



This story is about Marie, a girl who likes to ice climb.

Ice Climbing

Marie likes to ice climb. It is good exercise. It is also a fun way to see the world. Ice climbing calms Marie down, too. Whenever she gets angry or sad, Marie collects her things and looks for a good place to climb.

Marie wasn't angry or sad this time. She was stressed. She had a big test next week, and she was nervous about it. So she decided to go climbing.

There was a lot of equipment to get before she could go. Marie needed warm clothes. She also needed lots of rope, two ice axes, and a pair of crampons. Crampons are spikes that attach under her boots.

Once Marie got her stuff, she went out into the cold to look for a good place to climb. She wanted to climb ice that went straight up. A frozen waterfall would be perfect.

She knew the place to go. It was close. The ice from the waterfall went up like a cliff.



Standing at the bottom of the ice cliff, Marie got ready. She put the crampons over her boots and stomped her feet. To be safe, she got her ropes and harness ready. This was in case she slipped. In each hand, she held an ice axe. Her friend Jada was there to help.

Marie walked to the base of the ice. She swung one ice axe. It stuck in the ice. Then she swung the other. She pulled herself up and kicked the spikes on her feet into the ice. Her spikes stuck so she could stand, raising herself off the ground.

She pulled her ice axes out and swung again. After lots of hard work, she finally made it to the top. She was very tired. But she was happy, too. Ice climbing was lots of fun. Now it was time for her to go back down!



Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. 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. Marie is a

- (A) weak person
- (B) dangerous person
- (C) strong person
- (D) beginning ice climber

Inference

2. Why does Marie need to be safe when ice climbing?

- (A) She could fall while climbing.
- (B) The ice was really cold.
- (C) There are animals on the cliff.
- (D) She did not know how to climb.

Critical Reasoning

3. Why did Marie decide to climb?

- (A) She wanted exercise.
- (B) She was bored.
- (C) She was stressed.
- (D) She wanted to see the world.

Factual

4. Crampons are

- (A) special climbing boots
- (B) spikes worn under boots
- (C) hard helmets for safety
- (D) long ropes used to climb

Factual

5. Marie most likely lived

- (A) in a big city
- (B) in the country
- (C) close to a river
- (D) somewhere warm

Critical
Reasoning

6. Why do ice climbers use ice axes?

- (A) to chop wood
- (B) to chop blocks of ice
- (C) to cut steps in the ice
- (D) to pull themselves up

Inference



Summing Up



What did Marie do *first? Second? Third? Fourth?*
Fill in the events in the boxes.



1



2



3



4

swung her ice axes

climbed a waterfall

got her ice climbing equipment

put on crampons



Write About It

After you read, it is good to write about what you learned. What did you learn about ice climbing from the story? Use each group of words below to write a sentence about ice climbing. Start each sentence with a capital letter. End each sentence with a period.

ice climbers

frozen

waterfalls

1.

ice climbers

use

2.

ice climbing

is

3.
