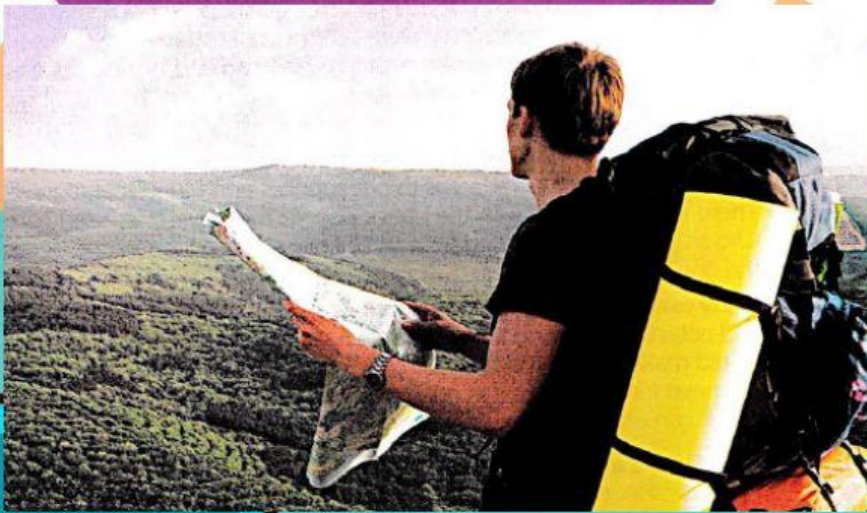


FORM 4

FULL BLAST PLUS

UNIT 5: GLOBETROTTING

Reading 1 : Page 68-69



Upgrade your English with **FULL BLAST PLUS!**

(Illustration)

5a**Read** 

A. Discuss.

- Do you enjoy walking? Why / Why not?
- What's the furthest you have ever walked? What was it like?

B. Read the text quickly and choose the best title a, b or c.

- a** **EXPLORING THE AMAZON:**
Ed Stafford's amazing journey across the Amazon River
- b** **Amazon Adventure: One man tries to save the rainforest**
- c** **Walking the Amazon:**
The incredible story of Ed Stafford

When British explorer Ed Stafford announced that he wanted to become the first person to walk the 4000-mile length of the Amazon from source to sea, most people said that he could not do it. They said there was no way any human could survive such a long and dangerous journey. This made Stafford even more determined to prove them wrong.

In April 2008, Stafford set off with another trekker, who returned home after three months. Stafford continued and was joined by a Peruvian forester 'Cho' who stayed with him until the end. Stafford had estimated that it would take him a year to complete the journey. However, by the time he reached the Atlantic Ocean on the other side of the continent, he had been walking continuously for 860 days. Throughout the expedition, he had to carry 40kg on his back, which required a lot of strength. A lot of this weight was batteries for his satellite video phone and laptop, which he used to write a blog of his experiences.

