POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 1 of 5

Aspen Ridge · Grade 3



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Trailhead	**Creek Crossing**	**Switchbacks**	**Rock Garden**	**Summit**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored · do this after stop 5): berm

Riders lean into a **berm** to turn quickly without sliding off the trail.

What do you think a berm is?

_____

_____

(1) Trailhead — *sturdy*

The club needed a table for the trail fair. A thin box sagged when Leo set the water jug on it.

He chose a **sturdy** wooden table instead. It held the jug and all the cups without bending.

As used in this passage, what does the word "sturdy" most likely mean?

(A) heavy even when empty
(B) soft enough to fold easily
(C) bright enough to see far away
(D) strong enough to stay firm

2 Creek Crossing

bank

Leaves had washed onto the **bank** of the stream. They lay on the ground just above the water.

A log farther out floated past the footbridge. The class watched both from the dry path.

As used in this passage, what does the word “bank” most likely mean?

(A) a path built to cross water
(B) the tilt of a bike in a turn
(C) the land along the water’s edge
(D) a row of seats beside one another

3 Switchbacks

unsteady

One leg of the display table rested in a small dip. The table was **unsteady** when Jo set a book on it.

It rocked each time someone touched the top. An adult moved it onto flat ground before the display opened.

As used in this passage, what does the word “unsteady” most likely mean?

(A) not firm or well balanced
(B) not strong enough for a heavy load
(C) ready to be used again
(D) able to move very quickly

4 Rock Garden

fragile

Milo carried a small clay bird to the art show. His wooden bike model rode safely in his backpack.

The clay bird was more **fragile**, so he wrapped it in soft cloth. One of its thin wings had cracked when he touched it too firmly.

As used in this passage, what does the word “fragile” most likely mean?

(A) valuable and worth keeping
(B) safe to leave anywhere
(C) able to hold a heavy load
(D) easy to damage or break

5 Summit *a sea of*

Ana waited on the stage beside the park field.

From the stage, she looked out at **a sea of** bright helmets.

A drum group waited beside the small gate.

Rows of riders filled every part of the field, stretching far beyond the stage.

Part A. As used in paragraph 2, what does the phrase "a sea of" most likely mean?

(A) a very wet group of
(B) a very quiet group of
(C) a huge number of
(D) a very colorful group of

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "…waited on the stage beside the park field."
(B) "From the stage, she looked out at a sea of bright helmets."
(C) "Rows of riders filled every part of the field…"
(D) "A drum group waited beside the small gate."

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 2 of 5

Pine Needle Switchbacks · Grade 3



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Forest Start	**Rooty Bend**	**Pine Switchbacks**	**Rock Passage**	**Ridge Finish**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored · do this after stop 5): switchback

A **switchback** is a sharp turn that sends a climbing trail back across a hillside in the other direction.

Why might a trail use switchbacks instead of going straight up a steep hill?

_____

_____

1 Forest Start — *eager*

Tess had waited all week for the bike parade. Her brother was willing to join, but Tess was **eager**. She had her helmet ready long before the others arrived. She kept asking when they could begin.

As used in this passage, what does the word "eager" most likely mean?

(A) willing but in no hurry
(B) very excited and ready to begin
(C) calm and willing to wait longer
(D) tired and ready to stop

2 Rooty Bend

shelter

Clouds can bring rain to an outdoor picnic. An open field leaves people in the wind and rain.

A roof with dry space below can provide **shelter**. People can wait there while the storm passes.

As used in this passage, what does the word "shelter" most likely mean?

(A) a place safe from weather
(B) a place chosen for a meal
(C) a tool that measures rain
(D) a group that travels together

3 Pine Switchbacks

current

From the footbridge, a class watched a leaf on the stream. The leaf moved along even though nobody pushed it.

The **current** carried it toward a bend. A twig on the water moved the same way.

As used in this passage, what does the word "current" most likely mean?

(A) water rising higher on a shore
(B) the depth of a body of water
(C) the place where a stream begins
(D) water flowing in one direction

4 Rock Passage

reusable

Some cups are thrown away after one picnic. A **reusable** cup can return for many picnics.

People wash it when they finish drinking. Then they put it away for another day.

As used in this passage, what does the word "reusable" most likely mean?

