Archive
Topics

Fast Cars and Frozen Lakes

General Interest

How do car companies test their cars for safety?

Fast sports cars. Cool technology. Spy photographers. You'll find all this and more in the Arjeplog region of Sweden. Every winter, car companies arrive in Arjeplog to test their newest cars.

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Arjeplog, with more than 30,000 lakes, is near the Arctic Circle. In winter, temperatures can be as low as -40 degrees Celsius. The freezing temperatures mean the lakes stay frozen all winter. These icy surfaces are perfect for testing cars. Drivers can go very fast, then hit the brakes hard. The car can skid safely because there's nothing to crash into on top of a frozen lake. Car companies know this: cars that drive well over Arjeplog's lakes will drive well anywhere.

The capital of this snowy region is a tiny village, also named Arjeplog. Only 1,800 people live in Arjeplog. But from January to April, so many drivers, engineers, and other workers arrive that the number of people grows to almost 8,000! Most of these winter visitors work for the car companies. However, a few are actually spies! They travel around Arjeplog and try to take photographs of secret prototypes.

Winter visitors help the local economy in many ways. The guests eat in restaurants and stay in hotels. They also go on nature trips and enjoy snow sports. But car testing is the main reason people come. Philip Talboys, a manager at Jaguar-Land Rover, looks forward to his trip to Arjeplog every winter. According to Talboys, "A lot of cars wouldn't be on the market if not for Arjeplog. For such a small, remote place, it's amazingly important to the industry."

1. hit the brakes, skid spies! prototypes. Economy looks forward to on the market remote

Arjeplog...

A.is a region in Sweden.

B.is the name of a small village.

C.is close to the Arctic Circle.

D.All of the above

2When a driver is driving on a frozen surface and then hits the brakes, the car...

A.usually stops quickly.

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B.sometimes skids on the icy surface.

C.often rolls over on the ice.

3.Who are the spies in Arjeplog?

A Photographers looking for secret prototypes

B.Workers looking for jobs with other companies.

C.People who live there and try to steal cars.

D trying to make safer cars.

4.inter visitors from car companies spend their free time...

A.eating at Arjeplog's restaurants.

B.doing winter sports.

C.enjoying the area's nature.

D.All of the above

5.hilip Talboys...

A.does not enjoy coming to Arjeplog in the winter.

B.runs a tourism company in Arjeplog.

C.says Arjeplog is important to car companies.

D.thinks people don't like Arjeplog because it's too cold.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Glossary

- Hit: Give (a person) one or more blows to a person, animal or thing using hi s body, a part of it or an object.
- Brakes: Make a vehicle stop or slow down by using the brake.
- Lakes: Large natural reservoir of water in a depression in the ground.
- Market: Public place with shops or stalls where you trade especially with food on other basic necessities.
- Skid: Rolling skates on ice or other hard smooth surface.
- Prototypes: First specimen made of a figure on invention or something else.
- Economy: System of production, distribution, trade and consumption of goods and services of a society or a country.

LIVEWORKSHEETS