

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

NOTE TO TEACHERS/PARENTS: Learning standard addressed in each question is included after the answer.

Read the following article that describes how snowplows did not plow two streets in downtown St. Paul during a recent snow storm. Then answer questions 1-12. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been revised in places to better suit the reading level.

So much snow, so many St. Paul streets — oops

By Dave Orrick, Pioneer Press

¹In perhaps the largest snow-related snafu — or snowfu — of the weekend storm, St. Paul plows skipped two downtown streets. After calls Wednesday morning from the Pioneer Press, crews **scrambled** to plow Temperance Street in front of a condominium complex and Exchange Street in front of the Dorothy Day homeless shelter. Responding to such concerns was the order of the day as the city braced for more snow and officials **debated** declaring a third snow emergency in less than a week.

²City officials said declaring another would give crews the opportunity to clear fresh snow and continue the **arduous** task of widening neighborhood and arterial streets still constricted by the weekend's 17-inch dumping. Downtown, crews were expected to continue major snow removal operations Wednesday night in the campaign to clear still-clogged roads. Parking spaces gradually opened as crews cleared each street with heavy equipment and hauled truckloads of snow from downtown.

³Generally, city workers heard fewer complaints from residents Wednesday than in previous days as plows continued to work in the neighborhoods. In many cases, workers who haven't had a day off since before the storm returned to streets that were plowed but remained in worse conditions than others. In rare cases, officials learned plows had skipped streets.

⁴Such was the case with the two downtown streets, where calls and e-mails from the public appear to have gone unheeded. No plows had been down either Temperance or Exchange since the snow started. "It's certainly unintentional," public works spokeswoman Shannon Tyree said. "Our intent is to clear every street to at least winter driving conditions. We'll send out whatever we need to fix the situation." Sometime after 2 p.m., crews plowed Exchange in front of the Dorothy Day Center. Temperance Street between Ninth and Tenth still had not been touched by 3pm.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

⁵As for why the streets hadn't been plowed, Tyree was looking into whether cars were parked there during the snow emergencies, potentially preventing plows from making an initial run. Neither street is a major thoroughfare, but don't tell that to the folks who use them. "We're just a little street, but still, we should be plowed, shouldn't we?" asked Beth Oman, who owns a condo in the 400 block of Temperance, a narrow one-way road between Ninth and Tenth streets. The only access for the 40 or so units is from Temperance Street or via underground parking. Oman said, "For me, this is more about the emergency access. A fire hydrant sits on Temperance. If somebody really needed an ambulance, it would have to park on Ninth or Tenth and haul a gurney down the sidewalk."

⁶The Dorothy Day "driveway" is actually a horseshoe-shaped segment of Exchange. Wednesday morning, it looked like an untouched, snow-covered meadow, except for the parking meters outlining the buried road beneath. They've been forced to cart in food through the front door, because there's just no way for delivery access.

⁷St. Paul didn't yet have a price tag for snow-removal efforts Wednesday. But a snow emergency generally costs about \$500,000, except on weekends when crews must work on days off and are paid more. And with the fifth-highest snowfall on record, the weekend storm was expected to cost even more.

ARTICLE QUESTIONS

So much snow, so many St. Paul streets — oops

1. What can city officials do that help crews plow in the city?

- A. Tow all cars parked on city streets.
- B. Take pictures of the snow.
- C. Declare a snow emergency.
- D. Use machines to melt the snow.

2. What do crews do in downtown after the snowstorm?

- A. They use heavy equipment and haul truckloads of snow from downtown.
- B. They melt snow with heaters.
- C. They make large snow sculptures in the downtown parks.
- D. Crews asked people to come downtown and shovel.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

