

8

Unit

Great voyages



*Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp,
Or what's a heaven for?*

— Robert Browning

Men have always sought to go boldly where they have never been to before. In the past, this manifested itself in the first humans to cross the Pacific Ocean to arrive at Polynesia. The voyages of discovery undertaken by brave explorers like Columbus and Magellan, were based on this spirit of adventure. The first men to reach the North Pole or to scale Mount Qomolangma, displayed a similar desire to discover the world.

In this unit, you are going to follow in the footsteps of a variety of explorers, such as brave mountaineers and sailors on their solo voyages. You will also learn more about the deepest depths under the sea and the stars and planets which, though light years away, could be your new home.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss human achievements in various types of exploration
- listen for key information
- integrate the pronunciation skills that you have learned
- make a plan to explore the unexplored on Earth

Warming up

The following are four pictures representing different types of adventure. Work in pairs and discuss which one you are most interested in and why.



polar exploration



mountain climbing



diving



safari

Warming up

Reference answers

- I am most interested in mountain climbing. Mountains are beautiful and are the home of a variety of plants and animals. With such beautiful scenery, you will never feel bored when you are climbing a mountain. Besides, mountain climbing is healthy exercise that creates wonderful memories. It provides opportunities for climbers to slow down and disconnect themselves from the hustle and bustle of the city. True, mountain climbing could be really challenging, but it also means you may venture further and accomplish more than you think.
- I would like to try diving. I have always found the undersea world fascinating. I love going to aquariums and watching all those bizarre but beautiful sea creatures. I can't help but wonder what it would be like if I could actually observe some of these animals at close range in the sea. Plus, I love swimming, especially in summer when it is really hot. So, for me, diving would be the perfect thing to try during my summer vacation.

iExplore 1: Listening and speaking

Passage

Listening and understanding

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

mountaineer /,maʊntɪ'nɪə/

n. 登山家

expedition /,ekspə'dɪʃn/

n. 探险

PROPER NAMES

Kilimanjaro /,kɪlɪmən'dʒɑ:rəʊ/

乞力马扎罗山 (非洲最高山峰)

1 Humans have long been attracted by the grandness and mystery of mountains. Now listen to a passage and decide whether each of the following statements is true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The speaker's father introduced him to the joys of the mountains.
- 2 The speaker reached the top of big mountains when he was still a child.
- 3 The speaker grew up in the suburbs of Manchester.
- 4 Kilimanjaro is a mountain that even the beginner can conquer.
- 5 The speaker seldom makes friends during climbing.

2 Listen to the passage again and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

I was introduced to the joys of the mountains at a very young age. Though my trips were to the 1) _____ of England, they introduced me to a world of 2) _____. Driven by the desire to prove to others that we were 3) _____ reaching the top and the excitement at the 4) _____ of beauty that awaited us, I always made up my mind to reach the summit.

Though reaching the peak is a challenge for the first-timer, some mountains can be climbed without prior experience or 5) _____. However, being in the mountains isn't about 6) _____ or competing. Rather, it is about the personal 7) _____ of going further and enjoying the views and the 8) _____ of those who are on a similar journey.



Explore 1: Listening and speaking

Passage

Scripts

It was my father who introduced my younger brothers and sister and I to the joys of the mountains. Although not strictly a mountaineer himself, he led us on “expeditions” to the wilds and summits.

These were trips to the low hills of England. But to a group of children, aged between four and eight, they were our introduction to a world of adventure. We were determined to reach the summit so that we could prove to our parents and each other that we were capable of doing it. But our determination was also born of the excitement at the scenes of beauty that awaited us. The scenes were in sharp contrast to the narrow streets of our home in central Manchester.

There is great pleasure and satisfaction in reaching the peak but it can also be a challenge, especially for the first-timer. Although the popular image of a mountain climber is one standing at the top of Mount Qomolangma, there are plenty of mountains that can be climbed without prior experience or technical skill. For instance, Kilimanjaro – the highest mountain in Africa – can, with sufficient preparation, be conquered in under 10 days by the beginner.

However, being in the mountains isn’t about conquering or competing. It is about the personal challenge of going one step further than where you have been before. It is most definitely about enjoying the views that open up to you as you go to new heights, as well as enjoying the company of others on a similar journey.

Culture notes

Kilimanjaro (乞力马扎罗山): It is the highest mountain in Africa. Its central cone, Kibo, rises to 5,895 meters. The first people known to have reached the summit of the mountain were Hans Meyer and Ludwig Purtscheller in 1889. As the mount’s peak can be reached without the aid of mountaineering equipment, Kilimanjaro is a major climbing destination in the world.

Listening and understanding

1

Answers

1 T 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 F

2

Answers

1) low hills 2) adventure
3) capable of 4) scenes
5) technical skill 6) conquering
7) challenge 8) company



Conversation

Listening and understanding

1 Have you ever considered traveling solo around the world? Let's get some insights from an interview with Dee Caffari, the first woman to sail solo and non-stop around the world in both directions. Now listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. Someone who is very brave.
B. Someone who thinks rationally.
C. Someone who won't give up easily.
D. Someone who is genuinely optimistic.

