

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, August 30 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Hiker hordes may spur Appalachian Trail reroute (Main News, page A2).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Have you ever heard of the Appalachian Trail? Where do you think it is located? See if you can locate the Appalachian Trail on a map of the United States? Why do you think hikers might cause the trail to be rerouted?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. advocate
- B. bars
- C. boisterous
- D. bracing
- E. citation
- F. conservancy
- G. curbed
- H. deeded
- I. exploited
- J. galling
- K. hordes
- L. jeopardy
- M. integrity
- N. reverential
- O. summit
- P. surge
- Q. terminus

1. to control or limit (something)
2. in a situation in which someone or something is exposed to possible injury, loss, or evil : in danger
3. to prevent or forbid (someone) *from* doing something
4. the end of a travel route (such as a rail or bus line) or the station at the end of a travel route
5. an official order to appear before a court of law
6. showing or having a lot of respect
7. to use (someone or something) in a way that helps you unfairly
8. very noisy and active in a lively way
9. a large group of people

10. an organization that works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources especially by purchasing and caring for areas of land
11. the quality of being honest and fair
12. to give someone ownership of (a building or piece of land) by means of a deed
13. the highest point of a mountain : the top of a mountain
14. a person who argues for or supports a cause or policy
15. to suddenly increase to an unusually high level
16. causing someone to feel angry or annoyed
17. to get ready for something difficult or unpleasant

Comprehension

1. In what state does the Appalachian Trail begin?
2. The Appalachian Trail ends on the summit of Mount Katahdin in what state?
3. Why are officials threatening to reroute the end of the trail off of Mount Katahdin?
4. Mount Katahdin has been the trails terminus for more than 80 years – **true or false?**
5. The Appalachian Trail is bracing for a surge in hikers after the release in September of a movie about the trail, “A Walk in the Woods”. In 1999, a year after the book that the film is based on was published, the number of long-distance hikers on the Appalachian Trail increased by what percent? (**Multiple Choice**)
 - a) 18 percent
 - b) 25 percent
 - c) 45 percent
6. Jensen Bissell, Baxter’s director, said the park already curbed the number of day hikers by doing what?
7. How did Bissell suggest he wanted to cap the number of long-distance hikers?
8. Baxter State Park has very strict rules along the trail. It bars hiking in groups larger than how many people?
9. Name one other thing mentioned in the article that Baxter State Park bars along the trail.
10. Jensen Bissell, Baxter’s director, wrote a letter to the conservancy that manages the trail’s northernmost 15 miles noting that park rules were being violated. What did he warn would happen if such activity continued?
11. According to the article, his concerns received little notice until champion ultra-marathon runner Jurek arrived atop Mount Katahdin after breaking the speed record for a supported hike and had a celebration. Jurek later received how many citations from the park for his celebration on the summit?
12. Each citation carries a fine of how much?
13. What charge did Jurek say he found particularly galling and why?

Additional Activities

1. Bissell, the park's director, said that ultra-marathon runner Jurek and his sponsors had exploited the park for profit. Do you agree with Bissell – why or why not? How do you think a state park should be treated? Do you think the rules the park has are too strict or not strict enough?
2. Do you think moving the terminus of the Appalachian Trail is a good idea – why or why not? Do you think one or more of the other solutions presented in the article would work better (permits, fines, limiting cars in parking lots)?

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