

Name:

Class:

English Reading Practice Papers

Year 4 and 5

Book 1

Snowdon
(Yr Wyddfa)

Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa)

If you live in Wales, you will have heard of Snowdon, or 'Yr Wyddfa' in Welsh. Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales and the highest peak in England and Wales. It is 1085 metres high and lies within the Snowdonia National Park with the village of Llanberis at its base.

Yr Wyddfa has many other names, here are some of them,

- Yr Wyddfa fawr
- Carnedd y cawr
- Eryri, which is used for the area around Snowdonia.

Snowdon means 'snow hill' and snow can often be seen covering parts of the mountain, especially the summit.

The summit can be reached by different paths, some fairly easy and others quite treacherous, and even dangerous.

If you don't fancy walking to the summit you can take the Snowdon Railway or 'Tren bach yr Wyddfa'. This line was opened in 1896.

When you reach the top, the views are spectacular. On a clear day, it is possible to see England, Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

During the spring and summer months, there are beautiful wild flowers and plants growing on the mountain. The rare Snowdon lily grows on its slopes. It grows high in the mountain in cracks and crevices and is very rare. This is why it is very important to make sure that nobody damages it or picks it.



Another rare inhabitant of Snowdon is the Snowdon beetle, which has a brightly coloured red, green and blue striped body. Again this creature is only found on Snowdon and nearby Cwm Idwal.



On your climb up Snowdon, you might also see a chough or peregrine falcon, and on your descent a merlin, grouse or a hen harrier.

It is a pleasure walking up the highest mountain in Wales in spring or summer, but in winter, it is another story. Although you might start your journey in warm sunshine, you could end up in mist, rain, thick clouds, cold winds and even snow.

The important rule is "be prepared!"

1. Find and copy the words that tell you which village is nearest Snowdon.

2. What is the area around Snowdon called?
Tick one.

Caernarfon

☐

Eryri

☐

Bangor

☐

Llanberis

☐

3. Find and copy the words that tell you the meaning of Snowdon.
-

4. What does the word "summit" mean?

Tick one.

the base of the mountain

☐

the top of the mountain

☐

the view from the mountain

☐

the railway line

☐

5. "When you reach the top, the view is spectacular".

What does "spectacular views" mean?

Tick one.

it is always misty

☐

a beautiful view of all the
mountains around Snowdon

☐

it is too dark to see the view

☐

6. Where does the Snowdon lily grow?

Tick 2.

in a garden

☐

in cracks and crevices on Snowdon

☐

on the slopes of Snowdon

☐

in Llanberis

☐

7. Find and copy the words that describe the Snowdon beetle.

8. Put ticks to show which statements are true and which are false.

	True	False
Carnedd y Cawr is another name for Snowdon.		
From the summit you can only see Scotland on a clear day.		
The Snowdon lily is very rare.		
The Snowdon beetle can be found anywhere in Wales.		
There is only one way to the summit of Snowdon.		

9. Why is it important to make sure that nobody damages or picks the Snowdon lily?

10. Tick which birds you might find on Snowdon.

chough

☐

grouse

☐

swallow

☐

merlin

☐

peregrine falcon

☐

the robin

☐

11. Why is it "another story" when you walk up Snowdon in winter?

12. Look at the text in the box below. Underline one word used to tell us that there are only a few lilies on the mountain.

During the spring and summer months, there are beautiful wild flowers and plants growing on the mountain. The rare Snowdon lily grows on its slopes. It grows high in the mountain in cracks and crevices and is very rare.

13. There is an easy way to reach the top of Snowdon. What is it?

A journey up Snowdon

Out of the three highest peaks in Britain, Snowdon is probably the easiest to ascend.

Apart from anything else, there is a café at the top where you can get a snack and a drink. It is called Hafod Eryri. If you're feeling tired by the time you reach the summit, you can always catch the train back down!

There are seven ways you can walk to the top of Snowdon.

The Watkin Path

This is one of the hardest walks. There are steep drops and lots of loose stones, so you have to be very careful and used to climbing mountains. It is about 6437 metres long.

The Llanberis Path

This is the longest - 7247 metres long, but is also the easiest walk. It is not the most interesting route, as it follows the route of the train in a lot of places.

The Pyg Track

Some people say that this path got its name from the Pen y Gwryd hotel, because it starts near the hotel, or it could be because it passes over Bwlch y Moch (Pig's Pass). This path is 5632metres long.

The Miner's track

This path starts at the same place as the Pyg Track. The first part is quite easy, but it gets much steeper towards the summit. It is 6437 metres long

Snowdon Ranger Track

The Snowdon Ranger track is called after a mountain ranger guide called John Morton who built the Snowdon Ranger Inn in 1800. It is now a Youth Hostel, where you can stay before you go up Snowdon.

This is 6437 metres long and an easy walk.

The Beddgelert or Rhyd Ddu Path

This is one of the easiest routes, but it is not used very often. It gets harder as you get near the summit, and the last part is along a steep narrow path with sheer drops below.

It is 6035 metres long.

Crib Goch

This is part of the Snowdon Horseshoe. Starting from Pen - y - Pass, the route includes Crib Goch, Crib y Ddysgl, Carnedd Ugain, Snowdon and Lliwedd.