- 2 A. Crashing into an iceberg.
B. Getting stuck half way up a mast.
C. Getting trapped on a small island.
D. Spending days avoiding a shark attack.

- 3 A. About one liter.
B. About two liters.
C. About three liters.
D. About four liters.

- 4 A. By reading books.
B. By writing journals.
C. By talking to herself.
D. By listening to music.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

mast /mɑːst/ *n.* 桅杆

iceberg /'aɪs,bɜːg/ *n.* 冰山

Conversation

Scripts

- Interviewer:** What kind of person is capable of doing a solo trip?
- Dee:** There is a certain amount of persistence and determination required. And a genuine passion and love for what you are doing is important as the trip is often quite painful, but those moments make you stronger and they make the good times even better.
- Interviewer:** What are you most proud of?
- Dee:** There are very few firsts left in the world today, so to have been the first female to do something is quite special and unusual!
- Interviewer:** What's been the scariest moment of your career?
- Dee:** I have had two terrible experiences that have made me grow as a sailor. The first was getting stuck half way up my 29-meter mast while sailing in the Southern Ocean. The second was spending three days avoiding icebergs.
- Interviewer:** What's your diet like on the boat?
- Dee:** It's fairly simple and involves drinking around three liters of water in a 24-hour period. I have porridge for breakfast, then a freeze-dried meal for lunch and dinner. My midnight snacks are sweets. I never go sailing without them.
- Interviewer:** What do you do to get over the loneliness?
- Dee:** I am now very good at having conversations with myself! I just have to remember, when on land, that people expect conversations to be two-way! I even develop some

great singing skills when sailing solo in the middle of an ocean.

- Interviewer:** What's your favorite disc?
- Dee:** My current favorite is the song *Can't Stop the Feeling!*.

Listening and understanding

1

Questions

- 1 What kind of person is suitable for sailing solo?
- 2 Which of the following is the scariest experience of the woman's career?
- 3 How much water does the woman drink on the boat per day?
- 4 How does the woman get over her loneliness while sailing?

Answers

- 1 C 2 B 3 C 4 C

2 Listen to the conversation again and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

- 1 A genuine _____ and love for what you are doing is important as the trip is often quite painful.
- 2 There are very few _____ left in the world today.
- 3 I have had two terrible experiences that have made me grow as a _____.
- 4 I even develop some great _____ skills when sailing solo in the middle of an ocean.

Thinking and speaking

3 In the conversation, the woman shared her opinion on qualities a person should have when they go on a solo adventure. Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you prefer to explore alone or with friends? Why?
- 2 What difficulties could you encounter when you explore alone?
- 3 What does it take to be a good solo explorer?



2

Answers

1 passion 2 firsts 3 sailor 4 singing

Thinking and speaking

3

Reference answers

- 1
 - I prefer to explore alone. Traveling alone could be really challenging, since you are out there on your own, but it also offers you some unique benefits. To begin with, when traveling alone, you get the opportunity to plan your own route and choose the places you want to visit, instead of making compromises so that everyone is happy. Besides, going to unknown places alone will challenge you to learn how to rely on yourself when in difficulty. Plus, being a solo traveler makes it much easier to interact with the local people and make some new friends.
 - I would like to explore with friends. Going to unknown places could be really challenging. No matter how well prepared you are, chances are something unexpected would happen. Having someone you can turn to could be of great help under such circumstances. Plus, traveling with friends also helps you to see things from different perspectives and this can make the whole experience more fun. Besides, exploring with friends offers you a great opportunity to really get to know your friends and deepen your friendships.
- 2 I think exploring alone could be really difficult. One of the biggest challenges is that you don't have anyone at your back. If you come across any danger, you're entirely on your own. Another big problem is you may fall ill during your travel. Since you are in a place where you don't have any support

network, this could be really big trouble.

Exploring on your own also means you are more likely to get ripped off since you are a stranger to the place and all by yourself. Last but not least, the lack of human interaction could make you feel really lonely, and you could get really homesick sometimes.

- 3 I think good solo explorers should be able to pick up certain skills, such as language skills, to adapt to the new environment with minimal assistance. Plus, they need to be sociable and have the courage to step out of their comfort zone and make new friends. Good solo explorers are also open to any unexpected turn throughout the journey and don't worry about it. They are able to stay calm in the face of great challenges or difficulties. Finally, they need to be able to enjoy being their own company for extended periods of time.

Teaching tips

To answer yes-or-no questions involves taking sides and putting forward arguments. To help Ss offer compelling arguments, T can suggest they make comparisons between opposite sides and use specific examples as evidence to support their point of view. Meanwhile, T may also advise Ss on how to politely express opposition or challenge the other side during the discussion.

