5 READING & LISTENING

TV presenter's Amazon

Helen Skelton hopes to become the first woman to kayak down the Amazon River.



Helen Skelton is a 26-year-old TV presenter of Blue Peter, a BBC programme for young people. She has never been afraid of a challenge. Last year she became the second woman to complete the 78-mile Ultra Marathon in Namibia, running the three **consecutive** marathons in 23 hours and 50 minutes. But when Blue Peter decided to do something to raise money for the charity Sports Relief (which **sponsors projects** in the UK and abroad) Skelton said that she wanted an even bigger challenge. So they suggested that she kayak 3,200 kilometres down the Amazon from Nauta in Peru to Almeirim in Brazil.

This is a very **risky** trip. There are no roads, no towns, only rainforest and the river (which is sometimes more than 40 kilometres wide and **infested** with crocodiles). If she falls ill, it will take around 11 hours to fly her to a hospital.

Helen has only been kayaking once before in her life, so she has been training four hours a day. Last week she arrived at the Amazon in Peru. After two days kayaking she made the first of her phone calls to the BBC.

b. *You're going to read an article about Helen Skelton, who agreed to kayak down the Amazon for charity. Read the introduction and answer the questions.*

1. What did Helen do last year for charity?

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2. What is she hoping to do this year?

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3. What is dangerous about the trip?

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4. What experience does she have?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS