

Icy Path Decisions Answer Key

1. Setting:

- A snowy, icy mountain trail with wind and falling snow.

2. Emma's actions:

- Pulled her scarf tighter, stopped to catch her breath, took smaller steps, held onto a branch for balance, kept climbing toward the cabin.

3. How setting affects actions:

- The icy, snowy conditions force Emma to move carefully (small steps, holding onto a branch). The cold makes her pull her scarf tighter. The difficulty of the trail makes her stop to rest.

4. If on a sunny beach:

- Instead of bundling up, Emma might wear light clothes, walk on sand, stop for water, or swim. She would not need to take careful icy steps or protect herself from freezing wind.

Teacher Notes:

- Key teaching point: The **environment shapes behavior**. Without the snowy setting, Emma's cautious and protective actions would not make sense.
- Encourage students to cite **text evidence** when explaining cause-effect (e.g., "She takes small steps *because* the ground was slick with ice").
- For differentiation: provide sentence starters ("Emma acts this way because...") to support struggling writers.
- The "imagine a new setting" question reinforces transfer of knowledge, helping students generalize how settings influence actions.