



Worksheet 4. Reading: *Jamaican Bobsledding Team, Part 1*

Read the passage about bobsledding and the Jamaican bobsledding team. Answer the questions that follow.



Jamaican Bobsledding Team, Part 1

Do you know the sport that is called *bobsledding*? It's a race on a metal **sled** (a bobsled) to see which team of two or four persons can go the fastest by **sliding** down a **winding** path that is covered with ice.

Bobsledding originated in Switzerland in the 1890s and entered the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924. Since then, all the competing bobsled teams in the Olympics were from northern countries where there is a lot of snow.

Until, that is, the year 1988. In that year, a bobsled team from Jamaica entered the Olympic games in Calgary, Canada. Jamaica is a Caribbean nation, famous for its **reggae** music, **dreadlocks** hairstyles, and **tropical** weather. It was surprising to see a team from the tropics in competition with athletes from cold countries.



In Jamaica, there are a lot of excellent sprinters. Sprinters are runners who are strong for short distances. They are necessary to run fast behind the bobsled, pushing it to a high speed before jumping in. Some **enterprising coaches recruited** several of these sprinters from Jamaica's **military** forces, and formed a bobsledding team, a very dedicated team as it turned out.

The team worked under several **handicaps**: poor **equipment**, not enough money for new equipment or **training**, and lack of experience with snow, since it never snows in Jamaica.

Despite these handicaps, the Jamaican team competed in the Calgary Olympics! How did they do?

(This story continues on Worksheet 6.)



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Circle T if the sentence is true according to the reading. Circle F if the sentence is false.

1. T / F Bobsledding is a sport that takes place in water.
2. T / F There are three people on a bobsledding team.
3. T / F Bobsledding originated in Switzerland.
4. T / F Bobsledding is an Olympic sport.
5. T / F The Jamaican team entered the Olympics in 1980.
6. T / F Jamaica is a country which is famous for a kind of music.
7. T / F The weather in Jamaica is tropical.
8. T / F The Jamaicans formed a bobsledding team.
9. T / F Jamaica has a lot of good short-distance runners.
10. T / F The Jamaicans practiced under ideal conditions.