News report 1

Like mountains, the ocean has also long been a source of fascination, and hence a destination for human exploration. Now listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- A. Being the deepest spot in the ocean.
B. Being the most mysterious spot on Earth.
C. Being the home of the largest variety of fishes.
D. Being the largest unexplored area in the ocean.
- A. To find and study new ocean species.
B. To map and research the Mariana Trench.
C. To reach the bottom of the Challenger Deep.
D. To complete an underwater experiment in three months.
- A. Images of deep-sea corals.
B. Stories behind the expedition.
C. Pictures of a new jellyfish species.
D. Information about bottomfish habitats.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

bottomfish *n.* 底栖鱼

coral /'kɒrəl/ *n.* 珊瑚

jellyfish /'dʒeli,fɪʃ/ *n.* 水母;
海蜇

PROPER NAMES

Mariana /,mæri'ɑ:nə/ Trench
马里亚纳海沟 (位于太平洋)

Challenger Deep 挑战者深渊
(位于马里亚纳海沟)



News report 1

Scripts

The Mariana Trench is one of the most mysterious spots in the ocean. It runs for more than 1,580 miles. The deepest spot known in the ocean is found there: the Challenger Deep, which hides around 6.83 miles below the surface. Last April, the federally funded research ship set off to map and research the area for three months. This mission came to an end this past weekend. Among the many amazing things the team has seen so far are bottomfish habitats and deep-sea corals.

The information is sure to prove priceless for ocean researchers. But the more immediate impact of the expedition has been the release of images of the strange and beautiful sea creatures. Images of a new jellyfish species spread rapidly and earned headlines.

Culture notes

Challenger Deep (挑战者深渊): It is in the Pacific Ocean, at the southern end of the Mariana Trench near the Mariana Islands. It is named after the British Royal Navy survey ship HMS *Challenger*, whose expedition in 1872-1876 made the first recording of its depth.

Questions

- 1 What is the Challenger Deep known for?
- 2 What is the mission of the research ship?
- 3 What has immediately made the headlines?

Answers

- 1 A 2 B 3 C

News report 2

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

probe /prəʊb/ *n.* 探测器

rove /rəʊv/ *v.* 漫游

crew /kru:/ *n.* 全体机组人员

Space is viewed as humans' final frontier and our greatest destination for adventure. China has made efforts to advance space exploration. Now listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- A. Reach Mars.
B. Build a new rocket.
C. Develop a new space program.
D. Land on the dark side of the moon.
- A. Sending a satellite to Mars.
B. Finding water sources on Mars.
C. Collecting surface samples from Mars.
D. Carrying out orbiting and roving exploration.
- A. Staging a spacewalk.
B. Launching a space lab.
C. Building a space station.
D. Landing a rover on the moon.



News report 2

Scripts

China is aiming to further develop its space industry in the next decade. With its fast-growing space program, China is planning to reach Mars before the end of the decade.

Wu Yanhua, Deputy Chief of the National Space Administration, said China aims to launch its first Mars probe around 2020. The first mission will be to carry out orbiting and roving exploration. A second mission would include the collection of surface samples from the Red Planet.

China was late in the space industry – it didn't send its first satellite into space until 1970, just after the United States put the first man on the moon.

But in the decades since, China has spent large amounts of money and other resources into research and training. Since 2003, China has staged a spacewalk, landed a rover on the moon and launched a space lab that it hopes to pave the way for a space station. It has also sent five crews into space in the same period, making it only the third country in the world with such success.

Questions

- 1 What is China planning to do before the end of the decade?
- 2 What is the focus of China's first Mars mission?
- 3 Which of the following is China yet to accomplish?

Answers

- 1 A 2 D 3 C

iExplore 2: Viewing and speaking

Viewing and understanding

1 Many believe that one day we will be able to leave Earth and start a new life on another planet. Now watch the first part of a video clip and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 What does Natalie Batalha do?
 - A. Teach astrophysics.
 - B. Help fix space telescopes.
 - C. Regulate space missions.
 - D. Hunt for habitable planets.
- 2 Why is understanding the diversity of all planets important?
 - A. It helps us trace the history of our galaxy.
 - B. It helps us predict the future of our galaxy.
 - C. It helps us understand our place in the galaxy.
 - D. It helps us discover the uniqueness of our galaxy.
- 3 What is the objective of the Kepler Mission?
 - A. To find planets with water on the surface.
 - B. To find stars that harbor planets in our galaxy.
 - C. To find habitable Earth-size planets in our galaxy.
 - D. To find stars that radiate the right amount of energy.
- 4 What can be detected by Kepler Space Telescope?
 - A. The disc of planets.
 - B. The orbits of planets.
 - C. The surface of planets.
 - D. The shadows of planets.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

