

1 READING

a Read the story quickly. How did Nicholas Joy survive the freezing conditions of Sugarloaf Mountain?

b Read the story again and choose the right answer.

1 Sugarloaf Mountain is popular with skiers because...

- a it is easy to get to.
- b it is free at the weekend.
- c it is in a beautiful area.

2 Nicholas and his father separated because Nicholas wanted to...

- a go a different way.
- b sit down and have a rest.
- c meet some friends at the car park.

3 Nicholas knew how to make a snow cave because...

- a his father had taught him.
- b he had seen someone do it on TV.
- c he had been on a survival course.

4 The first thing Joseph Paul did when he found Nicholas was to...

- a call his parents.
- b give him some food.
- c take him back to the resort.

5 Skiers who go missing at Sugarloaf...

- a have usually left the official trail.
- b usually make their own snow caves.
- c usually have good survival skills.

c Find the words and phrases in the text to match definitions 1–8.

1 people who are very interested in an activity
(paragraph 1) _____

2 a more direct way to get somewhere (paragraph 2)

3 told everybody there was an emergency (paragraph 2)

4 a small river (paragraph 3) _____

5 a path through the country (paragraph 4)

6 in a position where the arms, legs and head are close to the body (paragraph 4) _____

7 a phrase meaning you aren't allowed to go there
(paragraph 5) _____

8 survive (paragraph 5) _____

Night on a bare mountain

1 Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine, USA, is one of the best ski resorts in the country. Thousands of winter sports enthusiasts head for the area during weekends and holidays to enjoy the breathtaking scenery. Most of them go home exhausted but happy at the end of a great day's skiing. But not in the case of 17-year-old Nicholas Joy from Massachusetts.

2 Nicholas had gone skiing with his father in Sugarloaf. It was a Sunday, and they were on their way back down the mountain when Nicholas saw a shortcut. He decided to take the shortcut while his father continued on the official path. They arranged to meet back at the car park for the drive home. And that was the last his father saw of him that day because Nicholas didn't turn up at the car park. After waiting for what he considered to be a reasonable time, Nicholas's worried father raised the alarm. A massive search party was launched but it soon began to snow heavily. Eventually, the search was called off.

3 Meanwhile, Nicholas was desperate. He had got hopelessly lost, and he realized that he was going to have to spend the night on the mountain. Fortunately, he is a big fan of survival shows and so he knew how to make a snow cave. He found a safe place to build his cave and made a huge pile of snow with his skis. Then, he made a tunnel into the snow and dug out a hole to sit in. He covered the bottom with fallen pine branches and lay down inside. Whenever he was thirsty, he left the cave and drank water from a nearby stream. Then he returned to his cave and waited to be found.

4 Rescue came two days later in the form of snowmobiler Joseph Paul. Mr Paul was riding along a trail about six kilometres from the resort when he spotted Nicholas's snow cave. He got off his snowmobile, inspected the cave and found Nicholas curled up inside. After giving the hungry teenager some cheese crackers and peanuts, he took Nicholas back to the resort to be reunited with his relieved parents.

5 A warden at Sugarloaf confirmed that two or three groups of skiers go missing on the mountain each year. Like Nicholas, they are usually found in areas that are out of bounds. However, few of the rescued skiers are in such good shape because they lack his knowledge of survival skills. Tragically, some of them do not make it through the night.

