Past Perfect or Past Simple?

1. Complete the article with the Past Simple or the Past Perfect of the verbs in brackets.

An early love for the ocean

Asha de Vos was born and grew up in Sri Lanka. As a baby, she loved the water and (1) _____ (learn) to swim by the time she was three. And by the age of six, she (2) _____ (decide) to become a marine biologist when she grew up.

A job on a potato farm

When she graduated from university in Scotland, Asha (3) _____ (take) a job working on a potato farm. Although she had tried during her final year of university, she (4) _____ (not be) able to find a job in marine biology, and now she (5) _____ (need) money because she (6) _____ (already decide) to travel to New Zealand to work on conservation projects – which she eventually (7) _____ (do).

Finding a career in marine biology

After she (8) _____ (work) for six months in New Zealand, she (9) _____ (get) a job on a research boat and travelled the world's oceans, looking at whales. Eventually, she (10) _____ (go) back to university and earned a PhD in marine biology. Now she's building a marine conservation research and education centre in Sri Lanka to share her love of the ocean with others.

2. Choose the correct form to complete the questions

a. When ***did you decide / had you decided*** to become a marine biologist?
b. ***Had you tried / Did you try*** to find a biology job before you finished university?
c. Why ***had you taken / did you take*** a job on a potato farm?
d. How long ***had you been / were you*** in New Zealand before you got the research job?
e. What did you do after you ***got / had gotten*** your PhD?

3. Match the questions in ex.2 with the right answers. Write a letter in each box.

1. Six months.
2. By the age of six.
3. I realized that I needed money to go to New Zealand.
4. I went to Sri Lanka to help build a marine conservation research and education centre.
5. Yes, I had.

LIVEWORKSHEETS