

# Backpacking in Yosemite

Read this story to learn more about mountain climbing in Yosemite National Park.

<sup>1</sup> “Some of you have asked me how I got interested in journalism,” Ms. Lopez said one day. “Let me tell you about one of my first jobs.

<sup>2</sup> “When I was in college,” Ms. Lopez went on, “I worked for a small newspaper each summer. One story was on mountain climbing. The city editor, Ann, gave it to Liz, a senior reporter, and Kim, a staff photographer. I joined them. My job would be to put the beauty of the climb on paper.

<sup>3</sup> “It was Liz’s plan to go on a mountain climbing trip to Yosemite National Park. The park lies in the Sierra Nevada. It’s two hundred miles east of San Francisco.

<sup>4</sup> “We left for the park on a Saturday morning. After hiking for a few hours, we came to a large meadow. To our right, we could see a beautiful waterfall. We decided to set up camp there. Kim took some photos. The scenery was breathtaking.

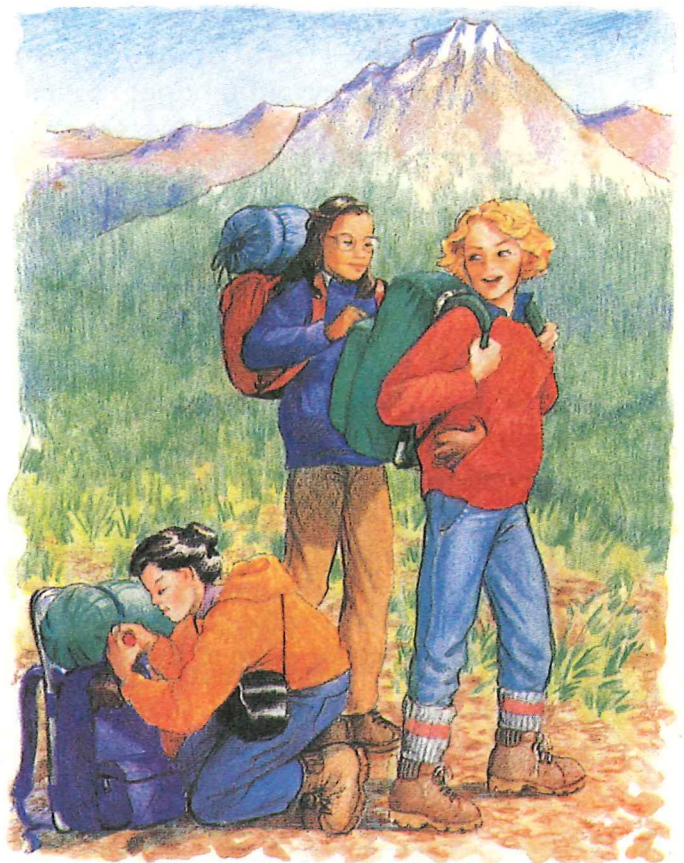
<sup>5</sup> “Liz and Kim put up our tents. After supper, we watched a grand sunset and then got some rest before the more challenging part of our trip.

<sup>6</sup> “In the morning, Kim took a photo of a magnificent rainbow near the waterfall. She also took pictures of two deer grazing quietly some distance from the tents,” Ms. Lopez said.

<sup>7</sup> “The three of us started again on our hike. As we moved through the silent forests, the climb became steeper and much colder. The mountain air was as cold as ice!” Ms. Lopez exclaimed.

<sup>8</sup> “We put on the snowshoes we had brought for the final part of the journey. The broad tracks of our snowshoes were the only marks on the smooth snow.

<sup>9</sup> “By early afternoon, the top of the



mountain was in sight. The wind suddenly picked up, swirling snow around us. The last few steps seemed more than our muscles could bear.

<sup>10</sup> “Silently, we stood in awe at the top of the mountain. Together we looked down at the valley. It was a magnificent sight. I could’ve stayed there for hours, but Liz thought we should start back before the snow could cover our tracks.

<sup>11</sup> “The three of us wearily descended the mountain. Before we got back to our camp, we looked once more at the snow-covered mountain.

<sup>12</sup> “Just think,” Ms. Lopez said to the class, “we made it to the top of that mountain. The paper’s readers enjoyed the story about our climb, and I knew right then that teaching students to write about beautiful places and interesting topics was what I wanted to do.”

## Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. beautiful sights

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 4)

2. exciting, thrilling

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 4)

3. demanding

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 5)

4. came down

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 11)

5. What is the simile in paragraph 7?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the word with the correct meaning in each sentence below.

6. May I have a (piece, peace) of watermelon?
7. Did you see the large (bear, bare) that stood near the foot of the mountain?
8. Carla likes to (read, reed) the newspaper when she wakes up in the morning.

## Learning to Study

Entry words are divided into syllables. This shows where the words can be divided at the end of a line of writing. Divide these words into syllables.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. valley    | 6. newspaper |
| 2. working   | 7. muscles   |
| 3. mountain  | 8. topics    |
| 4. silent    | 9. summer    |
| 5. beautiful | 10. college  |

## Reading and Thinking

Write the word that best completes each sentence.

1. Ann painted the \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.  
journey    sound    scenery
2. The goats \_\_\_\_\_ the cliff.  
propped    descended    suggested
3. How did the words *beautiful waterfall*, *silent forests*, and *deer grazing quietly* make you feel?  
\_\_\_\_ tired    \_\_\_\_ upset    \_\_\_\_ peaceful
4. Where is Yosemite National Park?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Ms. Lopez and the others wore snowshoes because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think Ms. Lopez will go mountain climbing again? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Working with Words

The suffix **-ation** means "state, condition, action, or process of." For example, the word *presentation* means "the act of presenting." Add **-ation** to each word. Then use the new word in a sentence. You may have to drop the final *e* before adding the suffix.

1. expect \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. imagine \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. reserve \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_