

Part 4: Comprehension Questions (Questions 25 – 34)

Survival in the Andes

On Friday October 13, 1972, a plane that had been flying from Uruguay to Chile with 45 people on board crashed into a mountain in the Andes. How some of the passengers managed to live is one of the great survival stories.

Twenty-nine people died in the crash and in the weeks following it. On the mountain, it was freezing cold and the survivors stayed inside the crashed plane to stay warm. They had very little food and were in great danger while they waited for a rescue team. After 11 days on the mountain, they found a small radio on the plane and they heard the news that the rescue team had stopped searching for them. All hope was gone. They were alone and terrified.

Days became weeks. Two months after the crash, after they had waited for summer to arrive, three of the passengers, Roberto Canessa, Nando Parrado and Antonio Vizintin, left to search for help. Each man wore three pairs of socks, with a plastic bag around each foot to keep the water out, boots, four pair of trousers and four jumpers. Many of the clothes were from the people who had died in the crash. They also took with them a large sleeping bag that they had made. Only they could save the others now.

How did these brave young men cope with the journey? None of them had climbed mountains before and it was hard. They climbed very dangerous icy peaks, trying to reach the top of the mountain. Some days later, exhausted and cold, they reached it. They had imagined this moment for days. On the other side of the mountain, they wanted to see a valley below that would take them out of the mountains. But instead of a valley, they saw more of the same snowy peaks. Lots of them. They weren't near the end of the mountains; they were in the middle of them. What could they do now?

But there was still hope. Parrado saw two low peaks about 65 kilometres away that didn't have snow on them. If they could get there, they would be out of the high Andes. But to reach the peaks, they would need to walk for days and they didn't have enough food. But Parrado had a solution: Vizintin could return to the plane and he and Canessa would take his food. They agreed to the plan, and Canessa and Parrado continued their journey.

As they walked, the area around them slowly began to change. The men discovered a small river; the sun was warmer. After a few days of walking the snow had disappeared completely and flowers were everywhere. 'This is the valley,' Canessa said excitedly. 'This is the way out!' Soon, they saw a few cans on the ground and some farm animals in a field. They knew there must be people somewhere nearby.

On December 21st, after ten days, the exhausted men reached the town of Los Maitenas in Chile, and a rescue team went to save the other passengers high up in the Andes. What had happened to them? Fortunately, they had all survived as they waited for the others to get help. The memories of the crash in the Andes would be with them forever but their ordeal was over. They had made it out – alive.

Questions 25-32: Choose no more than three words and / or a number from the text for each answer. WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE ANSWER SHEET.

25. The plane was flying from _____ before it crashed in the Andes. [1 mark]

26. How many people died in the crash and the weeks following?
_____ [1 mark]

27. What did they find on the plane after 11 days in the mountain?
_____ [1 mark]

28. Roberto Canessa, Nando Parrado, and Antonia Vizintin wore three pairs of socks, 4 pairs of trousers and _____ as they searched for help. [1 mark]

29. What did they want to see below to take them out of the mountains?
_____ [1 mark]

30. Who returned to the plane while the rest continued their journey?
_____ [1 mark]

31. They saw _____ on the grounds and some farm animals in the field. [1 mark]

32. Which town in Chile did the men reach on the 21st of December?
_____ [1 mark]

Question 33 and 34

Complete the table below with **a word** from the text.

Meaning	Word
33. Pointed top of mountains	[1 mark]
34. Unpleasant experience	[1 mark]

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