POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 1 of 5

Aspen Ridge · Grade 4



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

① Trailhead — *efficient*

The club had many name tags to sort before the trail fair. At first, volunteers walked across the room for each tag.

Their new plan was more **efficient**. They sorted near the boxes and finished the same careful work with fewer trips.

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

Ⓐ working quickly by omitting steps
Ⓑ doing a job without checking the result
Ⓒ doing work without wasted effort
Ⓓ spending extra time on every small detail

2 Creek Crossing

overlook

The group checked its packing list before leaving. It was easy to **overlook** the small box beside the door.

Everyone looked toward the large bags instead. They nearly left without seeing the box they still needed.

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

(A) forget something already packed
(B) fail to notice while looking
(C) watch something for a long time
(D) describe something in great detail

3 Switchbacks

cautious

Rosa wanted to explore a new path with her group. Wet leaves covered part of it. She stopped to look and asked the leader which way was safe.

Rosa was **cautious** about the wet patch. Once the leader pointed out a clear path, Rosa continued with the group.

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

(A) careful about possible problems
(B) slow because of being tired
(C) eager to finish before everyone else
(D) certain that nothing can go wrong

4 Rock Garden

impatient

The audience waited while an artist set up a screen. Most students waited quietly.

One **impatient** student tapped the chair and kept asking when the show would begin. Waiting even a few more minutes seemed hard for that student.

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

(A) finding it hard to wait calmly
(B) eager but willing to wait quietly
(C) not interested in what will happen
(D) not able to hear the directions

(5) Summit

temporary

The library set up a **temporary** reading corner while workers repaired the main room.

The corner had cushions, a book cart, and a small lamp.

Students enjoyed choosing books there during the repair work.

As soon as the main room reopened, the corner would be taken apart.

Part A. As used in paragraph 1, what does the word "temporary" most likely mean?

(A) made to last for many years
(B) for use only a short time
(C) built for only one person
(D) likely to need many repairs

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

(A) "…while workers repaired the main room."
(B) "…the corner would be taken apart."
(C) "…cushions, a book cart, and a small lamp…"
(D) "…choosing books there during the repair work…"

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored): berm

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

What do you think a berm is?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 2 of 5

Pine Needle Switchbacks · Grade 4



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 ★

1 Forest Start

a wall of sound

When the parade reached the square, cheers rose from every side. The riders entered **a wall of sound**. Drums, clapping, and voices filled the space around them. There was no quiet gap between one cheer and the next.

As used in this passage, what does the phrase “a wall of sound” most likely mean?

(A) noise coming from one direction
(B) a quiet place where voices cannot be heard
(C) a single voice heard from far away
(D) a loud mass of noise all around

2 Rooty Bend

essential

The club checks equipment before every supervised bike activity. Colorful helmet stickers may be fun, but they are not required for the ride.

A properly fitting helmet is **essential** for taking part. A rider cannot join the activity without the required helmet.

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

(A) helpful but possible to do without
(B) easy to replace with anything
(C) useful only for decoration
(D) needed for an activity to succeed

3 Pine Switchbacks

match

A model may need a replacement wheel. Spare wheels come in several sizes and patterns.

A builder looks for a **match** for the wheel already attached. The two should have the same size, pattern, and hole for the axle.

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

(A) a contest between two teams
(B) a small stick used to start a fire
(C) a tool for measuring the time
(D) an item that fits another one

4 Rock Passage

persistent

The paper bridge bent during the first test. Asha listened to her partner and changed the folds.

Asha was **persistent** as she worked on a new design. After several tries, she built a bridge that held the toy bike.

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

(A) repeating without changing anything
(B) continuing despite difficulty
(C) finishing a task on the first attempt
(D) choosing only tasks that seem easy

5 Ridge Finish

disconnect

The display wall used two cardboard sections held together by clips.

At the end of the fair, an adult helped the class **disconnect** the sections.

Students put their drawings into folders while the adult worked.

Once the clips were removed, the sections could be carried apart.

Part A. As used in paragraph 2, what does the word "disconnect" most likely mean?

(A) join things more firmly
(B) check whether things are heavy
(C) take apart things that are joined
(D) carry joined parts as one piece

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

(A) "Once the clips were removed, the sections could be carried apart."
(B) "The display wall used two cardboard sections held together by clips."
(C) "At the end of the fair, an adult helped the class disconnect the sections."
(D) "Students put their drawings into folders while the adult worked."

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored): 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?

_____

_____

POLE MOUNTAIN LEARNING · PRINTABLE · NO DEVICE NEEDED

Vocabulary Mountain Adventures: Ride 3 of 5

Granite Drop · Grade 4



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

① Ridge Start

contrast

Two routes lead to the same lookout. One route may be shaded while the other is sunny.

One may climb quickly while the other stays nearly level. A trail guide can **contrast** the two routes to explain these differences. Those differences help visitors choose a route that suits their group.

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

(A) show how two things differ
(B) describe each place separately
(C) put events in time order
(D) choose which thing costs more

2 Rock Garden

the heart of

The workshop was at **the heart of** the trail fair. Every team met there to plan, share supplies, and solve problems.

Without that busy center, many fair activities could not happen. The workshop was more than just another room on the map.

As used in this passage, what does the phrase "the heart of" most likely mean?

(A) the central, most important part of
(B) the earliest completed part of
(C) the oldest and most damaged part of
(D) the outside edge farthest away from

3 Banked Turn

maintain

A community bench receives care from park workers throughout the year.

They check it regularly and repair worn parts. The workers **maintain** it rather than waiting for it to fall apart. Their work helps the same bench stay useful for many seasons.

