

“Snowflakes and Avalanches”
Reading Comprehension Quiz
Chris Leonard

“Snowflakes and Avalanches”

Read the article titled “Snowflakes and Avalanches.”

Check your knowledge and understanding of the article by answering the following questions:

1. What was Karl Birkeland’s “big mistake” while skiing at Snowbasin in Utah?
2. How many people are killed in the US every year by avalanches? Worldwide deaths?
3. What is “snowflake crunch?”
4. How many pounds is an avy measuring 3 feet deep, 100 yards long, and 50 yards across?
5. What happens to snowflakes when they touch the ground?
6. What is “grapple” according to the article? How about “corn,” “foof,” or “mashed potatoes?”
7. When do avalanches often occur?
8. What dictates bigger hazards for an avalanche to occur?
9. What kind of a slope is *the most likely* to have avalanche?
10. Can avalanches occur on all slopes?
11. Which avalanches are *the hardest* to predict?
12. How do snow layers destabilize?
13. What is the “microscopic approach” to looking at avalanche danger?
14. Why is it worth taking an avalanche awareness class?
15. What equipment should a skier or boarder who’s heading into the backcountry *always* have?
16. Do you believe Dozier and Birkeland have fun or boring jobs? Explain your answer.

Extra Credit:

You and your best friend are coming down Hemlock’s Ridge. The snow is incredible and you are having a lot of fun. It is just the two of you. Your friend all of a sudden gets caught in an avalanche. What do you do? Write a well-detailed paragraph (or more) explaining what you would do in such an unfortunate event? Include many details, as your friend’s life depends upon your response.

16 questions @ 3 points per question = 48 points

Extra Credit = 15 possible points

Explain to your teacher why you took the quiz and ask your teacher to check your answers. Maybe your teacher will offer you the extra points for doing the extra work?