

Name: _____

Glacier National Park

Welcome to Montana! High up in the Rocky Mountains, right on the border between the United States and Canada, lies a magical place called Glacier National Park. It is famous for its huge, snowy peaks, crystal-clear lakes, and very special rivers of ice.

A glacier (say glay-shur) is not just regular snow or ice. Think of a glacier like a gigantic river of ice. They are created over hundreds or thousands of years. It starts when a lot of snow falls in the winter but doesn't all melt in the summer. New snow piles up on top of the old snow, squeezing it down until it becomes hard, heavy ice. Because they are so heavy, gravity starts to pull them down the side of the mountain very, very slowly.



Body of ice in a valley

Thousands of years ago, enormous glaciers covered almost the whole park. As they moved, they acted like giant snowplows, carving out deep valleys and shaping the jagged mountain peaks we see today.



Mountain goat on a cliff edge.

Glacier National Park is a safe home for many different kinds of wildlife. The symbol of the park is the mountain goat. These animals have thick, white coats and strong bodies that make them expert climbers. You might spot one standing effortlessly on a tiny rock ledge high up on a cliff!

The park is also home to big grizzly bears, black bears, moose, and elk. If you look up, you might see a bald eagle soaring in the sky. It is important to remember that these are wild animals. Visitors must always stay far away to keep both themselves and the animals safe.

One of the best ways to see the park is by driving on a famous road called Going-to-the-Sun Road. This road twists and turns right through the middle of the mountains. It took workers more than ten years to build because the mountains are so steep! In some spots, you are so high up that it feels like you are driving inside a cloud. Along the road, you can see huge waterfalls cascading down the rock walls.



Going -to-the-Sun-Road



Name: _____

Glacier National Park got its name because it used to be full of glaciers. In the year 1850, there were about 150 large glaciers. Today, there are only about 25 glaciers left. This is happening because the Earth's atmosphere is getting warmer.

When the snow and ice on top of the mountains melt, the water flows down into big lakes, like Lake McDonald. These lakes are famous for their colorful pebbles that look like red and green candies underwater. Scientists go to the park every year to study the glaciers. They are working to understand how the changes in ice are affecting the animals and plants in the park.



Glacier National Park is a wonderful, wild place. When people visit, they promise to stay on the trails and leave no trash behind. This helps keep the park beautiful and safe so that people can visit and see the big mountains for a long time.

1. Read this sentence, "Along the road, you can see huge waterfalls cascading down the rock walls." What does the word cascading most likely mean?

- A. freezing into solid ice
- B. falling or pouring down
- C. growing slowly over time
- D. hiding behind the rocks

2. According to the text, how are glaciers like "giant snowplows"?

- A. They move very fast to clear snow off the roads for visitors.
- B. They are machines used by workers to build Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- C. They are heavy and move slowly, carving and shaping the land.
- D. They stay on top of the mountain to keep the rocks from falling.

3. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A, Based on the text, what can the reader conclude about the park's future?

- A. The number of glaciers in the park will likely continue to decrease.
- B. Scientists will stop visiting the park because the ice is gone.
- C. Lake McDonald will eventually dry up and disappear.
- D. New glaciers will be created every summer in the park.

Part B, Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "In the year 1850, there were about 150 large glaciers."
- B. "Today, there are only about 25 glaciers left."
- C. "These lakes are famous for their colorful pebbles..."
- D. "Scientists go to the park every year to study the glaciers."

4. Which TWO details from the passage show how mountain goats are able to live on steep cliffs?

- A. They are the symbol of Glacier National Park.
- B. They have thick, white coats.
- C. They have strong bodies for climbing.
- D. They can stand on tiny rock ledges.
- E. They soar high in the sky like eagles.

5. Which detail explains why Lake McDonald has "colorful pebbles"?

- A. Scientists paint the rocks so they can study them better.
- B. The water from melting glaciers flows down into the lake.
- C. It is the result of the atmosphere getting warmer.
- D. The text does not provide a reason why the pebbles are colorful.

Want to know more? Visit, <https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>