

# UNIT 1

## *The Mountain of Ice*

SCORE [

At dawn the sunlight falls on the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. The light shines on Chimborazo, the highest peak. Centuries ago Chimborazo was an active volcano. Hot lava poured from its mouth. Now the lava has hardened into rocks. Great sheets of ice are mixed in with the rocks. The upper slopes of the mountain are so cold that the ice stays there all year.

Once a week a small group of people get ready to climb Chimborazo. The men are ice miners. They load axes and other tools onto the backs of a dozen donkeys.

At the foot of the great mountain, the miners stop for a while. They gather bundles of long grasses and load them onto the donkeys, too. Then the men and animals begin to climb. They must go up to 18,500 feet, and the journey takes at least five hours.

When they reach the ice fields, the miners go to work. It isn't easy to chop the thick ice away from the heavy rocks. The miners cut the ice out in blocks that weigh about twenty pounds each. Then they wrap the ice blocks in grass and put them on the donkeys' backs. Each donkey can carry two or three of these blocks. The men and their animals head down the mountain. By the time they reach home, it is night.

The next day the miners take the ice to town. The miners sell each block of ice for about twenty cents to the people who make snow cones. Thirsty shoppers buy the snow cones in the market.

Ice is rare in town because there are no refrigerators or freezers. That's why the ice miners are always welcome at the market. The next week, just before market day, the miners will once more make the long trip to the cold peak of Chimborazo.

1. Put these events in the order that they happened. What happened first? Write the number *1 or 2 or 3* by that sentence. Then write the number *2* by the sentence that tells what happened next. Write the number *3* by the sentence that tells what happened last.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The miners cut ice into blocks.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The miners climb Chimborazo.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The miners load axes on the donkeys.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When do the miners gather bundles of grass  
A. before they reach the ice fields  
B. before they load the axes  
C. after they wrap the ice blocks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. When do the miners climb the mountain?  
A. every morning  
B. once a week  
C. during market day
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When do the miners come home from the m  
A. by the time night comes  
B. on market day  
C. the next morning
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. When did lava pour from Chimborazo?  
A. on market day  
B. long ago  
C. every week