



Name:

Class:

Date:

The Inferno ski race

The Inferno is the oldest and (0) **most** celebrated of all amateur ski races. It is held every January, near Mürren in Switzerland. Anyone can take part, as (13)_____ as they belong to a ski racing club.

The Inferno was the invention of a British businessman called Henry Lunn, who came up (14)_____ the idea of the package holiday in the early 1900s and began taking groups of people to the Alps for winter sports. Henry's son, Arnold, grew very fond (15)_____ Mürren and he founded a ski club there in 1924. Four years (16)_____ , seventeen of the club's members took part (17)_____ the first Inferno race, from the top of the 2,970 metre Schilthorn mountain to Mürren below.

In those early days, they (18)_____ to climb for six hours from the railway station in Mürren (19)_____ the start of the race. Today, racers use a cable car which (20)_____ about twenty minutes. In the first race, the winning time for the fourteen-kilometre race was one hour, twelve minutes. (21)_____ days it tends to be almost exactly an hour less. Although the skiers are very (22)_____ faster now, some things haven't changed. The course, (23)_____ is steep and has sharp bends, remains (24)_____ of the most demanding and frightening in the world.

Prepare to be different