astrophysicist

/,æstrəʊ'fɪzɪsɪst/ n. 天体物理学家

galaxy */'gæləksi/ n.* 星系

habitable */'hæbɪtəbl/ a.* 适宜居住的

dim */dɪm/ v.* (使)变暗淡

exoplanet */'eksəʊ'plænɪt/ n.* (太阳系外的)外部行星

stellar */'stelə/ a.* 星球的

planetary */'plænətəri/ a.* 行星的

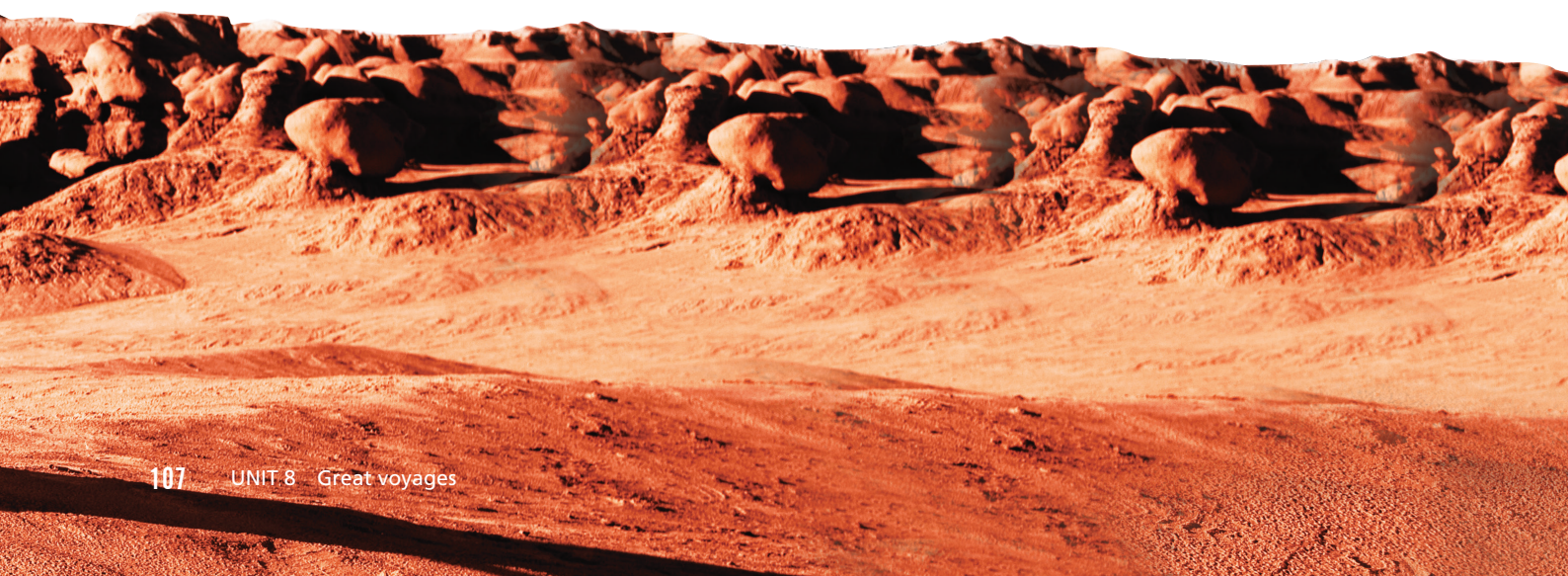
PROPER NAMES

Natalie Batalha */'nætli*

bə'tæliə/ 纳塔莉·巴塔利亚 (天体物理学家)

Kepler */'keplə/* Space

Telescope 开普勒太空望远镜



Explore 2: Viewing and speaking

Scripts

It's an exciting concept that there may be other worlds out there. Well, what are those worlds and what could they be? And is there a place for us out there? The search for another Earth sounds like a job for the explorers of tomorrow, but it's happening right now. I'm Astrophysicist Natalie Batalha, a passionate planet hunter.

I think the only way that we're going to really understand our place in the galaxy is by looking at this broad picture and understanding the diversity of all planets. Twenty or thirty years ago, we didn't know any other planets orbiting normal stars like our own sun. I've helped rewrite that story as the mission scientist for NASA's Kepler Space Telescope.

Kepler's objective is very simple. It's to determine the fraction of stars in our galaxy that harbor potentially habitable Earth-size planets. And what makes a planet potentially habitable? The one ingredient that we think is common to all life forms is the requirement of liquid water. So that's why we look for planets that have rocky surfaces where water could pool and that are receiving the right amount of energy from the star where the water wouldn't be locked up in a frozen state because the planet is so cold, nor would it disappear because the planet is too hot.

Launched in 2009, Kepler stared at one small patch of the Milky Way for four years straight. Compared to stars, planets are too tiny for Kepler to spot. But it can detect their shadows. Every planet orbiting a luminous object is casting a shadow out into space. The Kepler spacecraft makes use of that fact, waiting for a planet in its orbit around the star to pass directly between the disc of the star and the spacecraft. And the telescope perceives that as a dimming of light. This simple method has revealed thousands of exoplanets, planets orbiting other stars in our galaxy.

