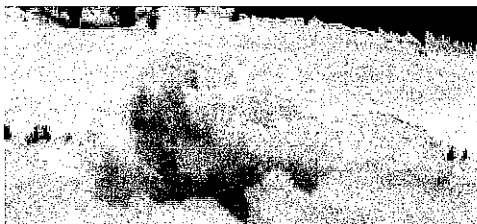


SummerReads: Mountains - Avalanche

by Alice Lee Folkins

This text is provided courtesy of Elfrieda H. Hiebert and TextProject.



Avalanche in progress, Upper Styria, Austria, February 2009.

Austrian Armed Forces Photograph/Andreas MACHER. Cleared for non-commercial release.

Avalanches are one of the most dramatic events in the high mountains. An avalanche is a very fast flow of large amounts of snow and ice down a mountain slope. Avalanches can reach speeds of 80 miles per hour in just a few seconds. Trees, rocks, and buildings can be swept along with the snow as it rushes down the mountain. On high mountains, snow piles up in layers. Each new snowfall adds another layer of snow to layers from earlier snowfalls. An avalanche starts when a weaker layer of snow can no longer hold the weight of the newer layers of snow above it. When the weaker layer gives way, the top layers of snow slide down the slope.

Every avalanche has a trigger that starts the flow of snow. Natural events such as a movement in the Earth's crust can trigger an avalanche. People can also trigger an avalanche just by skiing or walking in a dangerous area.

Avalanches hardly ever happen in summer. Except at the highest peaks, snow has melted and run down the mountainside by the summer. That's why most people climb mountains in summer.

You don't need to worry about avalanches if you're visiting the mountains this summer. But even in summer, weather can change quickly as altitude increases. Climbers always need to listen to weather reports and stay on trails. They also need to be certain to have plenty of water and wear sunscreen. Drinking plenty of water and wearing sunscreen is always good to do in the summer-even if you're far from the mountains!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What is an avalanche?

2. Explain why avalanches hardly ever happen in the summer.

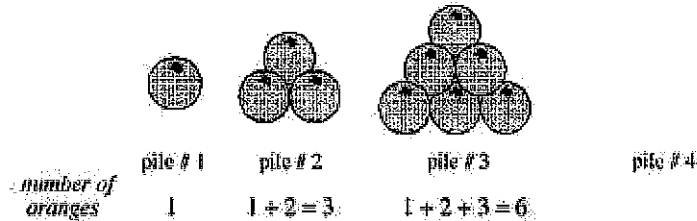
Support your answer with evidence from the text.

3. What is the main idea of this text?

Piles of Oranges

This problem gives you the chance to:
 • describe, extend and make generalizations about a number pattern

Here are some piles of oranges that are displayed in Mrs. Chang's grocery store.



1. Draw pile # 4 of oranges next to pile # 3 in the diagram above.
2. How many oranges are needed for pile # 4 and pile # 5?
Write your answers in the table below.

Pile #	1	2	3	4	5
Number of oranges	1	3	6		

3. How many oranges does Mrs. Chang need for pile # 6? _____
Show how you figured it out.

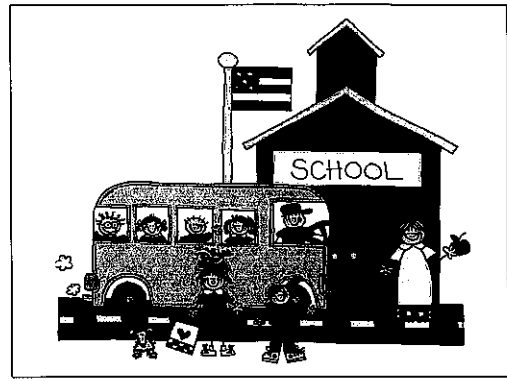
4. Mrs. Chang says, "I need 44 oranges to make pile # 9".
Without drawing a diagram, explain how you know that she is wrong.

5. How many oranges does she need to make pile # 9? _____ E

NTID SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 26, MARCH 25, SNOW DAY 1, 2, 3

Elementary ART

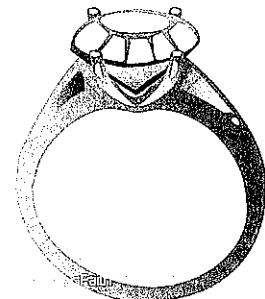
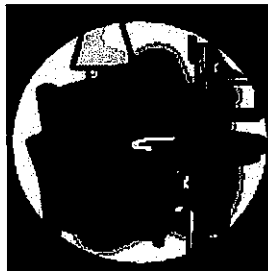
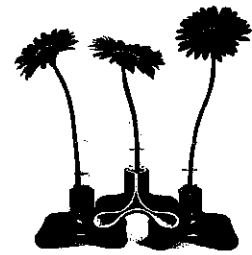
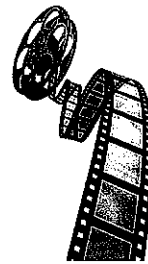
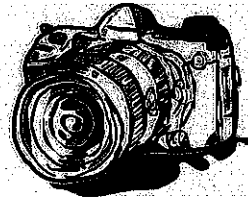


Draw your favorite things or how you spent your day...

A large, empty rectangular box intended for drawing.

Explore your home and see how many different art forms that you use in a single day.

Did you play a video game, take a photograph, watch a movie, or notice colorful designs on your clothes or around your home?



NTID Suggested Activities

November 26, March 25, Snow Days 1, 2, 3



Elementary Music

Sing your favorite song or listen to a different type of music.

REFLECT: Draw a picture about how it made you feel.

Write about how the music made you feel.

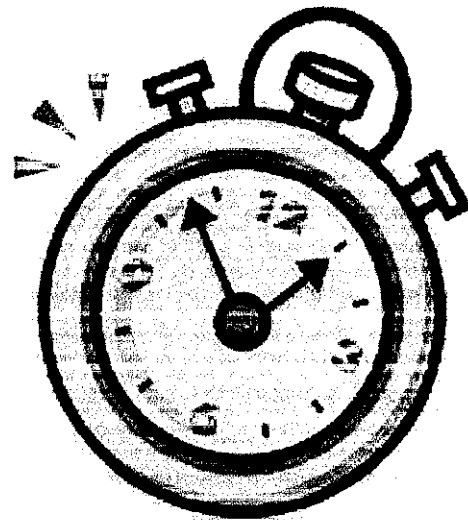
Did the music excite you, calm you, or make you sad?

NTID Suggested Activities

November 26, March 25, Snow Days 1, 2, 3

Elementary P.E.

Take 20 minutes for active play or exercise...



DID YOU...

take a walk?

play outside?

practice a sport?

go swimming?

go sledding?