

Hill walking in the mountains

As a young man, I had always enjoyed walking in the hills. I was brought up in Oxfordshire, near the Chiltern hills- a beautiful part of the country.

When my family moved to Wales, as a consequence of my father's work having moved there, I found myself in the privileged position of living , not next to a group of hills, but next to an actual range of mountains. I then found I could go mountain walking. It was different to hill walking: the mountains were sheerer and larger and took longer to climb, and the temperature at the top of the mountain was often very different to that on the ground, so one had to be prepared for all weathers when setting off.

One day, soon after we had moved to Wales, I set off to scale the Breacon Beacons. I was not properly prepared. I did not have sufficient warm clothes, nor had I considered how long the climb would be and that I would need food and water to sustain me.

The climb was very long and difficult and I actually got lost. I tried to ration myself with the little food and water I had but I felt quite hopeless. The rain started and increased in intensity. I crouched down behind a large rock, trying to get some shelter from the rain that threatened to throw me from the mountain. I secured myself to the rock and awaited my fate.

Luckily my mum had seen the weather turn and knew I was a novice at mountain climbing so she had alerted the mountain rescue team. They soon found me and delivered me home, safe and well.

Retrieval questions

1. Where did the man grow up?
2. Why did his family move to Wales?
3. Give two ways in which mountain walking is different to hill walking
4. What is the name of the mountains in Wales that the man climbed?

Vocabulary questions

1. Which word tells us he held back some food and water so as not to eat it all at once?
2. Explain the meaning of the phrase '*increased in intensity*'.
3. What does '*secured*' mean in this context ?
4. Which word means that the man was a beginner at mountain climbing?

Inference questions (Answer these in your books –don't try and fit the answers on this sheet!!)

1. Using the information from the text, what would you need if you were going mountain climbing ? Name two things
2. When do you think the man's mum decided to alert the mountain rescue team to go and look for her son ?
3. How do you think the man felt when he sat down by the rock? Give evidence from the text for your answer.