

## Trekker lost in Andes found alive

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013



A Uruguayan man who disappeared before the start of winter in the Andes Mountains has been found alive and well. Raul Fernando Gomez, 58, got lost in a

blizzard while trying to cross the Andes range from Chile to Argentina. The start of his ordeal began when his motorbike broke down in the middle of nowhere. Mr Gomez told reporters he had no choice but to walk in the hope of finding a town nearby. He became disoriented in the heavy snowfall and could not find his way back to the road. He found a mountain shelter 2,840 metres above sea level and holed himself up there hoping to survive the long, freezing winter. A local governor said: "The truth is that this is a miracle. We still can't believe it."

Mr Gomez was found and rescued by a team of Argentine meteorological officials who had helicoptered to the shelter to record snowfall levels. He had survived by catching rats and eating leftover supplies he found in the shelter. Doctors expressed surprise at how well he had fared. He was very thin and had lost 20kg in weight. A doctor said he was surprised by Mr Gomez's resilience, saying: "He's a patient with high blood pressure, a history of smoking and signs of undernourishment, but...in a few days we're going to discharge him." Members of a Uruguayan rugby team famously survived sub-zero temperatures in the Andes for 72 days in 1972 by eating the bodies of fellow plane-crash victims.

Sources: BBC / Independent / Herald Sun

### Writing

Everyone should go on an adventure on their own to build their character and increase their confidence. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*disappeared / got lost / blizzard / ordeal . broke down / middle of nowhere / shelter / miracle / supplies / weight / blood pressure / sub-zero temperatures / plane crash /*

### True / False

- a) The man got lost in a sandstorm. T / F
- b) He got into trouble after his motorbike broke down. T / F
- c) He built a shelter 2,840 metres above sea level. T / F
- d) The article said a country's president called this story a miracle. T / F
- e) The man was found by people who were testing the depth of the snow. T / F
- f) The man ate rats in order to survive. T / F
- g) When he was rescued, he weighed just 20kg. T / F
- h) People survived in the Andes for 72 days after their plane crashed. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. disappeared | a. nightmare    |
| 2. range       | b. wonder       |
| 3. ordeal      | c. coped        |
| 4. shelter     | d. freed        |
| 5. miracle     | e. release      |
| 6. rescued     | f. vanished     |
| 7. survived    | g. refuge       |
| 8. fared       | h. toughness    |
| 9. resilience  | i. chain        |
| 10. discharge  | j. stayed alive |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) Would you eat rats in a survival situation?
- b) How would you fare on your own in the mountains for four months?
- c) What would you do to stay positive?
- d) What big adventure would you like to go on?
- e) Is it worse to get lost in the Amazon or the Andes mountains?
- f) What is the most important thing you would need to survive?
- g) What do you know about the 1972 Andes plane crash?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Gomez?

## Phrase Match

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. found alive              | a. in a blizzard     |
| 2. got lost                 | b. undernourishment  |
| 3. The start of             | c. up there          |
| 4. broke down in the middle | d. supplies          |
| 5. holed himself            | e. his ordeal        |
| 6. record                   | f. he had fared      |
| 7. eating leftover          | g. snowfall levels   |
| 8. surprise at how well     | h. and well          |
| 9. signs of                 | i. zero temperatures |
| 10. sub-                    | j. of nowhere        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How lucky do you think Mr Gomez is?
- Would you like to travel across the Andes by motorbike?
- When was the last time you got lost?
- Why do people want to go on such adventures?
- What would you do in a blizzard in remote mountains?
- How are your survival skills?
- Is Mr Gomez's survival a miracle?

## Spelling

- A Uruguayan man who drdseaieapp
- got lost in a zrldbiaz
- his raeold began when his motorbike broke down
- He became eieronstditd
- A local ogrveron
- The truth is that this is a icltraem
- found and cusdeer
- meteorological cfsfliiao
- leftover ulspespi
- surprised by Mr Gomez's iinecseelr
- signs of etnudsrnerumnih
- survived sub-zero restueepramt

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. i | 3. a | 4. g | 5. b  |
| 6. d | 7. j | 8. c | 9. h | 10. e |

## Role Play

### Role A – A radio

You think a radio is the most useful thing to survive in the Andes. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a knife, a torch or chocolate.

### Role B – A knife

You think a knife is the most useful thing to survive in the Andes. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a radio, a torch or chocolate.

### Role C – A torch

You think a torch is the most useful thing to survive in the Andes. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a knife, a radio or chocolate.

### Role D – Chocolate

You think chocolate is the most useful thing to survive in the Andes. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a knife, a torch or a radio.

## Speaking - Lost

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Andes mountains | • Pacific Ocean     |
| • Sahara desert   | • A war-torn city   |
| • Antarctica      | • Underground caves |
| • Amazon jungle   | • Siberia           |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | F | d | F | e | T | f | T | g | F | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.