

Las Papas~Potatoes



The photo at left shows an actual patient in a typical hospital room in the 1930s. Notice there are none of the medical devices a modern hospital room is equipped with...and no TV!



Kern General Hospital where Esperanza's mother recuperates is a real hospital in Bakersfield.

She tapped her knife on one of the dimples. “That is an eye,” she whispered to Esperanza. Leave two eyes in every piece so there will be two chances for it to take root.”



Tule fog (too-lee) is a thick winter fog that occurs in California's Central Valley. It is named after tule grass which is abundant in the wetlands.



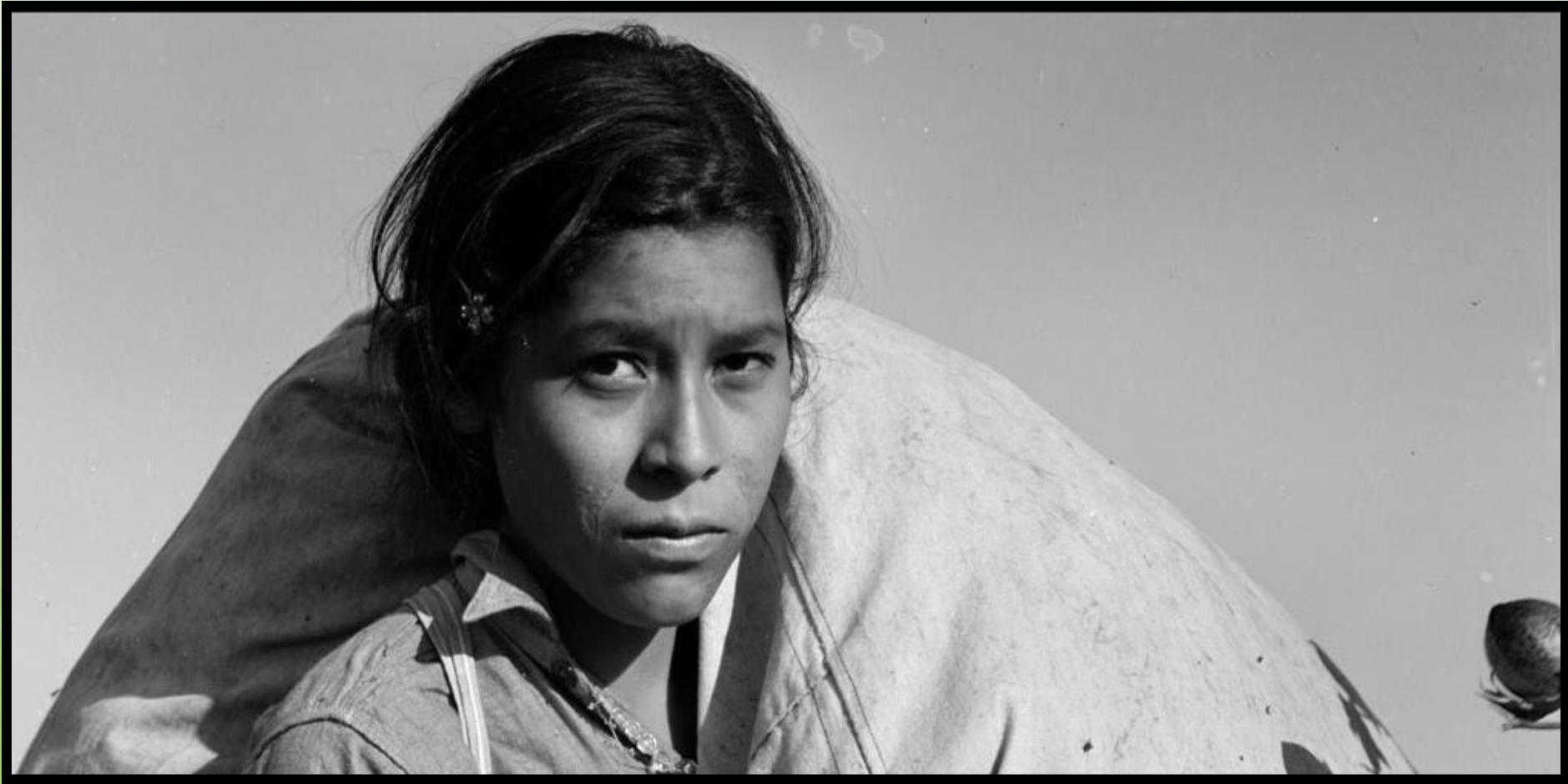
**Tule fog,
not snow**



Packing sheds were big barn-like buildings where crops were packed for shipping across the country. The train tracks came right to the door for easy transfer.



