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What Happens When Somebody Decides It's A Great Idea to Take A Bunch of People to Ride A Few Small Boats Through the Rapids of The Grand Canyon, Most Likely to be Smashed Repeatedly Into Rocks Until Highly Tenderized.

This story is about John Wesley Powell and his nine helpers, riding boats down the Green and Colorado rivers to collect geologic specimens and map the area. It talks about all the hardships they faced on the way down the river. I picked this story over the others because it was long enough for me to write about and because I didn't understand the first story at all.

comma before conjunction

This story occurred from around the start of June through mid-August of 1869. It takes place on the Green and Colorado rivers through the Grand Canyon, which at the time had never been traveled through or mapped. The main character in this story is John Wesley Powell, an adventurer who had lost his right arm at the battle of Shiloh seven years before.

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John Wesley Powell and nine others rowing a few boats down the Green River to get to the Colorado, and then map the rivers through the Grand Canyon. It took them two months to get three hundred seventy-five miles. After one of their boats got swamped a few too many times, one of the men, scared to go any further on the expedition, decided to leave. They also lost a lot of supplies that were on the boat.

Powell had predicted that the river would slowly smooth out and become easier to row down, but instead it got much more rough with even more rapids. As a result the group continued to lose supplies and have boats roll over, but still they pushed on.

To keep the men interested in what they were doing, Powell taught them how to use the scientific equipment and told them about different fossils so they could be more involved. This was good because it helped to stop them from leaving and also meant they could do work that Powell normally had to do.

Morale was very low by the time they got to the Grand Canyon around July 16. Almost all of the food stores were moldy, and the rapids were rougher then ever. The men had to use all their strength just to keep the boats from flipping, and constantly had to bail out the leaking boats.

Come mid-August after one of the toughest stretches of the whole trip, three of the men said they would be leaving in the morning. The remaining six continued down river to find the rapids even worse. On more then one occasion they had boats roll out from under them and then they even got separated, but they all survived another day.

The next day very soon after setting off the six men drifted out of the canyon on a smooth stretch of river. They were the first men to ever travel through the Grand Canyon and had gone over a thousand miles in ninety-eight days. Several days later Powell headed back east to find that he had been reported dead in all the newspapers, and when he arrived back he was celebrated as a national hero.

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I liked this story because it was very exciting and interesting the way they had to travel through the Grand Canyon. The amount of work that it must have taken is insane, and they were doing it with nothing better to eat then things like moldy dough balls and dried apples. The other reason I liked this story is that it's kind of nice that after all that, they managed to get out of the canyon alive and write books and things about it.