GEN2 - UNIT 8: TRAVEL

FURTHER PRACTICE 2: READING

Read the passage and choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

Student expedition to Antarctica

Student expedition to Antarctica Fifteen-year-old Melanie Brenner writes about her trip to the coldest place on Earth.

Four weeks ago, I was on Antarctica! I went there with twenty other students on a three-week educational programme, and we saw some of the most amazing wildlife on Earth. I decided to try and get a place after seeing a programme about how Antarctica was affected by climate change. I thought it'd be a great way to see directly the effect it's having. It was more amazing than I'd imagined and I'd love to go back, perhaps as a scientist in one of the teams that work there.

I was surprised by how little life there was there. Documentaries show landscapes covered in penguins and seas full of whales, but of course the film-makers stay there for months to film so many. I saw some, but not in the numbers I'd expected. As it's the coldest place on Earth, I also thought it'd be well below freezing even in summer, but that wasn't always the case. There's plenty of sun because it's light all the time, which I hadn't got used to even by the time we left. I'd read how many visitors Antarctica gets these days, so seeing several boatloads of visitors didn't seem that strange.

In our first group session, we all had to say why we'd come on the expedition. There were twenty students and twenty different explanations! Even though we were all a bit shy, we made friends with each other from day one. You often get a few people in a group who start telling the others what to do. Fortunately, **this** wasn't the case with us. We've set up a social media group which we're all posting messages onto. It's nice, as we've become pretty close.

In some ways it's been a relief to be home and a school student again, as the routine is so familiar and I was away for such a long time. It's been nice to see my mates again too, although for some reason they change the subject whenever I start talking about my trip. Maybe they're **jealous**, which is a bit sad. Anyway, I've become much more serious about helping the environment. I can understand why we do things that harm it, as I've done them all myself. It's not about blaming anyone but about changing people's habits.

1. Melanie applied for the expedition to Antarctica because she wanted to _____.

A. learn about global warming
B. help with scientific research
C. experience something unusual
D. see lots of the animals there

2. What did Melanie find most unusual about Antarctica?

A. how cold summer there was
B. the 24-hour daylight
C. how much wildlife there was
D. the number of tourists

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3. The underlined word "**this**" in the 3rd paragraph refers to _____.
A. the fact that students make friends rapidly
B. the fact that a few students were a bit bossy
B. the fact that students share their reasons to join the trip
D. the fact that students love to share secrets with others

4. What does Melanie say about the other students on the expedition?
A. Many of them were rather bossy.
B. They were all there for similar reasons.
C. Everyone has kept in touch with each other.
D. It took time to get to know them.

5. The word "**jealous**" is similar in meaning to _____.
A. familiar
B. excited
C. resentful
D. attentive

6. Since getting home from the expedition, Melanie has felt _____.
A. annoyed that she didn't go on a longer trip
B. ashamed of what people are doing to our planet
C. disappointed with the reactions of her friends
D. miserable about being back at school

7. After the expedition, Melanie _____.
A. realize that environmental problems have become more serious
B. become curious about why people harm the environment
C. keep blaming people for not changing their bad habits
D. is determined to do research about the environment

8. What would another expedition member say about Melanie?
A. I hope Melanie's dream comes true and she can qualify as an environmental scientist and go back to do research in Antarctica.
B. It was such a pleasure spending those months in Antarctica with Melanie, especially watching all those penguins and whales with her.
C. Melanie didn't take what we were doing in Antarctica particularly seriously and seemed to miss being back at home quite a lot.
D. Melanie was very angry with people for causing the environmental problems we learnt about in Antarctica, which was strange for someone so shy.

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