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

(A) check once before replacing
(B) care for something to keep it useful
(C) move something to another place
(D) decorate something for a special event

4 Granite Roll

point

An article describes how roots hold soil in place. It gives examples of bare slopes losing soil after rain.

The writer's **point** is that keeping plants protects the ground. The examples all support that message.

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

(A) the main idea being shared
(B) the sharp tip at the end of a tool
(C) a mark earned during a game
(D) a small dot showing a map location

5 Meadow Finish

courteous

The visitor was still speaking when Timo thought of a question.

He waited until she finished, thanked her, and asked politely.

His **courteous** behavior helped the conversation stay friendly.

Later, he helped carry the empty chairs back to the meeting room.

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

(A) quiet because there is nothing to say
(B) quick because there is little time left
(C) showing respect through polite actions
(D) quiet without joining a conversation

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

(A) "He waited until she finished, thanked her, and asked politely."
(B) "The visitor was still speaking when Timo thought of a question."
(C) "His courteous behavior helped the conversation stay friendly."
(D) "Later, he helped carry the empty chairs back to the meeting room."

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 4



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
Pine Trailhead	**Flowing Turns**	**Lower Bridge**	**Return Climb**	**Trailhead Finish**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

(1) Pine Trailhead — *microscope*

A leaf may look smooth when viewed with your eyes alone. A **microscope** can reveal tiny parts that are hard to see otherwise.

The instrument makes those small features look much larger. Students can study the features without guessing what is on the leaf.

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

(A) an instrument for viewing faraway things
(B) a drawing that shows a large area
(C) a tool for viewing tiny things
(D) a tool for measuring a long distance

2 Flowing Turns

moderate

The club compared three fan settings for a paper-sail test. The lowest setting hardly moved the sail, while the highest bent its support.

A **moderate** setting moved the sail without bending it. It was between the two extremes the club had tried.

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

(A) at a level between high and low
(B) exactly equal to the lowest setting
(C) as great as it can possibly be
(D) changing from one extreme to the other

3 Lower Bridge

on the fence

The club could make bird pictures or model trees for the fair. Rina liked both ideas and was **on the fence**.

She asked questions about each project. Even after the discussion, she had not chosen one.

As used in this passage, what does the phrase "on the fence" most likely mean?

(A) unwilling to join either activity
(B) undecided between choices
(C) refusing to listen to other people
(D) certain about which choice is best

4 Return Climb

conclude

Liam checked both paths for the missing kite. Fresh footprints and a piece of kite string led toward the pond.

He could **conclude** that someone had carried it that way. He still asked the park leader to help him look.

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

(A) state a preference without testing
(B) ask a question without seeking an answer
(C) reach a decision after considering facts
(D) change an answer without a reason

5 Trailhead Finish

pitch

Nadia had an idea for a bicycle repair day at school.

The club had not yet chosen a project.

She showed members a plan, explained its benefits, and asked them to vote for it.

Her **pitch** lasted three minutes.

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

(A) the height of a musical sound
(B) a throw made toward a waiting batter
(C) a talk meant to persuade a group
(D) the slope of a roof or hillside

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

(A) "…explained its benefits, and asked them to vote…"
(B) "Nadia had an idea for a bicycle repair day at school."
(C) "…not yet chosen a project…"
(D) "Her pitch lasted three minutes."

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 4



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
Grove Entrance	**Golden Curve**	**Stream Bridge**	**Upper Aspen Corridor**	**Grove Trailhead**
____	____	____	____	A ____ B ____
□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★	□ fixed ★

(1) Grove Entrance — *dependable*

Every week, Finn checked that the reading club had enough pencils. He remembered the job even when nobody reminded him.

The club called him **dependable**. They knew he would do what he had promised.

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

(A) able to attend every meeting
(B) likely to choose a new task each day
(C) likely to arrive only when work is easy
(D) reliable in doing what is expected

2 Golden Curve

transport

The nature center needed its models at the school fair. Volunteers would **transport** them in padded boxes.

The models began at the center and arrived at the school. Carrying them between the two places was the volunteers' main job.

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

(A) pack carefully for later storage
(B) make ready before a trip begins
(C) divide among several different groups
(D) carry between different places

3 Stream Bridge

investigate

Several plants beside the school were wilting. The garden club did not know why.

Students checked the soil, the light, and the watering notes. That was how they chose to **investigate**. They wanted facts that would help explain the problem.

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

(A) repair before finding the cause
(B) leave a problem for somebody else
(C) make a problem seem less important
(D) search for facts about a problem

4 Upper Aspen Corridor

fair

A school club has more volunteers than open jobs. A **fair** way to choose gives every volunteer a chance.

Names go into the same box, and each name is entered once. The leader draws names without looking.

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

(A) having clear and pleasant weather
(B) being average rather than excellent
(C) treating everyone by the same rules
(D) an outdoor event with games and booths

5 Grove Trailhead

evidence

A student thought the school garden needed more shade.

She counted how many plants wilted in the sunny beds and compared them with the shaded beds.

Those results became **evidence** for her explanation.

The garden club met in the classroom after lunch.

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

(A) supplies needed to begin a job
(B) a question that has not been answered
(C) facts used to support a claim
(D) a suggestion for the next project

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

(A) "…counted how many plants wilted in the sunny beds…"
(B) "…thought the school garden needed more shade."
(C) "Those results became evidence for her explanation."
(D) "The garden club met in the classroom after lunch."

Trail Talk (bonus, not scored): 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?

_____

_____