

The Mountain

by ReadWorks



There are four peaks to climb until Manny reaches the top of the mountain. Each ledge is thinner and more dangerous than the last. Thankfully, he has a strong cane. He uses the cane to pull himself up. The climb is cold and snowy.

Day turns to night and back to day again. A strong gust of wind threatens to blow him off-course. But he persists.

The last thing Manny remembers is opening his eyes at the bottom of the mountain. He doesn't remember how he got there. To make things even stranger, he is wearing a fancy tuxedo.

The woman he loves is at the top of the mountain, waiting. He can hear her sweet voice, singing.

He remembers that she is waiting for him, but he doesn't remember anything else. Manny guesses he must have had an accident.

Maybe I hit my head and now I have amnesia! he thinks.

The snow is thick and cold. It gets in his mouth as he climbs. He must be hungry because it tastes sweet like sugar.

"Hello! Is anyone there?" he hears back. It's the sound of his own voice—an echo coming back at him.

"I love you! I'm waiting for you!" he hears. Now this, this is not *his* voice. This is the sound of his love calling for him.

He climbs higher and higher. Closer and closer. His arms ache from pulling. His tuxedo is covered in snow. Manny is soaking wet and exhausted. But he is also determined to get to the top.

"I love you! I'm coming!" he calls back.

He hears what he thinks is the faint sound of laughter. Deep and booming. The laughter of the gods?

Suddenly, the mountain is flooded with light. It's as if the sun were behind a door that was flung open suddenly.

The mountain begins to spin, and Manny hangs on with all his might.

"Why is this happening?" he cries. But no answer comes.

The mountain spins and spins. The room spins and spins. It's bright and then dark again. He sees trees and bright lights. Manny closes his eyes and falls off the mountain. He fears this could be the end.

When he lands, it is warm and soft. He feels himself lifted through the air. It is as if fate has saved him. The next words he hears are:

"Whoops, that was a close call. We almost lost our groom!"

"Good catch!" says another voice.

Manny opens his eyes and find himself on top of the mountain. Bella! The woman he loves! He rubs the snow from his eyes. The whirlwind had somehow picked him up and placed him right next to her.

Bella stands in a pile of white snow, wearing a beautiful wedding dress. Manny laughs because he's soaking wet and dirty, covered in sticky snow.

He kisses her and she giggles. "You taste like candy!" she says. "I'm so glad you're back! I thought you would miss the wedding!"

"Wedding?" Manny says. "I don't remember! Are we getting married?"

"Oh no! Not us," Bella says, laughing. "Them!"

She points to the sky, and for the first time he sees everything. There is a skylight and sunshine. There is music playing. And people. Giant people!

Manny screams and falls back into the snow. Giants! As tall as the mountain! Taller! They come by and put their faces, with huge eyeballs as big as Manny's head, right up to him.

He thinks back to the laughter he heard before and the sunlight, suddenly so bright. Gods! It's all

Suddenly, he is lifted up into the air. A giant hand is coming for him. This is surely the end now. A giant eye, a giant mouth. He is about to be eaten!

And then he sees it, a giant... napkin?

He hears Bella laughing below him as the soft napkin cleans his ears, his face, and his suit. When he is completely clean, he is placed back on top of the mountain's snowy peak. He stands upright next to Bella, and she holds his hand. The giant walks away as if nothing unusual at all has happened.

"You look beautiful," Bella says. "All clean! Are you ready?"

Music starts to play. Manny hears a voice say: "Introducing the bride and groom!"

The mountain is moving through the air, soaring, rolling. Bella grabs his hand tightly and whispers, "Get ready."

One of the giants leans down and pats his head. He notices she looks just like Bella. She's dressed in a beautiful white gown. This giant is also a bride.

"You're beautiful, little man!" the giant says. At that, she takes out a giant knife.

The mountain tips slightly, as if a slice is being cut out of it. He sees the bride feeding cake to the groom. The groom takes a big bite, and she smears frosting all over his face.

That's why the snow tasted so sweet, Manny thinks. It's not snow at all. It's cake frosting!

The snowy mountain is wheeled back into the corner, and Bella and Manny are finally alone together.

"I love you!" Manny says, and he takes her hand and kisses her sweetly. The kiss is every bit as sweet as the cake they are standing on. Two wedding cake toppers in love.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is "the mountain" in the story?

- A. a wedding cake
- B. a real mountain
- C. a table
- D. a cupcake

2. Where does the story take place?

- A. on a mountain
- B. in a bakery
- C. at a wedding
- D. on Mount Olympus

3. The "mountain" in the story is not a normal mountain. What evidence from the story supports this conclusion?

- A. The "mountain" has four peaks.
- B. The "snow" tastes sweet like sugar.
- C. There are strong gusts of wind.
- D. Manny is wearing a tuxedo.

4. Read the following sentences:

"Manny closes his eyes and falls off the mountain. He fears this could be the end.

"When he lands, it is warm and soft. He feels himself lifted through the air. It is as if fate has saved him. The next words he hears are:

"Whoops, that was a close call. We almost lost our groom!"

