

Name: _____ Date: _____

Students, please read the following selection about winds and answer some questions using full sentences:



*Alberta is famous for its **chinook** winds. In fact a chinook wind is in the weather forecast for this weekend. Look at the sky to the west and you may be able to see a **chinook arch** (as in the picture above) on Saturday or Sunday morning. In winter, a dry, warm west wind comes down from the mountains. It has been known to raise temperatures by 25° within a few hours. While Chinook winds are most noticeable in winter, they can come in any season. They mainly happen in southeast Alberta versus Northern Alberta. Other winds, blowing from the Arctic can also make the temperature suddenly become very cold. In winter in Calgary it often seems like there is a seesaw battle between warm winds and cold winds.*

In 1988, Alberta hosted the Winter Olympics. People were really looking forward to watching the bobsleigh event at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary. During the Olympics, a Chinook wind came down from the mountains. It was warm and dry. Ice melted, so the bobsleigh and luge races were delayed and everyone had to wait for the cold weather to come back.

Questions:

1. What does a Chinook wind do?

2. Where do Chinook winds come from?

3. What happened during the 1988 Olympics and why?

4. How do you think Chinook winds might affect **natural vegetation*** in Calgary?

5. Where do Chinook winds happen most often in Alberta?

* **natural vegetation** = the plants that grow naturally in an area.