What we've learned so far is that literally every

star in the galaxy has at least one planet. There's an amazing diversity of exoplanets out there and we've found very exotic worlds. Two hundred light years away, there is a planet orbiting not one, but two stars. So if you were living on a world like Kepler-16b, you would see in the sky two stars rising in the east, setting in the west, continuously changing position as they orbit one another. This is an artist's impression of the planet Kepler-10b. It's orbiting close to its parent star. So this star-facing side is just being blanketed by stellar radiation, creating temperatures in excess of that required to melt iron. One half of the planet is an ocean which is larger than the Pacific Ocean. But it's not an ocean of water; it's an ocean of hot liquid rock.

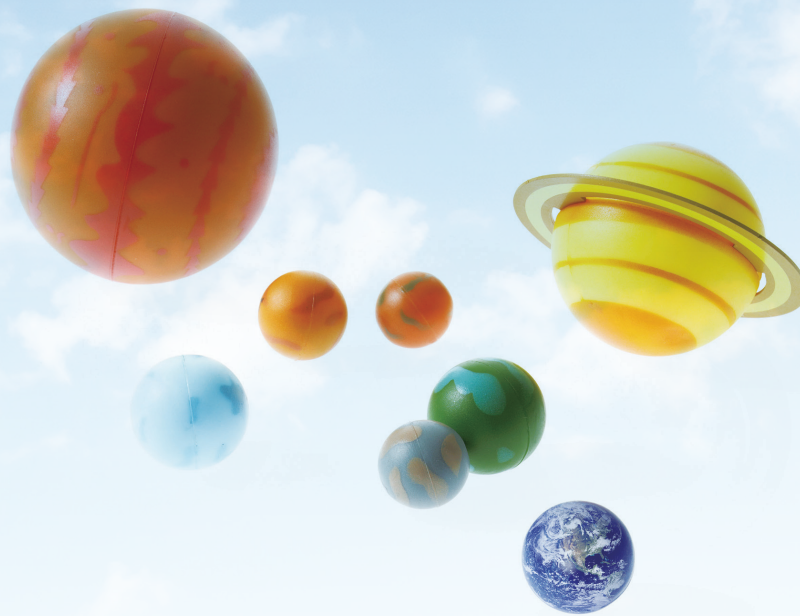
Not an attractive destination. But Kepler recently found us a possible second home. This is an artist's concept of the Kepler-186 planetary system. Five planets orbit this M-type star and the outermost planet is Kepler-186f. This is our first discovery of an Earth-size planet in the habitable zone of a normal star. When I think about Kepler-186f, I try to imagine it as a real place because it is a real place. We know that it could be rocky. It's the same size as Earth, so I do imagine a rocky surface. We don't know if it has a liquid ocean, but we can certainly imagine one. And then, all of a sudden in your imagination, you internalize the existence of this world out there, that there is a place that could be very, very much like Earth.

Viewing and understanding

1

Answers

1 D 2 C 3 C 4 D



LISTENING SKILLS

Listening for key information

When listening, it is important to identify key information. Keep in mind that not all information is of equal importance. Some information consists of key facts and figures or main arguments, while others are merely examples illustrating a main point, or anecdotes that are less relevant to the main argument. Identifying key information can help you grasp the essence of materials and facilitate your understanding of details.

So pay attention to expressions indicating that something important is about to be said, such as "What we've learned is ...," "The major cause is ...," "Our first discovery ...," "... lead to ...," etc.

2 Watch the second part of the video clip and decide whether each of the following statements is true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Every star in the galaxy has at least one planet.
- 2 Kepler-16b orbits one star.
- 3 Kepler-10b is a very hot planet.
- 4 Kepler-186 has four orbiting planets.
- 5 Kepler-186f is much the same size as Earth.

Thinking and speaking

3 Work in groups and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you want to immigrate to another planet? Why or why not?
- 2 What do you think are the biggest challenges of living on another planet?
- 3 If we were to abandon Earth for good, what do you think we should take with us to our new home?

2

Answers

1 T 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T

Teaching tips

Exercise 2 is aimed at developing Ss' pragmatic ability to identify key information when listening. To help Ss better accomplish this exercise, remind them to learn more about it in the micro-lecture on listening skills in the online course.

Thinking and speaking

3

Reference answers

- I want to immigrate to another planet. Someone once said, "Keeping humanity consolidated on one vulnerable rock is a guarantee of eventual extinction." I quite agree with that argument. I don't think Earth will exist forever, and once it gets really uninhabitable, humanity will have no choice but to immigrate to another planet. Besides, living on another planet, though challenging, would be really exciting. You will be living an entirely different life and experiencing new things every day.
- I do not want to immigrate to another planet. Don't get me wrong, space exploration is absolutely necessary. But I just can't imagine abandoning my life here on Earth. There are so many wonderful places on Earth that I have yet to visit. Plus, a new planet also means that the whole society along with social order needs to be reconstructed. It isn't about thriving; it's about survival. I can't figure out how to maintain the current

living standards on another planet.

