

### Reading Passage

Mount McKinley (Denali) is the highest mountain in North America and perhaps the single most impressive mountain in the world--all higher peaks are in the greater Himalaya or in the Andes, part of enormous mountain ranges. McKinley rises almost alone, 16,000 feet above the snowline, with only nearby Mount Foraker even close to it in height. Although McKinley is part of the Alaska Range, a massive ice-clad range of spectacular peaks, it so utterly dominates its area that what would otherwise be major ice peaks sometimes seem like mere foothills.

McKinley is also perhaps the coldest mountain in the world outside of Antarctica--its combination of great height, high latitude, and terrible weather are literally unique. The summit area is below zero degrees Fahrenheit almost all of the time, and ferocious wind lashes the peak virtually incessantly.

How does the listening passage support the information presented in the reading passage?

### Listening Passage

## **Climbing Notes**

Although considered a technically easy climb by the most popular routes, an ascent of McKinley is a serious undertaking made difficult by the cold, the weather, and the sheer scale of the massive mountain. On average during the past few years, about 1000 climbers attempt the summit per season, 500 make it, and 3 die. The climbing season runs from mid-April until mid-July, since before then it is too cold, and after that too stormy and the snow too mushy and unstable from too much sun. Theoretically, early season (May) is colder but less stormy, and later (June) is warmer with more snowfall, but in a given year anything can happen. Success percentages for a year have gone as low as 31% (1987) or as high as 67% (1983).

The standard route is the technically easy West Buttress, which starts at a glacier airplane runway at 7200'--virtually everyone flies on to the glacier to avoid an arduous approach. The standard rule is to allow three weeks for the climb, and to be prepared to spend a week of that holed up in your tent waiting for the weather to clear. Other routes include: the Muldrow Glacier route, technically easy but involving a long approach over the tundra from the north; the West Rib, a more challenging climb involving a steep couloir; and the Cassin Ridge, a committing and difficult rock climb.

# Name

Many climbers call the mountain by its original Native American name, Denali, meaning "great one". To many it seems a more fitting name than one memorializing the obscure 25th U.S. president, William McKinley. The U.S. Congress changed the name of the surrounding park to Denali National Park, but a congressman from Ohio (McKinley's home state) blocked the name change for the mountain itself. So the official name of the mountain remains Mount McKinley. Although the peak was named by a partisan prospector before McKinley was even elected president, his subsequent 1901 assassination helped make the name stick.

The best justification for continued use of the name McKinley is that Theodore Roosevelt was the vice-president selected by William McKinley, whose subsequent assassination put the first environment-minded president into office.

Sample Reading Notes	Sample Listening Notes
<p>Mount McKinley (Denali) is the highest mountain range in North America</p> <p>16,000 feet above the snowline</p> <p>Only nearby Mount Foraker is even close to it in height.</p> <p>Part of the Alaska Range</p> <p>Makes other major ice peaks in area seem small</p> <p>Possibly the coldest mountain in the world outside of Antarctica</p> <p>Great height, high latitude, and terrible weather are literally unique make summit area is below zero degrees Fahrenheit almost all of the time,</p> <p>Violently strong winds constantly hit the peak</p>	<p><u>Climbing Mount McKinley</u></p> <p>Although a technically easy climb by the most popular routes, an ascent of McKinley is a serious undertaking made difficult by the cold, the weather, and the sheer scale of the massive mountain.</p> <p>1000 climbers attempt the summit per season, 500 make it, and 3 die.</p> <p>The climbing season from mid-April until mid-July</p> <p>Success percentages for a year have gone as low as 31% (1987) or as high as 67% (1983).</p> <p>Standard route is the technically easy West Buttress, which starts at a glacier airplane runway at 7200'--virtually everyone flies on to the glacier to avoid an arduous approach.</p> <p>Allow three weeks for the climb, and to be prepared to spend a week of that holed up in your tent waiting for the weather to clear</p> <p><u>How Mount McKinley Got Its Name</u></p> <p>Name of mountain memorializes the obscure 25th U.S. president, William McKinley.</p>

The U.S. Congress changed the name of the surrounding park to Denali National Park

However, a congressman from Ohio (McKinley's home state) blocked the name change for the mountain itself.

The peak was originally named Denali by a partisan prospector before McKinley was even elected president, but the president's subsequent 1901 assassination helped make the name stick.

Theodore Roosevelt was the vice-president selected by William McKinley, whose subsequent assassination put the first environment-minded president into office, which may explain why McKinley's name was still stuck.