- 3. In this article, the word debated means**
- A. refused
 - B. considered
 - C. denied
 - D. cancelled
- 4. How did plow crews know which two downtown streets still needed to be plowed on Wednesday?**
- A. Plow drivers drove around the city looking for unplowed streets.
 - B. It was a lucky guess.
 - C. The Pioneer Press called city officials to report streets not plowed.
 - D. All the streets had been plowed by Wednesday morning.
- 5. In this article, the word arduous means**
- A. quick
 - B. easy
 - C. assigned
 - D. difficult
- 6. How did the city respond to the emails and phone calls they received from residents in St. Paul?**
- A. reluctantly until pressure from the newspaper
 - B. professionally and responsive to all
 - C. quickly and efficiently to residents of Dorothy Day
 - D. they didn't care until they heard from the fire fighters
- 7. What is the intention of public works when plowing snow?**
- A. skip plowing downtown streets
 - B. clear every street to at least winter driving conditions
 - C. Give snowplow crews days off during a snow emergency.
 - D. Let snowplow drivers choose which streets to plow.
- 8. According to this article, the word scrambled means**
- A. refused
 - B. delayed
 - C. forgot
 - D. hurried
- 9. How much does it generally cost to plow snow during a snow emergency?**
- A. about \$11,000
 - B. about \$500,000
 - C. about \$17,000
 - D. more than a million dollars

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

10. What was the amount of snow that fell during the fifth-highest snowfall on record?

- A. 17 inches
- B. 50 inches
- C. 5 inches
- D. 3 inches

11. Which downtown streets did the plows miss?

- A. Ninth and Tenth streets were not plowed.
- B. Snow buried Exchange Street and Kellogg Blvd.
- C. Plows missed Temperance Street and Exchange Street.
- D. The plows did not miss any streets.

12. Which of the statements listed below is NOT a reason that unplowed streets are problematic?

- A. People couldn't get to their homes.
- B. Snow crews could not get through.
- C. Deliveries could not be made.
- D. Ambulances could not get through.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

Read the following article that tells invading frogs. Then answer the 10 questions. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been edited to meet the test specifications.

More tiny, but harmful, frogs showing up in Hawaii

By Audrey McAvoy



FILE - In this file photo, a coqui frog sits on a leaf. (AP Photo/Ronen Zilberman, File)

¹The coqui is a tiny, coin-sized frog. Its distinctive nightly calls are a beloved sound in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands. But people in Hawaii don't share the same feeling. The frogs have been growing in numbers in Hawaii. Now the frogs are starting to show up in larger numbers on the island of Oahu. Oahu is home to most of the people who live in Hawaii. The frogs already have a strong grip on the Big Island. Fewer people live on this island. Some people on the Big Island complain of being kept awake at night with a thunderous roar of chirps. Some residents complain the calls of the frogs can be as loud as a jet airplane.

²The frogs are also stopping the state's nurseries (stores that grow and sell plants or trees) from exporting plants to some markets. Other islanders worry that the frogs are **depressing** some Big Island property values. The frogs aren't stopping tourists from visiting. However, there's a fear they could stop visitors from coming to the islands if the frogs spread further. "There have been just as many reports of coqui on Oahu in 2011 as in the seven prior years combined," said Derek Arakaki. He helps hunt coqui frogs for the state. Before, Derek and two others would head out to capture the frogs on Oahu once a month or maybe twice a month. This year, there have been times when they've had to go coqui hunting twice a week.

³The frogs are a huge problem in their non-native Hawaii. In this state, the frog has no natural predators to stop its growing population. As a result, the frogs have spread quickly through the lush forests and yards near Hilo. The frogs were accidentally brought to the Big Island in the 1990s. There has been a steady increase in numbers of frogs. The frogs are sneaking onto the island of Oahu on plants, and stowing away in cars, piles of lumber, cargo pallets and whatever else is being sent to Honolulu.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

⁴Coqui, which get their name because of their “ko-kee” chirps, are showing up in **diverse** places. These places include an outdoor market, in front of a movie theater and in homes.

⁵One resident had brought back some plants from the Big Island. He did not know the plants needed to be inspected for coqui before shipping them to Oahu.

⁶People find coqui by making their call, which prompts the frogs to call back. They follow the sound and trap the frogs with a clear tube. Sometimes, they’ll spray water to get the frog to sing. The problem of finding coqui has been made worse. Budget cuts have forced the state to slash the number of cargo inspectors from 95 to 50. This caused a change in checking cargo. Imports (cargo coming into Hawaii) are more likely to carry harmful species like snakes. This animal hasn’t become established in Hawaii.

⁷The state needs to capture more pests that get through to the island. There haven’t been enough people to look them at the ports. The state of Hawaii worried about this problem with snakes. If they ever became established in Hawaii, snakes could wipe out Hawaii’s native endangered bird species. A dozen snakes have been either been captured or been turned into authorities since July.