Repatriate : to send someone back to his or her country of citizenship

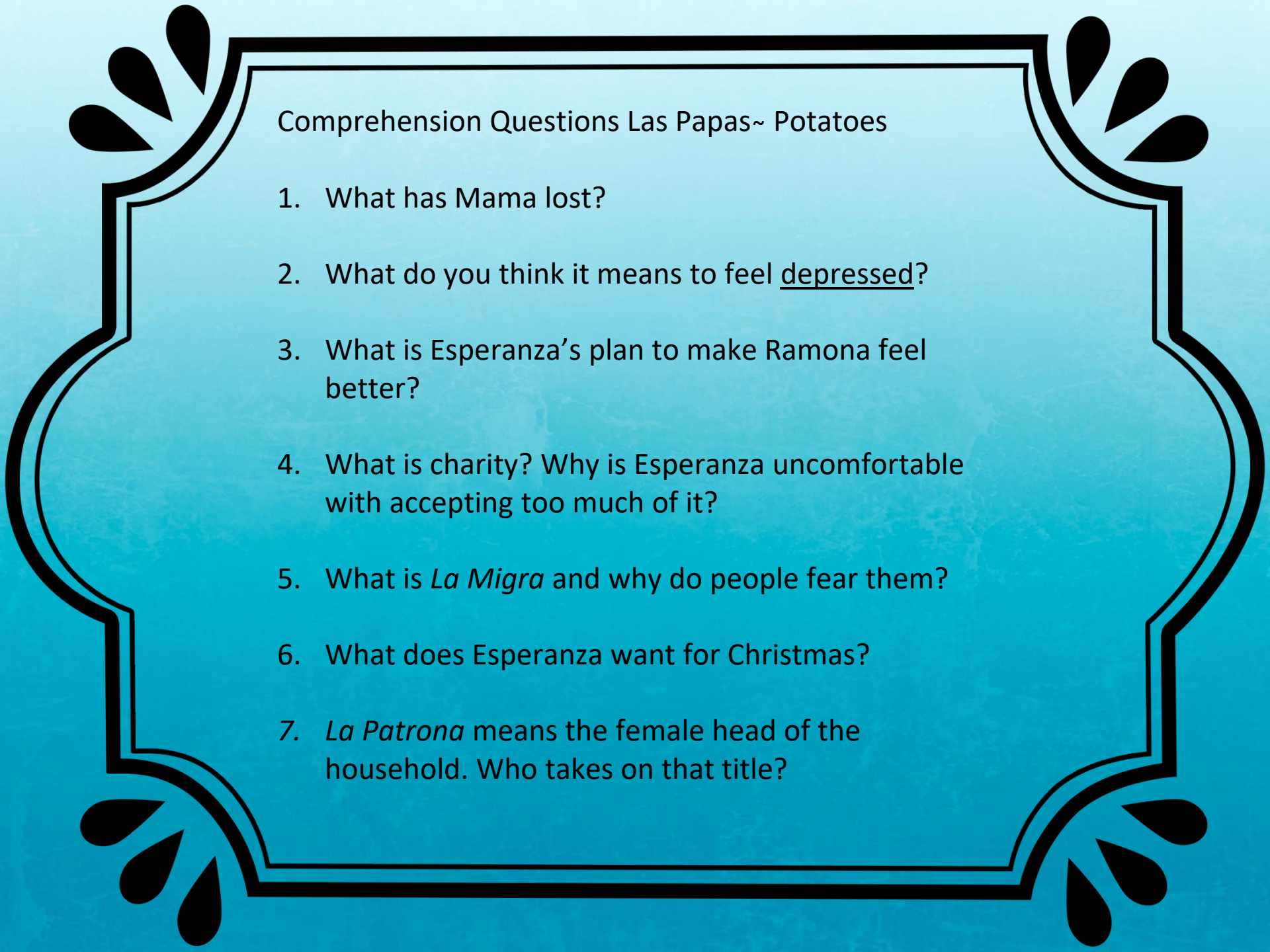


The loss of jobs and resources during the Depression was the reason why a million people of Mexican descent were forced, pressured or coerced into leaving the U.S. permanently. Six out of ten were legal American citizens.

La Navidad



Clockwise from top left: grapevine-wrapped gift, lapel pin, atole de chocolate, empanadas, nativity with moss, advent wreath and candles, red wool coat, midnight mass

A decorative frame with a light blue background and a dark blue border. The frame has rounded corners and is adorned with stylized floral motifs in the corners, consisting of several teardrop-shaped petals. The text is centered within the frame.

Comprehension Questions Las Papas~ Potatoes

1. What has Mama lost?
2. What do you think it means to feel depressed?
3. What is Esperanza's plan to make Ramona feel better?
4. What is charity? Why is Esperanza uncomfortable with accepting too much of it?
5. What is *La Migra* and why do people fear them?
6. What does Esperanza want for Christmas?
7. *La Patrona* means the female head of the household. Who takes on that title?