

British Council - Language Assistant - Essential UK – 2009

Task 1 Countries

With a partner, make a list of all the countries you know. You have 1 minute.

Task 2 Vocabulary

With a partner put the words and expressions in the box in the correct column. Use a dictionary or ask your teacher for help if necessary.

blizzard, journey, brakes, desert, to pedal, trip, freezing temperatures, mountain, punctures, river, rudder, running shoes, sea, storm, autopilot, ocean, to cycle, to run, to sail, voyage, wind, wombat, yacht

1 weather	2 travel nouns	3 geographical features	4 cycling	5 running	6 sailing	7 animals

Task 3 Round-the-world travelers: Jigsaw reading

Student A

Your text is about a round-the-world traveler. Read the text and complete column A of the chart. Compare your notes with the other students in your group. Your teacher will put you in a different group. Now you can explain your text to your new group and complete all columns of the chart.

Text A

James Bowthorpe, aged 31, became the fastest man to cycle round the globe when he arrived at Hyde Park in London on September 19th 2009. It took him just 176 days to travel through 20 countries on his epic 18 000-mile (29 000 km) journey.

James pedaled out of the English capital, his hometown, carrying 30 kilos of gear which included a GPS tracking system, camera batteries and a phone; all powered by a dynamo connected to his bike. He was sponsored by a British newspaper and managed to raise over £ 58 000 for research into Parkinson's disease.

He crossed mountains and deserts, rode along terrifying highways, battled against strong winds, collided with a wombat in Australia, broke his back brake and had to fix numerous punctures. In Thailand he was so ill that he lost a fifth of his body weight and had to spend 3 days in bed to recover. His other low points included being attacked by a gang of men (and then thankfully being rescued by a couple of teenagers).

Most of his encounters along the way were friendly and James was pleased to find that Lance Armstrong, the Tour de France winner was following his trip via Twitter. "For a couple of days I imagined him watching me with his arms folded, shaking his head at my technique," Bowthorpe says.

Information from The Independent, The Guardian

	A	B	C	
Who travelled around the world?				
How did he or she travel?				
How long did the journey take?				
What problems did he or she have?				

Student B

Your text is about a round-the-world traveller. Read the text and complete column B of the chart. Compare your notes with the other students in your group. Your teacher will put you in a different group. Now you can explain your text to your new group and complete all columns of the chart.

Text B

Rosie Swale Pope, a grandmother from Wales, took five years to run around the world. She was 61 when she complete her round-the-world trip in August 2008. Her 20 000 mile ((32 190 km) journey, which took her through the Northern Hemisphere including Europe, America, Greenland and Iceland, raised funds for a Russian orphanage and promoted cancer awareness.

Rosie carried her equipment on a small trailer as she ran. She either camped at night or stayed with people she met on the way. She met *lots* of people on route; most of them friendly. She received 29 proposals of marriage (9 of them in Poland) and was rescued from the snow during a blizzard by a local in Alaska.

Did she encounter any difficulties? As well as being hit by a bus, experiencing freezing temperatures and suffering from pneumonia, she was knocked unconscious by an axeman as she was crossing a river. She also had to replace her running shoes 45 times.

Information from El Periodico, The Telegraph

	A	B	C
Who travelled around the world?			
How did he or she travel?			
How long did the journey take?			
What problems did he or she have?			

Student C

Your text is about a round-the-world traveller. Read the text and complete column C of the chart. Compare your notes with the other students in your group. Your teacher will put you in a different group. Now you can explain your text to your new group and complete all columns of the chart.

Text C

Mike Perham was just 16 when he set off to circumnavigate the globe. He celebrated his 17th birthday alone in the Indian Ocean on his 50-foot (15 m) racing yacht.

A birthday party for one might not sound like much fun to the average teen. Other less enjoyable parts of the trip included numerous stops to repair the yacht's rudder and autopilot, accidentally falling overboard into the water and terrible storms in open sea. One of the most tedious aspects of the trip was having to put up with a diet of 'icky' freeze-dried food.

Against these odds British teenager, Mike completed his 28 000 mile (45 000 km) sea voyage in 9 months and became the youngest person to sail solo around the world in August 2009.

Many people say that 16 is too young to sail around the world alone. But Mike's father was confident that his son had the physical strength, mental capacity and technical ability necessary for the trip.

Information from The Guardian, The Adventure Blog

	A	B	C
Who travelled around the world?			
How did he or she travel?			
How long did the journey take?			
What problems did he or she have?			

Task 4 Round-the-world travellers: Read all the stories.

Read the article and then answer the questions with a partner. Write *James*, *Mike* or *Rosie*. You can write more than one name for some of the questions.

- 1 Who travelled around the world the faster?
- 2 Who travelled furthest?
- 3 Who was sponsored?
- 4 Who raised money for charity?
- 5 Who got ill?
- 6 Who fell in the sea?
- 7 Who repaired or replaced equipment?
- 8 Who had the most romantic trip?
- 9 Who was followed on the internet by a famous sports person?

Task 5 Interviews.

Complete the questions with the words in the box. Do interviews in pairs. Student A is a round-the-world traveller, student B is a journalist. Take turns to be the cyclist, runner, sailer and journalist.

How(x2) What(x2) Who

- _____ did you travel around the world?
_____ long did it take?
_____ problems did you have?
_____ were the best times on your trip?
_____ helped you?

Task 6 Advice for round-the-world travellers.

Here is some advice for round-the-world travellers from the 'World traveller' website. Read the advice and decide if you agree or disagree with each statement. Compare your list with your group and explain your ideas.

Learn the language of each place you plan visit. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

Find a sponsor to provide money while you are travelling. *agree/ disagree /not sure*

Make sure you are fit before you begin your trip. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

Reserve hotels room in each country you will visit. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

Check your equipment at the start of each day of your journey. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

Take lots of clothes. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

You must be at least 18 to travel alone. *agree/ disagree/not sure*

Take a laptop so that you can contact family and friends while you are away.
agree/ disagree/not sure

Task 7 Discussion Task.

Discuss these questions:

Would most parents allow their teenage son or daughter to travel round the world alone?

Why/ Why not?

How dangerous is it to travel in different countries?

Would you like to travel round the world? Why/ Why not?

How do you think it feels to break a world record?

Have any world records been broken recently in your country? Which?

Can world records always be broken?

By Sally Trowbridge