

Answer Key for Blizzards

Unit 1 (pages 1–8)

Exercise 1–5

Answers will vary.

Unit 2 (pages 9–18)

Exercise 1

1. Because it looked and sounded like a hurricane, but with snow.
2. The snow was piling up so fast that they couldn't walk.
3. People were not dressed for the weather; they did not have boots or gloves or hats.
4. Answers will vary.

Exercises 2–6

Answers will vary.

Unit 3 (pages 19–27)

Exercise 1

Grand Central Station
Jersey City
New York City
New York Flyer
Sara Wilson
Signal Corps
William Brubaker

Exercise 2

Answers will vary but should resemble these.

1. brisk: cold and refreshing
2. debris: trash or pieces of things that are broken or destroyed
3. forecast: to predict; a prediction of what will happen in the future

4. incline: a slope

5. merge: to join

6. momentum: speed

7. prediction: a statement about what may happen

8. resident: a person who lives or resides in a particular place

Exercise 3

1. description
2. synonym
3. definition
4. summary
5. antonym

Exercise 4

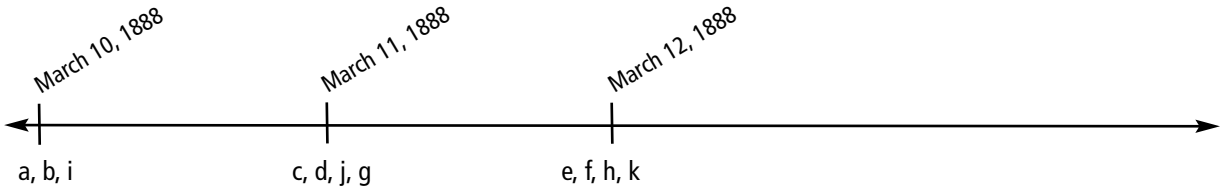
1. huge, extraordinary
2. harshness, strength
3. elegant
4. sailboat, ship
5. dock, wharf
6. strangle, suffocate

Exercise 5

1. storm clouds, icy storm, monster storm, snowstorm
2. water bottle, deep water, icy water, rough water
3. railroad cars, railroad engine, railroad passengers, railroad tracks
4. board the train, train cars, train engine, speeding train

Unit 4 (pages 28–35)

Exercise 1



Exercise 2

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. a

Exercise 3

1. c
2. e
3. a
4. b
5. f
6. d

Exercise 4

1. The snowflakes were 15 inches across.
2. 1778
3. 79 days; eleven feet of snow fell on South Dakota
4. Thousands of children were stranded in schools in Nebraska and the Dakotas.
5. 1836

Unit 5 (pages 37–44)

Exercise 1



Exercise 2

1. -45 degrees F
2. 40 degrees F
3. 60 mph
4. 5 mph
5. -4 degrees F
6. 7 degrees F
7. -11 degrees F
8. -29 degrees F

Exercise 3

1. 90 degrees
2. 0 degrees
3. January through December, 12 months
4. July, 82 degrees
5. January, 13 degrees
6. February
7. May, June, July and August

Exercise 4

1. i
2. f
3. a
4. k
5. e
6. l
7. g
8. d
9. c
10. h
11. b
12. j

Unit 6 (pages 45–52)**Exercise 1**

- I. Transportation becomes difficult in New York City
 - A. Small ferries sink, are damaged or icebound
 - B. Authorities close the Brooklyn Bridge
 - C. People try to walk across the frozen East River
 1. The ice on the East River breaks
 2. People are trapped on floating pieces of ice and later rescued
- II. Farmers experience many problems from the storm
 - A. Farmers work hard to take care of their animals
 1. A Virginia family takes their pigs and chickens up to the second floor of their house
 2. A farmer digs his cows out of the snow
 3. Many people are not able to save their animals
 - B. Today farmers are concerned when a storm hits
 1. It's difficult for cattle to dig through the snow to get food

Exercise 2

1. 1
2. 2, 3, 4
3. 3, 5
4. 7, 8
5. 8
6. 9, 10
7. 8
8. 11, 12

Exercise 3

- I. The weather before the blizzard
 - A. It had been a warm winter
 1. The week before the blizzard was warm and sunny
 2. People were looking forward to the first day of spring
- II. The role of the Signal Corps
 - A. The Signal Corps did weather indicating
 1. Indicating was done 3 times a day
 - a. their weather predictions were right about 80% of the time
 - B. The Signal Corps forecast fair weather at 10 PM on Sat., March 10
 - C. After the forecast the Signal Corps office closed until 5 PM on Sun., March 11
 1. The blizzard hit while the office was closed
 - D. By 6 PM Sunday, Signal Corps employees were back at work
- III. The storm forms
 - A. On Sat., March 10, two weather systems were moving towards the Northeast
 1. One system moved across Minnesota towards the Great Lakes
 2. The other system moved into the mid-Atlantic states from the Gulf of Mexico
 - B. The storms did not do what they were expected to do
 1. The northern storm gained strength over the Great Lakes
 2. The southern storm went over the Atlantic and then spun back, collecting moisture and building wind speed
 - C. The two storms merged into one monster storm
 1. The storm hit New York and other populated areas
 2. A giant storm system ran from Canada to Virginia

