

A Look at the Intriguing History of Snowboarding

By Keith Kingston

Task 1. Read the text and fill in the missing sentences. (Write A, B, C, D, E, F in the gaps)

- (1) [] Soaring through the snow on some kind of seat or board is nothing new. The ways to enjoy the snow are numerous, and people have devised ways to turn garbage can lids and cardboard into 'snow boards' to enjoy an afternoon frolic outdoors. (2) []

There have been many attempts at developing a modern snowboard. In 1965, the 'Snurfer' (a word play on 'snow' and 'surfer') was developed as a child's toy. (3) [] Over 500,000 'Snurfers' were sold in 1966 but they were never seen as more than a child's plaything even though organized competitions began to take place. The year 1969 brought a slightly more sophisticated snowboard based on the principles of skiing combined with surfboard styling.

The 'Flying Yellow Banana' was developed in 1977. This was nothing more than a plastic shell covered with a top surface like that of a skateboard, but at the time it was considered a major advance in the little known sport of snowboarding. The first national snowboard race was held in the area outside Woodstock and was known as 'The Suicide Six.' (4) []

Snowboarding continued to increase in popularity over the next several years. In 1985 the first magazine dedicated specifically to snowboarding hit the news stands with huge success and furthered the popularity of this exciting sport. Hordes of fans began to organize regional events and pretty soon snowboarding events were held in all parts of the world. In the year 1994 snowboarding was finally declared an Olympic event, much to the delight of fans. (5) []

A collection of snowboarding tricks and stunts was released on video in 1996. (6) [] And by 1998 snowboarding constituted almost 50% of all winter activity. Today, nearly all ski resorts accept snowboarders. There are still a few holding on to the past but this is unlikely to continue as the number of snowboarders continually increases.

(A) Two skis were bound together and a rope was placed at the front end to afford control and stability.

(B) The not-so-new sport of snowboarding was finally recognized and meant a huge victory for serious snowboarders across the globe.

(C) To say who actually invented the sport of snowboarding would be impossible because people have always loved to slide down a snow-covered hill.

(D) The various ways to glide through snow have become more sophisticated and have evolved into using polished boards or skis in much the same manner as a surfer would ride a wave.

(E) The race consisted of a steep downhill run called The Face in which the main goal was probably mere survival.

(F) Filmed in Alaska, the breathtaking beauty and captivating snowboarding techniques featured in the video exposed snowboarding to a new generation.

Task 2. Write T or F if the statements true or false.

1. In the past people used cardboard to slide from the hills.
2. The inventor of snowboarding is well-known.
3. Snowboarding was invented from the first time.
4. The 'Flying Yellow Banana' was considered a major advance at that time.
5. The first magazine about snowboarding failed.
6. Nowadays only some resorts accept snowboarders.