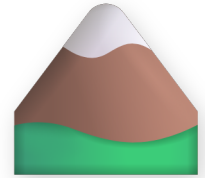




Read the science passage carefully. Then answer the questions below.

## 🏔️ The Mountain's White Blanket: Snow's Journey to Your Tap



High up in the mountains, winter brings lots of snow. This snow piles up year after year, forming a thick layer called a **snowpack**. Think of it like a giant, white blanket covering the mountains! This snowpack is very important because it holds a lot of water. It's like nature's own storage tank, keeping water frozen and safe until it's needed.

When spring arrives, the sun gets warmer and shines brighter. This warmth makes the snowpack begin to melt. As the snow melts, the water flows downhill over the land. This flowing water is called **runoff**. It trickles into tiny streams, which then join together to form bigger streams and eventually rushing rivers. This is how the water begins its journey from the high mountains to lower lands.



These rivers carry the fresh, clean water to towns and cities far away. People use this water for drinking, washing, and helping plants grow. So, the next time you drink a glass of water, remember its amazing journey! It might have started as a tiny snowflake high up on a mountain, waiting patiently in a snowpack to melt and begin its long trip to your home.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) What is a snowpack, according to the passage?

- A) A type of warm blanket for animals.
- B) A thick layer of snow that piles up in the mountains.



C A small stream flowing down a mountain.

D The sun shining brightly in spring.

**(2) Why is the melting snowpack important for people?**

A It makes the mountains look prettier.  B It helps animals find food in winter.

C It provides fresh drinking water for towns and cities.

D It makes the sun shine brighter in spring.

**(3) In the passage, what does the word "runoff" mean?**

A Snow that stays frozen all year.

B Water flowing downhill over the land after snow melts.

C A type of mountain animal.  D The process of snow turning into clouds.

**(4) What might happen if there was very little snow in the mountains one winter?**

A Rivers would become bigger and flow faster.

B There might be less drinking water available for people.

C The sun would not shine as brightly in spring.

D More plants would grow in the mountains.

**(5) Explain in your own words how mountain snow becomes water that people can use.**

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