

How Cabeza de Vaca Survived

By Aamaya Smith

Did you know that Cabeza de Vaca's name is translated "Head of Cow" and it's probably because of his wilderness know-how?

Cabeza de Vaca, a Spanish explorer and military veteran, outlasted many other conquistadors because of his wilderness know-how, intelligence with Native Americans, and healing abilities.

Would you believe that Cabeza de Vaca's wilderness know-how allowed him to thrive throughout his long journey? For instance, Cabeza used a branch that had been struck with lightning to surround a pit made of mud that he dug up. This intelligent and creative idea not only produced warmth and vision at night, but allowed him to stay protected from vicious predators that roamed nearby. (Document B)

Another way this explorer didn't perish was his intelligence with the Native Americans. For example, he earned the trust of the Churraccus to trade foods and goods with the Native Americans, and I'm guessing it was a lot harder than selling Girl Scout cookies. In addition to this, Cabeza also learned four Native American languages, plus sign language, too. This helped him communicate with the Indian tribes throughout the land. (Background Essay & Document B)

As you can see, the last reason is about Cabeza's healing abilities. One time, Cabeza had to help an Indian male with an arrowhead lodged right above his heart. The Indian patient even had to be held down to remove the bone. Imagine being in so much pain that a relative or somebody had to hold you down! He was given stitches and two days later he was healed. Cabeza became well-known for this operation. (Document C)

In conclusion, you might want to think before you say, "Being out in the wilderness is easy," because it's not. If you don't believe me about all this stuff I'm telling you, look up Cabeza de Vaca and FIND OUT!!



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I chose the piece “How Cabeza de Vaca Survived” because I used text evidence to support my reasons, and the piece was organized. I made revisions to help the reader understand more about how Cabeza de Vaca survived. I also edited for punctuation to make it more clear. I used a variety of transition and word choices. I added humor because writing is like a cupcake where you sprinkle it in to make it better.

I love writing because it calms me down and helps me escape from reality because life can be a pain in the neck sometimes. 😊😊😊