make with the digits 3, 4, 9, and 5?
8. What is the smallest 3-digit, even number you can make with the digits 3, 4, and 5?
9. What is the only thing the Rubites will eat?
10. What is the place value of the digit 7 in the number 0.07?
11. What is the name for any 4-sided shape?

Key:

Four..... T	Rubies..... R	hundredths..... A
20 cm..... S	Quadrilateral..... H	Hundreds..... M
954..... N	354..... I	Lel..... U
Triangle..... E	Famine..... O	

Yes, that is where he went. He traveled there to pray for water; our oases have been running low and we fear for the worst. Please go there and help him. Take this ancient scroll. The knowledge inscribed on it should help you. Hopefully it's not too late...