

Being a Pro Snowboarder by Cindy Kleh

Making it

Some lucky riders reach their goal of “going pro”. They are usually passionate about snowboarding and are naturally talented. Pro snowboarders must constantly progress their skills, but they also need a good head for business – snowboarding is a multi-million pound industry as well as an adrenalin sport.

Starting young

Most pro riders start out as “grommets”. These are young snowboarders who win events at regional snowboarding competitions. By doing so, they bring their skills to the attention of sponsors and filmmakers. They then enter competitions with prize money at stake, and, if successful, are invited to compete in bigger events.

Ticket to ride

Living within a reasonable distance of a mountain resort and buying a season pass are bare necessities to budding professional snowboarders. To make it as a pro, they must spend as many hours of the day as possible making turns and launching off kickers. To fund their dream, some snowboarders teach snowboarding, or take night jobs so that they are free to ride all day.

Riders on film

Some snowboarders are given small parts in snowboard movies. They may then become overnight stars, but that does not happen very often. Snowboarding videos highlight the glory of a professional rider’s lifestyle and show them jetting all over the world to enjoy deep powder turns. Few show the hours spent travelling, meeting with the press and sponsors, climbing the pipe over and over to nail a trick, or sitting in a hotel waiting for the weather to clear.

Glossary

Kicker: A wedge of snow or ice that snowboarders and skiers can jump or launch from.

Pipe: A long, curved track.

Powder: Loose snow.

Pro (professional): Someone who is paid to do what they do.

Season pass: A ticket that allows easy and frequent access.

Sponsor: A person or business, often a sportswear company, who pays a snowboarder to use and advertise their equipment or clothing.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at the first paragraph, beginning
“Some lucky riders ...”.

Find and copy two qualities that successful snowboarders have.

2b

1 mark

2 What is a “grommet” in snowboarding?

2a

1 mark

3 Why is it important for a professional snowboarder to live near a mountain resort and have a season pass?

2d

1 mark

4 Choose which of the following are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Snowboarding is an adrenalin sport.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Successful snowboarders can win money as a prize.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowboarding is easy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowboarders are invited to enter the bigger events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2b

2 marks

5 List **two ways** in which being a snowboarder might not always be fun.

2d

1 mark

6 Why is there a glossary at the end of the text?

2f

1 mark