- The biggest challenges, in my opinion, are adapting to a harsh physical environment, growing enough food to feed everyone, and coping with the stress and anxiety caused by living on a foreign planet. First of all, so far scientists have yet to find a planet that is as habitable as Earth, which means that it will be really difficult for people to adapt to the environment of another planet. Secondly, growing food on the new planet won't be easy as it is quite likely that the crops we grow on Earth will fail in a different environment. Finally, trying to cope with all kinds of challenges on a daily basis could be really stressful. I am sure many people will become really homesick. So how to stay calm and positive will also be a big challenge.
- In my opinion, there are two types of things that we must take with us, no matter where our new home might be. Firstly, we must try to take with us as many plant and animal species as we can. They are the products of thousands of years' evolution and it would be interesting to see if they can adapt to a different planet. Secondly, human beings have made great artistic achievements, as can be seen in so many beautiful artworks. However, many of them are very old and need to be carefully preserved. Therefore, we must also take them and try our best to protect them in our new home.

Teaching tips

T can ask Ss to think about the reasons why mankind may need to immigrate to another planet and how much time they have before they have to move. For question 3, T may have Ss discuss what kinds of things are unique to Earth and can't be duplicated.

iPractice: Pronunciation

Listen to the following paragraphs and pay attention to how the speaker reads them with the pronunciation skills that you have learned. Then take turns reading them to a partner.

It was my father who introduced my younger brothers and sister and I to the joys of the mountains. Although not strictly a mountaineer himself, he led us on “expeditions” to the wilds and summits.

These were trips to the low hills of England. But to a group of children, aged between four and eight, they were our introduction to a world of adventure. We were determined to reach the summit so that we could prove to our parents and each other that we were capable of doing it. But our determination was also born of the excitement at the scenes of beauty that awaited us. The scenes were in sharp contrast to the narrow streets of our home in central Manchester.



iPractice: Pronunciation

Scripts

It was my father who introduced my younger brothers and sister and I to the joys of the mountains. Although not strictly a mountaineer himself, he led us on “expeditions” to the wilds and summits.

These were trips to the low hills of England. But to a group of children, aged between four and eight, they were our introduction to a world of adventure. We were determined to reach the summit so that we could prove to our parents and each other that we were capable of doing it. But our determination was also born of the excitement at the scenes of beauty that awaited us. The scenes were in sharp contrast to the narrow streets of our home in central Manchester.

(continued from T113)

the famous sailor as he sailed the ancient Maritime Silk Road as well as when he crossed the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans.

Although no one knows what happened to Guo Chuan in those last crucial moments aboard the Qingdao China, his story and the tale of the boat have become increasingly popular, inspiring more people to challenge themselves and to pursue their dreams.

Questions

- 1 What happened to Guo Chuan on October 25, 2016?
- 2 What did Guo Chuan do upon returning from a 138-day solo voyage?
- 3 What can be seen on Guo Chuan’s sail according to the speaker?

Answers

- 1 A 2 C 3 B

Unit project

Making a plan

Exploring the unexplored on Earth

A documentary channel is developing a new program called *Explore the Unexplored on Earth*. The program intends to introduce the audience to places that are rarely visited. Now the program is collecting ideas of possible destinations. They would also like opinions on what preparations should be made and certain dos and don'ts that can help ensure the success of the exploration. Your group is going to propose a plan for this program. The following steps may help you with the project.

Step 1 Choose your destination

Work in groups and choose one place that most interests you. The following list is for your reference.

- Greenland ice sheet
- Mariana Trench
- Sahara
- Amazon rainforest
- Antarctica

...



Unit project

Teaching tips

Exploring the unexplored on Earth can be a blast – if Ss plan things right. The following are some tips T may give Ss on how to successfully plan their adventure.

- **Choose a destination that works for everyone**

Choose your destination with both the interests and physical capabilities of your entire group in mind. Find a destination that has something for everyone so that you can make sure everyone is looking forward to the exploration.

- **Establish roles**

Even if someone in the group is a very experienced traveler, it doesn't need to be a one-man band. When planning the exploration, try to split up tasks according to what everyone in the group is good at.

- **Identify the essentials and plan for the unexpected**

As you plan for the exploration, make sure you involve all the essentials on your packing list and also have all your group members brainstorm the things you might forget and add these items to the list.

- **Be flexible**

During the process of your preparation, remember to be flexible and adjust your plan according to the new information you get from your research or the new ideas you come up with through the group discussion.

Step 2 Learn about your destination

Use the Internet to collect information about your chosen destination. Consider the following aspects in your searching:

- the location
- climatic features
- transportation
- the nearest public utilities

...

Step 3 Figure out how you can explore the place

Discuss with your group members how you can best explore this place. Draw up a table of preparations you need to make, including the dos and don'ts as well as a plan B for the expedition. The following points may give you some ideas.

