Let's practice SIMPLE PAST by reading Helen Keller's Biography

Complete the blanks with the correct form of the tense. Don't use abbreviations

Where did Helen Keller grow up?

Helen Keller (be) born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She was a happy healthy baby. Her father, Arthur, (work) for a newspaper while her mother, Kate, (take) care of the home and baby Helen. She (grow) up on her family's large farm called Ivy Green. She enjoyed the animals including the horses, dogs, and chickens.

Illness

When Helen was around one and a half years old she

(become) very sick. She had a high fever and a bad headache for several days. Although Helen survived, her parents soon (realize) that she had lost both her sight and her hearing.

Frustration

Helen (try) to communicate with the people around her. She had special motions she would use to indicate that she wanted her mom or her dad. However, she would also get frustrated. She realized that she was different and it was extremely difficult to let others know what she needed. She would sometimes throw tantrums, kicking and hitting other people in anger.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Annie Sullivan

Soon Helen's parents realized that she needed some special help. They (contact) the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. The director suggested a former student named Annie Sullivan. Annie had been blind, but had her eyesight restored by surgery. Perhaps her unique experience would allow her to help Helen. Annie (come) to work with Helen on March 3, 1887 and would be her helper and companion for the next 50 years.

Learning Words

Annie began to teach Helen words. She would press the letters of words in to Helen's hand. For example, she would put a doll in one of Helen's hands and then press the letters of the word D-O-L-L into the other hand. She taught Helen a number of words. Helen would repeat the words into Annie's hand.

However, Helen still (not understand) that the hand signs had meaning. Then one day Annie put Helen's hand into water coming from a pump. Then she (spell) out water into Helen's other hand. Something clicked. Helen finally understood what Annie was doing. An entire new world opened up for Helen. She (learn) a number of new words that day. In many ways it was one of the happiest days of her life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS