

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Frozen Lake Mystery

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Each blank needs either *because* or *because of*. Choose the correct word to make the paragraph logical and grammatically correct.

Every winter, a small mountain town becomes quiet \_\_\_\_\_ snow covers everything in sight. Tourists stop visiting \_\_\_\_\_ the icy roads make driving difficult. The lake nearby freezes so solid that people can walk on it \_\_\_\_\_ the temperature stays below zero for weeks. The townspeople love the peaceful days, but they often face problems \_\_\_\_\_ the heavy snow blocks the main road. Stores sometimes close early \_\_\_\_\_ there are fewer customers. One year, the power went out \_\_\_\_\_ strong winds knocked down power lines. Everyone stayed home and lit candles \_\_\_\_\_ they wanted to keep warm and safe. Despite the challenges, the town remains a beautiful place to live \_\_\_\_\_ of its calm, snowy charm.