- the destination
- purposes
- dates
- gear
- routes and transportation

...

Step 4 Prepare your presentation

Prepare a presentation based on the previous steps. In order to make your presentation more engaging, you can use pictures, graphs or other visual aids.

Step 5 Present your plan

Present your plan to the class. Invite the audience to ask questions and adjust your plan according to the audience's feedback.



Reference answers

One of the least explored places on this planet is Antarctica. As the coldest, windiest and driest continent on Earth, Antarctica has challenged explorers and inspired dreamers through the centuries. It is a place of beauty and mystery, with its landmass almost wholly covered by a vast ice sheet. It is also an inhospitable and distant place, so traveling there is unlike traveling almost anywhere else.

The best time to visit Antarctica is mostly during the austral summer, that is, from November to March. There are a lot of amazing things visitors can do, such as whale watching, photographing icebergs, visiting penguin colonies, camping and kayaking.

To ensure that you will have a wonderful and unforgettable experience in Antarctica, it is imperative that you are fully prepared. The right gear for the trip should include such essentials as parkas, waterproof boots and trousers, hats, scarves, gloves as well as wool socks. It is also sensible to pack a backup of each of these items. Bringing a quality pair of binoculars is wise, and if you want to take good photos of fast-moving wildlife, a zoom lens is ideal for your camera. Be sure to bring some kind of waterproof case for your camera or mobile phone to repel splashes of water while sailing on Zodiacs, which are the small and inflatable boats used to venture out from the cruise ship. One more thing to bear in mind is that despite being a land of ice, the sun is incredibly strong in Antarctica and reflects blindingly off snow, so sunscreen (at least SPF 45) and sunglasses are necessary. The cold wind can wreak havoc on your lips, so stock up on lip balm with SPF.

Because of its delicate environment, strict regulations and a lack of tourism infrastructure on the continent's shores, most travelers visit Antarctica on expedition cruises. We recommend that you prepare for your voyage with the help of a polar travel tour operator – they'll handle

the planning, but suitable packing, physical conditioning and mental readiness are up to you.

For a typical seven-day trip to Antarctica, you can start your trip by boarding a ship in Buenos Aires in Argentina. For your first two days, you will cross the Drake Passage. You can enjoy the stunning scenery en route to King George Island in the next two days. On day five, you will cross the Antarctic Convergence and start to see polar landscapes. You can also board the Zodiac boats to visit a penguin colony basking in endless daylight. On day six, you can try kayaking or taking photos of magnificent icebergs. On day seven, you will return to King George Island and board a flight to Punta Arenas.

Sounds fun, right? So, what are you waiting for? Set a date and go see Antarctica with your own eyes!

Further listening

News report 1

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

hut /hʌt/ *n.* (简陋的) 小屋
magnetic /mæɡ'netɪk/ pole
n. (地球的) 磁极

PROPER NAMES

Chris Turney /'tʒ:ni/
克里斯·特尼 (人名)
Douglas Mawson /,dʌɡləs
'mɔ:sn/ 道格拉斯·莫森
(人名)

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. A climate scientist.
B. An Austrian adventurer.
C. An expert studying Mawson.
D. A scholar from New Zealand.
- 2 A. Follow the journey of Mawson.
B. Locate the North Magnetic Pole.
C. Rebuild Mawson's hut in Antarctica.
D. Make a documentary about Mawson.
- 3 A. A thick fog.
B. The lack of time.
C. A huge ice pack.
D. The heavy equipment.

News report 2

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

forestry /'fɒrɪstri/ *n.* 林学
grasshopper /'grɑ:s,hɒpə/
n. 蚱蜢

PROPER NAMES

Montana /mɒn'tænə/ 蒙大拿
州 (美国)
August Kramer /'kreɪmə/
奥古斯特·克雷默 (人名)

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. Eating McDonald's.
B. Eating grass in the forest.
C. Drinking water he processed.
D. Drinking the beer he brought.
- 2 A. By playing very loud music.
B. By taping CDs to the roof of the car.
C. By tying handkerchiefs on the door handles.
D. By hanging a beer can in the tree near his car.
- 3 A. From a TV show for kids.
B. From some survival books.
C. From a lecture on forestry.
D. From a course he took in college.

Further listening

News report 1

Scripts

Last week, a 36-person team led by Chris Turney, an Australian adventurer and climate scientist, set out from New Zealand to follow the historic journey of a scientific expedition to Antarctica that took place a century ago. The new expedition aims to find the hut of Douglas Mawson, the leader of the original expedition. They hope to repeat many of the original team's observations and to locate the South Magnetic Pole, one of the goals of Mawson's expedition.

It won't be easy. "Right now there's a huge ice pack tight to the shore, three and a half meters thick. Yet if the team can reach the hut," says Turney, "we'll repeat Mawson's work, using modern technology."