(A) easy to clean after a picnic
(B) able to be used again
(C) ready to be thrown away
(D) needed only for one event

5 Ridge Finish

narrow

Two paths led to the same nature center.

On the first path, three friends could walk side by side.

On the second, bushes grew close on both edges and only one person could fit across.

That second path was **narrow**, even though it was the shorter way to the center.

Part A. As used in paragraph 4, what does the word "narrow" most likely mean?

(A) having a long way from start to end
(B) rising high above the ground
(C) short from start to finish
(D) having little room across

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "Two paths led to the same nature center."
(B) "…only one person could fit across."
(C) "…three friends could walk side by side…"
(D) "…narrow, even though it was the shorter way to the center."

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 3 of 5

Granite Drop · Grade 3



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

1	2	3	4	5
Ridge Start	**Rock Garden**	**Banked Turn**	**Granite Roll**	**Meadow Finish**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★

1 Ridge Start

snail's pace

The class carried a tall paper tree toward the stage. They moved at a **snail's pace**.

Each step was tiny so the tree would not tip. The walk across the room took a long time.

As used in this passage, what does the phrase "snail's pace" most likely mean?

(A) a careful but quick speed
(B) a speed that is very fast
(C) a very slow speed
(D) a speed that stays the same

2 Rock Garden — *swift*

The class watched paper boats from the footbridge. One boat drifted slowly beside the bank.

In the middle of the stream, the water was **swift**. A second boat swept past the first and was soon far ahead.

As used in this passage, what does the word "swift" most likely mean?

(A) moving steadily without stopping
(B) moving with great care
(C) moving from side to side
(D) moving at a very fast speed

3 Banked Turn — *examine*

A wheel on the model bike would not turn. Jules did not throw the model away.

She began to **examine** it, turning it slowly and looking near each small part. She found a piece of string caught beside the wheel.

As used in this passage, what does the word "examine" most likely mean?

(A) look at from a distance
(B) look closely at something
(C) hide from other people
(D) guess about without looking

4 Granite Roll — *light*

Nora packed two bags for the class picnic. One held books, and she needed both hands to lift it.

The **light** bag held only paper napkins. She lifted that bag with one finger.

As used in this passage, what does the word "light" most likely mean?

(A) bright enough to light a room
(B) pale rather than dark in color
(C) easy to lift; not heavy
(D) small enough to fit in a pocket

5 Meadow Finish

preview

The full slide show about the park would not begin until the evening meeting.

Before the meeting, Luis saw three of its pictures on the classroom screen.

Luis wondered whether his classmates had seen that **preview**.

He still wanted to attend because most of the pictures had not been shown.

Part A. As used in paragraph 3, what does the word "preview" most likely mean?

(A) a short showing after the main event
(B) a view of something very far away
(C) a full showing of the main event
(D) an early look at part of a show

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "The full slide show about the park would not begin…"
(B) "Before the meeting, Luis saw three of its pictures…"
(C) "…whether his classmates had seen that preview…"
(D) "…most of the pictures had not been shown…"

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored): roll-down

On a small **roll-down**, both wheels follow the sloping rock surface down to the trail below.

How is a roll-down different from a jump?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 4 of 5

Creekside Loop · Grade 3



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

① Pine Trailhead	② Flowing Turns	③ Lower Bridge	④ Return Climb	⑤ Trailhead Finish
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★	☐ fixed ★

① Pine Trailhead — *distant*

A lookout can show both nearby and **distant** parts of a landscape. Trees beside the platform look large. Hills far beyond the river look small. Their faraway position changes how they appear from the lookout.

As used in this passage, what does the word “distant” most likely mean?

Ⓐ difficult to see clearly
Ⓑ far away from the viewer
Ⓒ easy to reach
Ⓓ close to the ground

2 Flowing Turns

like a ribbon

From the lookout, the trail curved **like a ribbon** through the meadow. Its thin line wound around trees and followed the shape of the valley.

The hikers below looked tiny from so high above. Ana traced the winding line with her eyes until it reached the woods.

As used in this passage, what does the phrase "like a ribbon" most likely mean?

(A) in a broad, flat patch
(B) as cloth tied around a gift
(C) in a perfectly straight row
(D) in a long, slender curve

3 Lower Bridge

route

A map can show several paths through a park. One path may pass a pond, while another goes through pine trees.

