

Read the story “Boarding.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

# Boarding

Kareem had seen snowboarding on television. It looked pretty easy; at least that’s what he and his friends thought. They were all surfers, and snowboarding seemed a lot like surfing.

Now that he was here in Colorado, Kareem wasn’t so sure. It was cold, he had a ton of clothes on, and the snow was hard. It was not actually hard, but it was a lot harder than water.

“Having second thoughts, K?” It was his sister, Natalie. She was a few years older than Kareem. She always called him “K.”

“I don’t know,” answered Kareem. “That mountain seems pretty big. It’s a lot bigger than any wave.”

“You don’t ski or snowboard the whole mountain,” said Kareem’s father. “They mark special trails. Some are easier than others. I don’t think you’ll have a problem.”

Kareem had never even seen snow before, so he wasn’t too happy about all of this. His parents had skied when they were young. Even his sister had gone on a trip with the school last year. She loved snowboarding, so the family decided to take a winter vacation in Colorado.



"You'll do fine," said Mrs. Jenkins. "The snowboard teachers here are supposed to be great." She put her arm around her son as she spoke. "Natalie learned to board in just a few days. I'm confident you will, too."

Natalie led Kareem over to the part of the mountain where the beginning snowboarders were meeting. There were a bunch of kids his age there, so he felt better. Natalie headed off with her parents. They wouldn't be far away.

For the next fifteen minutes or so, the instructor showed the group the basics of snowboarding. They learned how to stand up, how to fall without getting hurt, and how to stop. When everyone seemed comfortable, the instructor let them slide down the tiny slope.

Kareem, like all the others, fell again and again. He was feeling a little frustrated but didn't want to give up.

"LET IT GO, K!" Natalie shouted at Kareem from the chairlift as she rode overhead. He knew exactly what she meant.

Kareem stood on his board at the top of the slope. He bent his knees just as if he was surfing. The board began to move. Slowly he stood up and leaned into the turn. The snowboard turned on the snow just as his surfboard did in the water. Kareem leaned the other way and turned again. He put his weight on his back foot, another surfing move, and turned a little more sharply. The board turned sideways and came to a sliding stop. He had done it. Kareem had ridden the board to the bottom of the slope without falling.

"Not bad," Kareem said to himself. "Not bad at all. It's not as easy as I thought, but I think I'm going to like it."



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 1** Read this sentence from the story.

**It was not actually hard, but it was a lot harder than water.**

What does the word *actually* mean in the sentence?

- A. rarely
- B. usually
- C. slippery
- D. really

- 2** Who is K?

- A. Natalie
- B. Kareem
- C. Mrs. Jenkins
- D. Mr. Jenkins

- 3** Why did Kareem think snowboarding was easy?

- A. Snow is harder than water.
- B. His sister had learned to snowboard.
- C. It seemed a lot like surfing.
- D. His friends told him it was easy.

NAME

Date

4 Read this sentence from the story.

I'm confident you will, too.

What does the word *confident* mean in the sentence?

- A. sure
- B. happy
- C. pleased
- D. able

5 How did Kareem's opinion of snowboarding change from the beginning of the story to the end? Use information and details provided in the story to help you write your answer.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 6** The reader can tell that Natalie learned to snowboard
- A. on a trip with her school.
  - B. with her parents.
  - C. when she visited her friend.
  - D. with her brother.
- 7** What did Kareem think of the mountain?
- A. It was not very steep at all.
  - B. It was too slippery.
  - C. It looked like a giant wave.
  - D. It was bigger than any wave.
- 8** What made Kareem feel better?
- A. seeing his parents ski nearby
  - B. learning to board with kids his own age
  - C. a friendly instructor
  - D. not getting hurt
- 9** What was the FIRST thing that Kareem learned about snowboarding?
- A. when to compare snowboarding and surfing
  - B. how to jump
  - C. the basics
  - D. when to turn

**10** What two things helped Kareem learn to snowboard? Use information and details provided in the story to help you write your answer.

[illegible]