What inference can be made about what happens in these sentences?

- A. Manny falls off the cake and lands on the floor.
- B. Manny falls off the mountain and lands in the snow.
- C. Manny falls off the mountain and has a hallucination.
- D. Manny falls off the cake and is caught by a human.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. a dangerous, snowy mountain
- B. Manny and Bella's wedding
- C. the wedding of two gods
- D. two wedding cake toppers in love

6. Read the following sentences:

"He remembers that she is waiting for him, but he doesn't remember anything else. Manny guesses he must have had an accident.

*"Maybe I hit my head and now I have **amnesia!**" he thinks.*"

What does "**amnesia**" mean as used in this sentence?

- A. blood loss
- B. an accident
- C. memory loss
- D. an injury

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

At the beginning of the story, the setting appears to be on a mountain, _____ by the end of the story, this is not the case.

- A. but
- B. so
- C. also
- D. after

8. Who is getting married in the story?

9. Why are Manny and Bella wearing wedding clothing?

10. In the story, all is not as it originally seems. As the story progresses, the author gradually gives the reader more details and reveals what the story is really about.

Identify and explain the key points in the story where the reader is given clues about what the story is really about.

Complete the circled problems

Multiply Decimals—Skills Practice

Name: _____

Form A

Multiply.

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{1} \quad 2.1 \\ \times 0.76 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{2} \quad 52.4 \\ \times 4.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{3} \quad 4.52 \\ \times 8.9 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{4} \quad 5.8 \\ \times 7.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{5} \quad 0.97 \\ \times 0.23 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{6} \quad 63.52 \\ \times 4.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{7} \quad 2.7 \\ \times 0.25 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{8} \quad 8.35 \\ \times 0.46 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{9} \quad 0.813 \\ \times 4.6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{10} \quad 0.83 \\ \times 5.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{11} \quad 12.3 \\ \times 6.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{12} \quad 0.78 \\ \times 42.5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{13} \quad 912.5 \\ \times 0.85 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{14} \quad 3.6 \\ \times 8.14 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{15} \quad 0.64 \\ \times 31.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

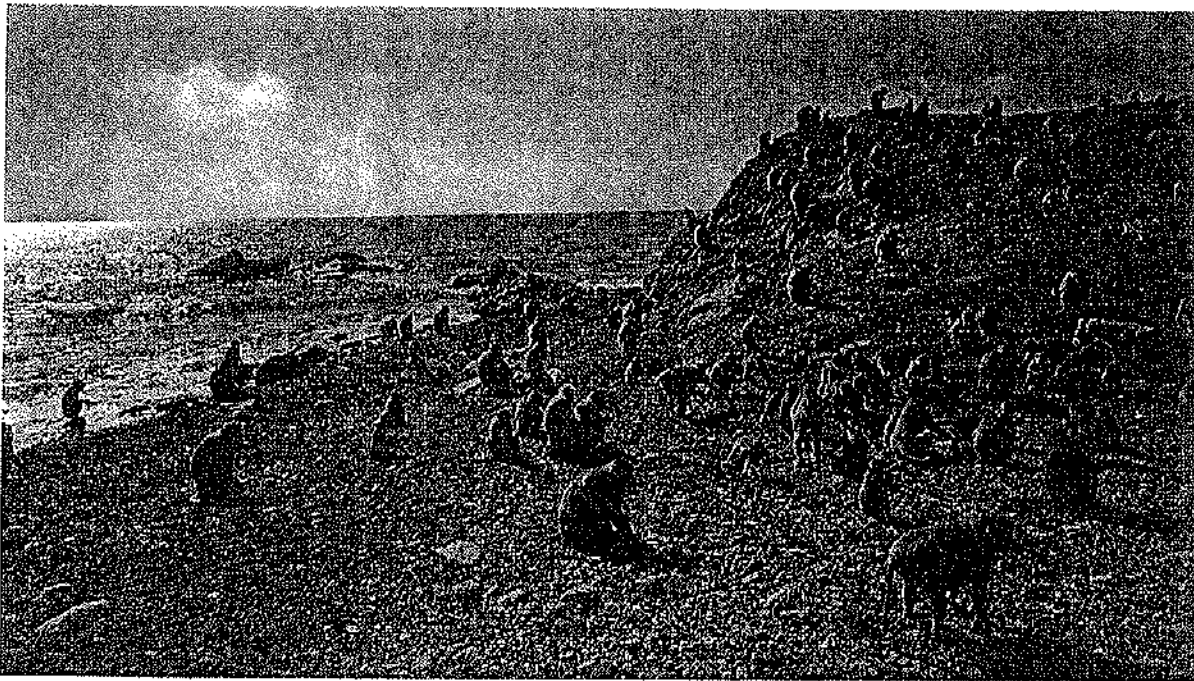
$$\begin{array}{r} \textcircled{16} \quad 5.6 \\ \times 21.42 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Island where monkeys live and are studied was damaged by hurricane

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.12.17

Word Count 683

Level 800L



Monkeys move about on Cayo Santiago, known as Monkey Island, in Puerto Rico on October 4, 2017. One of the first places Hurricane Maria hit in the U.S. territory on September 20, 2017, was Monkey Island, a 40-acre outcropping off the east coast that is considered one of the world's most important sites for research into how primates think, socialize and evolve. Photo from AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

CAYO SANTIAGO, Puerto Rico — On September 20, the island of Puerto Rico was hit by a terrible storm called Hurricane Maria. Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory in the Caribbean Sea. The people of Puerto Rico are American. They suffered much damage from the storm, with wind and rain destroying many homes and roads. Thousands of people still do not have power or water.