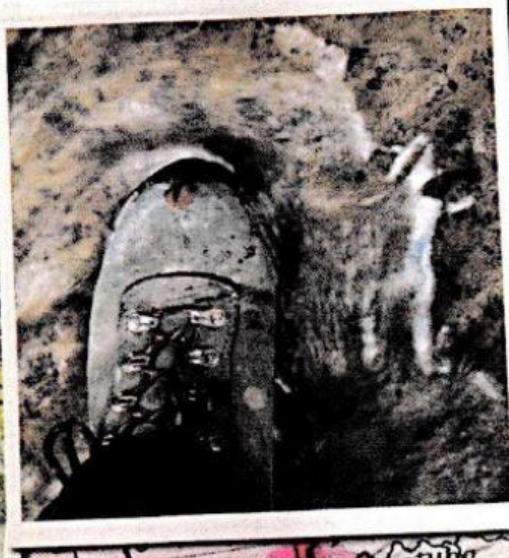
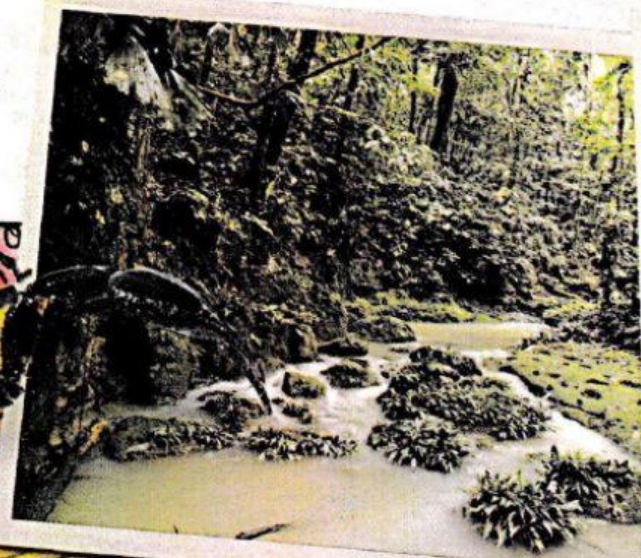
Along the way, Stafford faced many dangers and challenges. He and Cho often had to cross swamps and rivers with only small inflatable rafts. They came across giant poisonous snakes, electric eels, jaguars, crocodiles, monkeys and many dangerous insects. They were continuously attacked by mosquitoes and Stafford was stung twice by scorpions during the journey. A fly buried itself into his head and he also suffered a tropical skin disease. Sometimes they were forced to survive by eating whatever they could hunt or find. Their diet sometimes consisted of plants, piranha fish, wild cats and even tortoises.

Some of the dangers they faced were from humans. The maps they used were often unreliable and on several occasions they arrived at areas to get supplies and found that logging companies had completely cleared them away. There were problems with the native people, too. Several isolated communities living in the jungle saw Stafford and Cho as a threat and chased them with knives and guns. On one occasion, they avoided an attack by agreeing to pay the community chief to be their guide.

Many people found it difficult to understand why Stafford wanted to put his life in danger. He explained that no one had achieved anything like it before. That was a good enough reason for doing it. Moreover, he hoped his expedition would make people more aware of the destruction of the rainforest. Sometimes wanting to be a record-breaker and the need for adventure can push people to incredible achievements. If that can also help a good cause, it makes it even more remarkable.

Sources of information:

- www.walkingtheamazon.com
- <https://www.edstafford.org>



C. Read again and answer the questions. Choose a, b, c or d.

TIPS!

- Read each question carefully to get an idea of what you are looking for and underline the section in the text where the answer is found.
- When a question refers to the whole text, avoid options which are true but refer only to part of the text.
- Make sure you have chosen the correct answer by eliminating the wrong options.
- Avoid options which:
 - sound logical but are not mentioned in the text.
 - include a word / phrase from the text, but do not mean the same thing.
 - overgeneralise using words like *always*, *all*, *every*, etc.

1. When Stafford said that he was going to walk the Amazon, people thought that
 - a. he was strong enough to achieve it.
 - b. he would die if he tried to do it.
 - c. he was brave enough to try.
 - d. if he was determined, he would succeed.
2. What is **not** true about Stafford's journey?
 - a. It took him longer than he expected.
 - b. A Peruvian was with him for most of his journey.
 - c. The batteries he had to carry weighed 40kg.
 - d. The person he started off with didn't complete the challenge.
3. What was the cause of Stafford's skin disease?
 - a. A scorpion.
 - b. A fly.
 - c. His diet.
 - d. It is not clearly mentioned.
4. How did a community chief help Stafford and Cho?
 - a. He showed them where to go.
 - b. He agreed to stop the attacks if they left.
 - c. He explained to isolated communities that they weren't a threat.
 - d. He paid the native people so that they wouldn't harm them.
5. What was the main reason that made Stafford go on this expedition?
 - a. He wanted to be the first to walk the Amazon.
 - b. He wanted to save the rainforest from destruction.
 - c. People believed he couldn't do it.
 - d. He needed to prove something to himself.

D. Find words in the text to complete the table below. Then try to add a few more words to each category.

Geographical features

river,

Water creatures

crocodile,

Land animals

snake,

Bugs

fly,

E. Discuss.

- Would you like to try what Ed Stafford did? Why / Why not?
- Do you know of any other people who have been on incredible expeditions?
- What can the achievement of Ed Stafford teach us?