Crib Goch is a very difficult and dangerous climb. It is not a route for beginners. If you are a beginner **DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS ROUTE**. You will need to crawl on your hands and knees for much of the way.

Whichever way you take - be suitably dressed, take food and drink with you and leave the mountain as you found it.

1. How many ways are there to walk to the summit of Snowdon?

Tick one.

four

☐

three

☐

nine

☐

seven

☐

2. The writer says that The Watkin Path is one of the hardest. Find and copy the words he used to describe this.

3. Find and copy three facts about the Llanberis Pass.

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. How did The Pyg Track get its name?

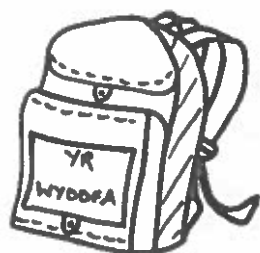
or

5. Draw three lines to link each path to its length.

Snowdon Ranger Path 6035m

Pyg track 6437m

Rhyd Ddu 5632m



6. The writer uses a variety of adjectives to describe the different paths.

Find and copy three nouns and the adjectives used to describe them.

- _____
- _____
- _____

7. When was the Snowdon Ranger Inn built?

Tick one.

1860 ☐ 1800 ☐ 1960 ☐ 2000 ☐

8. One path has two names.

Find and copy the two names.



9. Why has the writer used **bold** capital letters when describing Crib Goch?

Tick one.

because beginners can use this path

☐

to draw attention to the fact that it is very dangerous for beginners

☐

it is too long

☐

it always rains on this path

☐

10. What advice does the writer give to finish the text.

• _____

• _____

Rhita Gawr (Rhita the Giant)

There are many myths and legends about Snowdon. The story of Rhita Gawr is one of them.

A long time ago there were two kings, King Nynnian and King Peibiaw who lived in Britain. One night, they were both riding through the country, looking at the stars in the dark sky above them, and King Nynnian said, "Look at the vast and beautiful land I have." "Where is it?" asked King Peibiaw. "The whole area you can see in the sky above us," answered King Nynnian. "Look how many cows and sheep I have



grazing your land then," said King Peibiaw. "All the stars you see," he said, "I own each one of them, they are my sheep and the moon is their shepherd, leading and guiding them."

"But they cannot stay on my land," replied King Nynnian. "Oh yes they can!" shouted King Peibiaw.

They argued and argued and eventually war was declared between them.

Now the King of Wales at this time was Rhita Gawr, and he heard about the quarrel and decided to put an end to it by attacking both kings.

He attacked and conquered them and cut off their beards.

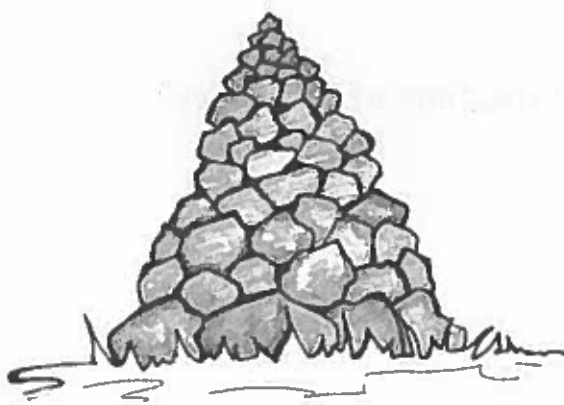
There were 28 other kings in Britain, and when they heard what Rhita had done to King Nynnian and Peibiaw, they decided that they must teach him a lesson. They declared war on Rhita Gawr, but Rhita beat them all and cut off their beards too!

He took all the beards, 30 altogether, and made a cloak for himself, reaching from his shoulders to the floor.

Rhita became a good and just king and there was peace throughout the land.

There was only one other king left to conquer and that was King Arthur. Rhita wanted his beard as well. But King Arthur killed Rhita first and buried him under a cairn on the summit of Snowdon.

If you have been up Snowdon, you might have seen Rhita Gawr's cairn on the summit.



Rhita Gawr's cairn

1. What are myths and legends?

Tick one

old pieces of jewellery

☐

large stones

☐

stories from long ago

☐

people who lived on Snowdon

☐

1. Find and copy the names of the three kings in the story.

2. What might you have seen on the summit of Snowdon?

3. What were King Peibiw's sheep?

4. Who was King of Wales at the time of the story?
Tick one.

King Peibiw

☐

King Nynnian

☐

King Arthur

☐

Rhita Gawr

☐

5. Rhita Gawr conquered both kings, and cut off their beards.
What happened to the beards?

6. Find and copy two adjectives describing Rhita Gawr.

7. Do you think this story is true?

Find and copy one sentence that tells us it might be true.

8. Find and copy the words that tell us what the other kings in Britain decided to do with Rhita Gawr.

9. Put ticks to show which are true and which are false.

	True	False
King Nynnian said that the whole sky belonged to him.		
The king of Wales at this time was Rhita Gawr.		
Rhita Gawr cut off King Peibiaw and King Nynnian's heads.		
30 beards were used to make Rhita Gawr's cloak.		
Rhita Gawr was buried under a cairn on the summit of Everest.		