The people of Puerto Rico have had a very hard time. Thankfully, many rescue workers have gone to the island to help.

One group that needs help isn't human, though. Off the coast of Puerto Rico is a tiny island called Cayo Santiago. Many know it as Monkey Island, however, as it is home to more than 1,000 monkeys. The island is like a natural laboratory: It is a place where scientists can study monkeys in the wild.

The scientists are interested in everything from the monkeys' social behavior to their genes. Genes are tiny bits of information that make up DNA. DNA tells animals' bodies how to grow. It also holds clues into the history of how animals have changed over time.

The storm destroyed almost everything on Monkey Island. It wiped out plant life and wrecked the monkeys' metal drinking containers. It also crushed the docks where boats land on the island. As a result, workers have had a lot of trouble getting food for the monkeys to the island.

Will FEMA Come To The Rescue?

"All of our tools were destroyed," said Angelina Ruiz Lambides. She is the director of the Cayo Santiago facility. She wondered who would pay for repairs and rescues.

"Does FEMA cover this?" she asked.

FEMA, which stands for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is a department of the government. It gives people help after natural disasters like hurricanes.

So far, it does not look like any monkeys died in the storm. They may have stayed safe by climbing to high ground and grouping together under trees.

The island's history as a research center dates all the way back to 1938. That is when a man named Clarence Ray Carpenter brought a group of monkeys to the United States for scientific study.

Monkeys On Island Are Contained Yet Free

Where would he put them? He wanted a place that would be partly cut off, but where they could move freely. The goal was to study the monkeys in the wild without having to track them across long distances. On Monkey Island, the monkeys are free to explore. Since it is an island, though, they cannot get too far.

Carpenter started with about 400 monkeys. That number has more than doubled.

Every animal born on the island is tattooed so that it can easily be identified. Scientists have completely mapped the DNA of about 100 of them. They have mapped out some of the DNA of hundreds more.

Monkey Island draws researchers in from all over the world. Some scientists there study monkeys' eye movements. Others study their genes, and still others look at their social behavior. Their discoveries will be used by scientists working on a number of problems involving both monkeys and humans.

James Higham is a professor at New York University who is studying the monkeys' behavior, brains and communication on Monkey Island. He said that the damage done by Hurricane Maria had never been seen before.

Emergency Food Supplies

Now the people who keep Monkey Island running are rushing to bring bags of monkey food onto the island, bringing them over in a tiny sailboat. The monkeys are only being fed what they need to survive, because there is so little food.

Workers are also trying to put the island's rainwater collectors and drinking containers back together.

Scientists from outside Puerto Rico are bringing in equipment to help out. Their work has been paid for by donations. Many people have given money to help the effort.

The effort has been heroic, but Higham fears that it cannot continue for long.

"They're doing the best they can do under very difficult conditions," he said. "But it needs help and attention."

Quiz

- 1 Read the paragraph from the introduction [paragraphs 1-5].

One group that needs help isn't human, though. Off the coast of Puerto Rico is a tiny island called Cayo Santiago. Many know it as Monkey Island, however, as it is home to more than 1,000 monkeys. The island is like a natural laboratory: It is a place where scientists can study monkeys in the wild.

Which phrase from the paragraph helps the reader to understand the meaning of "laboratory"?

- (A) group that needs help
 - (B) Off the coast of Puerto Rico
 - (C) where scientists can study
 - (D) monkeys in the wild
- 2 Read the sentence from the section "Monkeys On Island Are Contained Yet Free."

The goal was to study the monkeys in the wild without having to track them across long distances.

Which of the following words, if it replaced the word "track" in the sentence above, would CHANGE the meaning of the sentence?

- (A) follow
 - (B) chase
 - (C) pursue
 - (D) hunt
- 3 Read the section "Will FEMA Come To The Rescue?"

Select the paragraph that BEST supports the conclusion that the monkeys were able to survive the hurricane on their own.

- 4 Read the paragraph from the section "Emergency Food Supplies."

Now the people who keep Monkey Island running are rushing to bring bags of monkey food onto the island, bringing them over in a tiny sailboat. The monkeys are only being fed what they need to survive, because there is so little food.

Which of the following is the MOST accurate explanation of this paragraph?

- (A) There are no other monkeys that can be studied as easily as these.
- (B) Sailboats are the fastest and easiest way to bring supplies to the island.
- (C) Monkey Island is very important to scientific research all over the world.
- (D) The effects of the hurricane have made it hard to help the monkeys.