Exercise 4

Answers may vary, but should resemble this outline:

- I. The weather on Sunday
 - A. New Yorkers woke up to black clouds and high winds
 1. People who went to church hurried home
 2. People cancelled plans for outings
 - B. It was not going to be a nice day
 1. Rain began falling about noon
 2. By 3 PM it was colder and raining harder
 3. By 6 PM hurricane force winds were blowing
 4. By nightfall ten inches of snow had fallen in New York
- II. The definition of a blizzard
 - A. A blizzard is a snowstorm with winds of more than 32 mph, low temperatures and less than 500 foot visibility
 1. A severe blizzard has temperatures of less than 10 degrees and winds of more than 45 miles per hour

Unit 7 (pages 53–59)

Exercise 1

Answers will vary, but the outline should resemble this:

- I. Schoolchildren caught by the blizzard at risk
 - A. A schoolteacher in Vermont dismisses school early
 1. Children couldn't get home alone, so their teacher ties them together and leads them home
- II. The blizzard came at a bad time for the Chapelle family
 - A. Mr. Chapelle's mother was ill
 1. Mr. Chapelle goes to visit his mother
 2. George takes his grandmother tea, and finds out she is very sick
 - B. Mrs. Chapelle leaves her four sons home alone and goes to take care of her mother-in-law
 1. George and Albert do their chores
 2. The younger boys get bored and decide to walk to grandmother's house
 - C. The family realizes the boys are missing and starts searching for them

1. Legrand's mittens and hat are found in a snow-drift
 - a. Some searchers lose hope
 2. Searchers stick long poles into snowdrifts, looking for the boys
 - a. A searcher hears a cry of pain
 - b. They dig in that spot and uncover the two boys
 - c. The boys are alive, huddled together in a snow cave
 - d. The parents take the boys home and put them to bed
 - e. The boys are unharmed
- III. The blizzard slows down at about 10 p.m. on Monday, March 12
 - A. People who had taken refuge from the storm line up for a hot meal at soup kitchens
 - B. Laborers have to find a place for 24 million cubic yards of snow
 1. Snow was still falling as laborers tried to carry the snow away
 - a. Laborers filled wagons with snow and then dumped it into the river
 - C. It took big cities a long time to dig out
 - IV. The blizzard of 1888 officially ended on Wednesday, March 14
 - A. A plow, horses and laborers cleared the tracks so that trains could run again
 - B. Bodies were found in the snowdrifts
 1. At least 400 people had died on land, hundreds more died at sea
 - C. Small towns were buried for days after the storm ended

Exercise 2

Answers will vary

Exercise 3

Answers will vary, but may include the following idea.

The author's main point is that the blizzard was very dangerous for children, as well as others.

Exercise 4

Answers will vary

Unit 8 (pages 61–67)**Exercise 1**

1. study reading
2. skimming
3. scanning
4. skimming
5. scanning
6. skimming

Exercise 2

1. Workers at weather-forecasting agencies are not away from the office for long periods of time. Communications lines are now put underground.
2. Nor'easter, Alberta Clipper, Texas Panhandle, Siberian Express, and Chatanooga Choo-Choo
3. Ninety-five percent of the deer starved to death, because the grass was covered in snow.
4. December 26, 1778
5. Eleven feet.

Exercise 3

1. Important lessons for the future
2. Large blizzards are not uncommon
3. Five major winter storm systems in the US
4. An early blizzard in the American colonies in 1717
5. The Hessian blizzard of 1778
6. A blizzard in the Northeast in 1831
7. An Alberta Clipper in 1836
8. Blizzards in the Plains states in 1881 and 1887

Exercise 4

Answers will vary, but the summary should resemble this:

The blizzard of 1888 caused two important changes. Now weather forecasters in the U.S. are always on duty, so people are not surprised by bad weather. In addition, communication lines are underground, so that cities don't lose communica-

tions during a storm. The blizzard of 1888 was large, but large blizzards happen frequently in many countries. They are formed when cold air from the arctic moves into warmer areas. This creates snow and strong winds.

There are five types of winter storms in the U.S. They are called a nor'easter, an Alberta Clipper, a Texas Panhandle, a Siberian Express and a Chatanooga Choo-Choo. They each happen in different parts of the country and have different characteristics.

Unit 9 (pages 69–80)**Exercise 1**

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. b
5. a

Exercise 2

1. e
2. b
3. e
4. c
5. d

Exercise 3

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. T

Exercise 4

Answers may vary, but should include the following information.

1. The cows lived through the blizzard, but the pigs froze to death.

2. Winds reach 90 miles an hour and the snow is sharp like a knife.
3. 189 inches of snow fell at Mount Shasta.
4. The Knickerbocker blizzard is remembered because 100 people died when the roof of the theater caved in under the heavy, wet snow.
5. Peter Gosselin was a ten year-old boy who froze to death while playing outside his home in Uxbridge, Massachusetts in February of 1978.

Unit 10 (pages 81–85)

Exercise 1

1. 35 inches
2. 70 miles per hour
3. 29 people: 9 people died in their cars and 20 other people died in storm-related incidents

4. March 1993
5. a nor'easter
6. \$270 billion

Exercise 2

1. c
2. e
3. b
4. d
5. e

Exercise 3

Answers will vary.