The **route** you choose tells which way you will travel. A leader can trace it from the start to the finish.

As used in this passage, what does the word "route" most likely mean?

(A) a list of places to visit
(B) a person who leads a group
(C) a path between two places
(D) a bag used to carry supplies

4 Return Climb

spring

A stream can begin at a **spring**. At this spot, water comes up through cracks in the ground.

The water flows into a shallow channel. It keeps moving downhill after leaving the spot.

As used in this passage, what does the word "spring" most likely mean?

(A) the season that comes after winter
(B) a curled piece of metal that bends
(C) a quick jump into the air
(D) a place water leaves the ground

5 Trailhead Finish

uneven

A class made two clay paths for a model park.

One path was flat from end to end, but the other had many little bumps and hollows.

The students described the second path as **uneven**.

They added tiny signs and paper trees to both paths before the display opened.

Part A. As used in paragraph 3, what does the word "uneven" most likely mean?

(A) bumpy rather than flat
(B) not marked on a map
(C) not open to the public
(D) rough only along its edges

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "…the other had many little bumps and hollows."
(B) "A class made two clay paths for a model park."
(C) "The students described the second path as uneven."
(D) "They added tiny signs and paper trees to both paths…"

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored): loop

A **loop** follows a continuous route and brings you back to where you started.

How is a loop different from an out-and-back ride?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 5 of 5

Golden Aspen Loop · Grade 3



Name or class code _____ Date _____

Your trip

1. Read the passage at each stop. The vocabulary word is in **bold**.
2. Use clues in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer, then write it on the trip map.
3. Stop 5 is the challenge: answer Part A, then choose the detail that supports it in Part B.
4. Your teacher checks each stop. If you missed one, reread for the clue and try again. Keep your first answer; write the new letter beside it with a star (★).

① Grove Entrance	② Golden Curve	③ Stream Bridge	④ Upper Aspen Corridor	⑤ Grove Trailhead
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored · do this after stop 5): singletrack

A **singletrack** trail is a narrow riding path, like the thin dirt ribbon between aspen trees.

Why do you think this kind of trail has single in its name?

_____

_____

① Grove Entrance — *steady*

The paper sign kept wobbling while Lee tried to paint. A friend held it **steady**.

It stayed in one position instead of shaking. Lee could make the letters clear and neat.

As used in this passage, what does the word "steady" most likely mean?

Ⓐ held firmly without shaking
Ⓑ light enough to hold easily
Ⓒ bent into a new shape
Ⓓ fast and hard to follow

2 Golden Curve

cooperate

The trail club had one large sign to paint. No one could hold it steady and paint at the same time.

The friends decided to **cooperate**. Two held the sign while another painted the letters.

As used in this passage, what does the word "cooperate" most likely mean?

(A) help one another complete a task
(B) take turns leading the group
(C) work alone without asking for help
(D) argue about who should begin

3 Stream Bridge

branch

A river may divide before reaching a lake. One **branch** bends toward a marsh.

This smaller stream has split away from the main river. The two paths carry water to different places.

As used in this passage, what does the word "branch" most likely mean?

(A) a side stream that leaves a river
(B) a woody part growing from a tree
(C) a store belonging to a larger company
(D) the deepest point in a lake

4 Upper Aspen Corridor

reread

Nell was unsure which trail name was on the note. She had looked at the note once already.

She chose to **reread** it before asking for help. The second reading helped her find the name she had missed.

As used in this passage, what does the word "reread" most likely mean?

(A) read again
(B) read slowly for more detail
(C) read for the first time
(D) read without stopping

5 **Grove Trailhead** *alert*

Jo visited the pond during a morning walk.

Reeds grew beside the water, and a path led past several benches.

A small movement caught her attention, and she pointed out a bird before anyone else saw it.

The leader later described Jo as **alert** during their visit.

Part A. As used in paragraph 4, what does the word "alert" most likely mean?

(A) quick to notice things
(B) sleepy and ready to rest
(C) noisy and trying to be heard
(D) worried about every little sound

Part B. Which detail from the passage best supports your answer to Part A?

(A) "…she pointed out a bird before anyone else saw it."
(B) "Jo visited the pond during a morning walk."
(C) "Reeds grew beside the water, and a path led past several benches."
(D) "…described Jo as alert during their visit…"