⁸One scary thing about this past year is that many coqui were found close to the base of Oahu’s heavily forested mountains. The coqui population could explode if they started moving into the back part of Manoa valley, where it frequently rains. Authorities are asking the public to call the state’s pest control hotline if they think they hear a coqui.

ARTICLE QUESTIONS

More tiny, but harmful, frogs showing up in Hawaii

13. Why might someone call the state’s pest control hotline?

- A. They would like to become a cargo inspector.
- B. They are thinking about traveling to Hawaii.
- C. They think they heard a coqui.
- D. They want to buy a coqui.

14. All of the following are true except:

- A. Coqui have a distinctive nightly call.
- B. Coqui eat snakes.
- C. Coqui are the size of a coin.
- D. Coqui are very small.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

15. How did the coqui get its name?

- A. It got its name because of its size.
- B. It got its name because of its color.
- C. It got its name because of its smell.
- D. It got its name because of its chirp.

16. In this article, the word diverse means:

- A. Varied
- B. Limited
- C. Restricted
- D. Usual

17. What is the problem with coqui in Hawaii?

- A. The tourists like the coqui.
- B. Their population is spreading throughout Hawaii.
- C. People keep them as pets.
- D. Hawaii does not have a problem with coqui.

18. What is a coqui?

- A. An endangered bird species
- B. A snake
- C. A frog
- D. An island plant

19. In this article, the word depressing means all of the following *except*:

- A. Lowering
- B. Raising
- C. Reducing
- D. Lessening

20. Why are Hawaiian nurseries being prevented from exporting plants to some markets?

- A. They might accidentally ship coqui, hiding on the plants, to other places.
- B. Shipping the plants is too expensive.
- C. The plants are needed to feed the coqui.
- D. People from Hawaii do not want to lose any of their beloved plants.

21. Where are the coqui much beloved?

- A. Big Island
- B. Hilo
- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Manoa Valley

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

- 22. What might happen to the coqui if they get into the back part of Manoa Valley?**
- A. The birds would eat them.
 - B. The coqui would get lost.
 - C. They would forget how to sing.
 - D. Their population could explode.

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

Read the following poem written by William Wordsworth. Wordsworth recalls the joy of finding a field of daffodils. Once you finish reading the poem, answer questions 23-32.

Daffodils

By William Wordsworth
(1807)

1 I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd
A **host** of dancing Daffodils;
Along the Lake, beneath the trees,
Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.

7 The waves beside them danced, but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee: --
A poet could not but be gay
In such a laughing company:
I gazed -- and gazed -- but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

13 For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in **pensive** mood,
They flash upon that inward eye

16 Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

POEM QUESTIONS

Daffodils

23. What is this poem mainly about?

- A. A man wandering alone.
- B. A man laughing with friends.
- C. The happy memory of seeing a crowd of daffodils.
- D. A man sleeping on a couch.

24. What simile does the author use to describe his travel?

- A. dancing in the breeze
- B. lonely as a cloud
- C. bliss of solitude
- D. beneath the trees

25. In this article, the word host means

- A. crowd
- B. picture
- C. painting
- D. vase

26. The “inward eye” is best described as

- A. reflection and memory
- B. wandering over hills
- C. dancing in the breeze
- D. beneath the trees

27. What made the daffodils dance?

- A. the waves
- B. the clouds
- C. the breeze
- D. the crowd

28. What does the author mean by “the bliss of solitude”?

- A. swimming in the water
- B. time to be one with his friends
- C. the joy of dancing with flowers
- D. the happiness of being alone

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2015
SIXTH GRADE READING

29. Where did the author see the daffodils?

- A. floating on high o'er vales and hills
- B. the sparkling waves in glee
- C. along the lake, beneath the trees
- D. once when he was in a crowd

30. In this article, the word pensive means

- A. unhappy
- B. sleepy
- C. hungry
- D. thoughtful

31. What is the tone of the poem?

- A. reflective and joyful
- B. playful and full musical
- C. worried and frightened
- D. lonely and dejected

32. What best describes what the author is thinking about as he lies on the couch?

- A. He remembers the sparkling waves.
- B. He thinks about the great joy the daffodils brought to him.
- C. He remembers how lonely he was.
- D. He remembers how tired he was.