"Mawson's expedition was magical and encouraging," Turney says. "And in spite of all their hardships, they brought back a remarkable wealth of data." Turney hopes his expedition will do the same.

Questions

- 1 Who is Chris Turney?
- 2 What is Turney's team trying to do?
- 3 What caused trouble for Turney's expedition?

Answers

- 1 A 2 A 3 C

News report 2

Scripts

A Montana college student whose car broke down on a road in a distant forest stayed alive until help arrived two days later. He owed it to quick-thinking survival techniques he read about as a kid.

August Kramer, 21, a lover of the out-of-doors who studies forestry at the University of Montana, ate even a grasshopper, and drank water he boiled inside a beer can.

"There was a little stream running a little less than half a mile from where my car broke down," he said. "I walked there with a McDonald's cup and filled it up, and then boiled it in the beer can and poured it through a handkerchief. I just wanted it to be as clean as possible."

He also pulled all of the CDs from his car and taped them to the roof of his car to make it more reflective in the thick woods, where there is no cell phone reception.

"When I was younger, I read a lot of survival books and some of it stuck," said Kramer.

Questions

- 1 Which of the following helped Kramer stay alive?
- 2 How did Kramer make his car more obvious?
- 3 Where did Kramer learn those survival techniques?

Answers

- 1 C 2 B 3 B

Conversation

Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. In a big city in southern Ecuador.
B. In a remote area in eastern Ecuador.
C. In a small town in northern Ecuador.
D. In a small village on the border of Ecuador.
- 2 A. At a bank in a small town.
B. In a store run by her host family.
C. At a community center in a small city.
D. In an organization called Global Citizen.
- 3 A. To experience life in a different culture.
B. To challenge herself mentally and physically.
C. To interact with people in a different culture.
D. To better understand what she wanted to learn in college.
- 4 A. Not being able to use the Internet.
B. Not being able to contact her family.
C. Not being able to chat with her friends.
D. Not being able to go home on Christmas.

PROPER NAMES

Ecuador /'ekwədəʊ/ 厄瓜多尔
(南美洲国家)

Passage

Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. He went missing.
B. He broke a world record.
C. He left Qingdao for his solo voyage.
D. He returned from his third solo voyage.
- 2 A. He gave a speech on the shore.
B. He and his family cried together.
C. He kissed the ground of Qingdao.
D. He announced plans for his next adventure.
- 3 A. The map of his hometown. B. The words "Peace and Sport."
C. The symbol of Peace and Sport. D. The words "Champion for Peace."

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

Atlantic /ət'læntɪk/ a.
大西洋的

Arctic /'ɑ:ktɪk/ a. 北极的

PROPER NAMES

Maritime /'mæɪrɪ,tɑɪm/ Silk
Road 海上丝绸之路

Conversation

Scripts

Interviewer: Where in the world are you? What have you been doing this year?

Interviewee: I am living in a small town in the northern region of Ecuador. My program, Global Citizen Year, placed me with a host family who are all really involved in the community. I live with them and work in the afternoons at a small bank for the town.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to take a gap year?

Interviewee: A lot of my interests that I want to explore in college are international-relations-related: government, development, sustainability and entrepreneurship. These are all things that I think are really abstract and foreign if you only study them in a classroom. So I guess I just wanted to see how government interaction with citizens is different in a different culture, and gain a better understanding of what I wanted to study in college.

Interviewer: What is your biggest challenge?

Interviewee: All of my challenges have resulted from being out of my comfort zone in one way or another. But the biggest challenge is seeing all my friends go home for the winter break on social media while I am thousands of miles away from my family on Christmas.

Interviewer: How have you overcome such challenges?

Interviewee: As far as overcoming them, I try to just think about why I came here in the first place. Instead of regarding

what is happening or what I'm feeling in the moment as a bad thing, I take it as a chance that reveals something about myself I wouldn't get to see otherwise, which makes it more of a blessing.

Questions

- 1 Where is the woman now?
- 2 Where has the woman been working this year?
- 3 Why did the woman decide to take a gap year?
- 4 What is her biggest challenge?

Answers

- 1 C 2 A 3 D 4 D

Passage

Scripts

October 25, 2016 is a day worth remembering in the world's sailing history. On this day, Chinese sailor Guo Chuan went missing while sailing his boat and trying to break his third world record. Since that day, there has been no news from him.

Upon hearing the news of his disappearance, people in his hometown – Qingdao – recalled the images of Guo's return in 2013 after he first broke the world record. After a 138-day solo voyage, Guo could not wait until his ship finally arrived in Qingdao. He dove into the sea, swam to the shore to kneel in front of his family and friends, and said "I am back, alive." He then bowed his head and kissed the ground of his hometown.

Guo, sailing his boat, the Qingdao China, created two world records, rewriting China's sailing history. Guo was honored with the title of Champion for Peace by Peace and Sport, a worldwide organization, after his globe-circling voyage. The words "Peace and Sport" always appeared on the sail of his boat, accompanying

(to be continued on T109)