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This story is about a type of snowstorm. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Brrrrr!

Do you like snow? Light, fluffy flakes? Soft snow that floats from the sky? Many people do like snow. Snow covers the ground. It makes the world look bright and clean.

Many people enjoy snow sports. They like to sled. They like to ice skate. They like to ski. You might like to make snowballs or build snow forts. There are many ways to have fun with snow.

But sometimes there can be too much snow. The snow comes down fast. Winds blow hard. The wind and snow last a long time. When that happens, a snowstorm becomes a blizzard.

What is a blizzard? First, it is very cold outside. The temperature is colder than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Then the wind blows more than 35 miles per hour. The snow comes down so fast that you can see only a short space in front of you. There's more. The cold, wind, and snow last at least three hours. Snow coming down that quickly piles up fast. There may be snow drifts that are as tall as a person. The roads are covered with so much snow that cars can't travel on them.



Weather forecasters tell you what the weather will be over a period of time. They warn you when a blizzard is coming. This helps you plan ahead. You can make sure you have food in your house. You must make sure you have a good way to keep warm. You must have candles or flashlights in case your lights go out.

Soft, light snow can be fun. Blizzards can be dangerous. So be prepared. Stay inside!



# Understanding the Story

It's important to understand what you read. You just read a story about blizzards. Did you read the story carefully? Here are some questions about the story. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. How cold must it be for a snowstorm to be a blizzard?

- (A) less than 10 degrees Fahrenheit
- (B) less than 20 degrees Fahrenheit
- (C) minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit
- (D) minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit

Factual

Paragraph 4 says that the temperature must be colder than 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Choice B is correct.

2. How will you know when a blizzard is coming?

- (A) It will start snowing.
- (B) It will get very cold.
- (C) You will start to feel very cold.
- (D) Weather forecasters will warn you.

Inference

The story says that weather forecasters tell you what the weather will be. It also says they warn people when a blizzard is coming. Choice D is correct.

3. What are two things that have to happen for a storm to be a blizzard?

- (A) The wind must blow at 20 miles per hour, and it must last three hours.
- (B) The temperature must be 35 degrees Fahrenheit, and the wind must blow for three hours.
- (C) The wind must blow for three hours, and there must be so much snow it is hard to see.
- (D) The wind must blow all day, and there must be so much snow it is hard to see.

Inference

The story says that the snow, cold, and wind must last at least three hours. It also says that there must be so much snow that you can only see a short space in front of you. Choice C is correct.

4. What makes it difficult to travel during a blizzard?

- (A) You can't see very far in front of you on the snowy roads.
- (B) Everyone wants to stay inside where it is warm and dry.
- (C) There is too much traffic on the roads.
- (D) It's too cold to drive.

Inference

The story says that roads get covered with snow. It also says there is so much snow that you can only see a short space in front of you. You know that it is hard to travel when you can't see ahead of you and the roads are not clear. Choice A is correct.

5. Why should you have plenty of food in your house before a blizzard comes?

- (A) You will be bored so you will want something to eat.
- (B) You will be too cold to go to the store.
- (C) You may not be able to walk or drive to a store.
- (D) Cooking will keep you busy during the blizzard.

Critical Reasoning

The story says the roads are covered with snow and you can't see very far. You know it would be very hard to walk or drive a car under those conditions. You may not be able to go to the store. Choice C is correct.

6. Why might the lights go out during a blizzard?

- (A) The electric company wants to save power.
- (B) The temperature is too cold for the electricity to work.
- (C) The blizzard may blow down power lines.
- (D) You want to save energy with a flashlight and candles.

Critical Reasoning

You know that high winds and heavy snow can knock down power lines. You cannot get any electricity when the power lines are down. Choice C is correct.



# Summing Up



This story gave you some information about blizzards. It told you what makes a blizzard. The story also told you some things you should do in a blizzard.



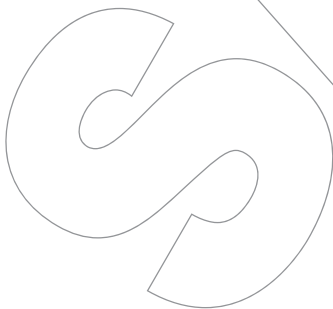
A **chart** is a useful way to sort information. The chart below asks you questions about blizzards. Fill in the boxes of the chart below with facts you know about blizzards. The chart has been started for you.

## Blizzards

What makes a storm a blizzard?

What should you do in a blizzard?

Winds 35 mph or more





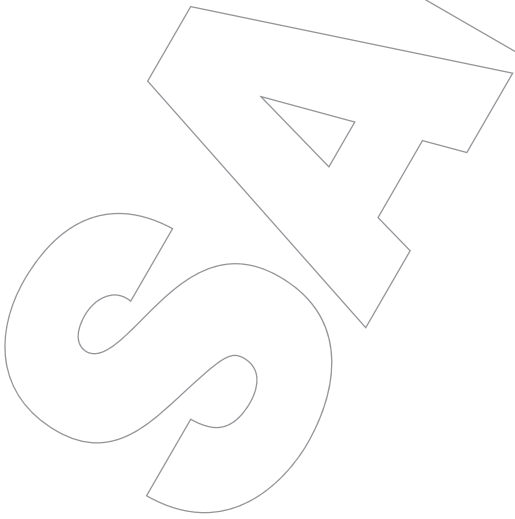
# Write About It

One important reason for writing is to help people. You can give them information that will make their lives better. One way to inform people is to give them flyers. **Flyers** are papers with specific information about a subject or event.

Your dentist might give you a flyer about how to take care of your teeth. It might look like this:

<p><b>Keep your teeth happy!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush every day</li> <li>• Floss every day</li> <li>• Eat fruits and vegetables</li> </ul>	
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Now make a flyer that tells people about blizzards. On one side, tell what blizzards are like. On the other side, tell what you should do during a blizzard. Use the information from your chart on page 10.

	
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