2.3 Reading

An article about a special place on the planet

1 Match the sentence halves.

1 [b] Wow. She looks completely
2 [ ] I called the police about a really
3 [ ] It has snowed all day. I'm quite
4 [ ] Last summer was absolutely
5 [ ] The climate here is very
6 [ ] I took some totally

a worried about walking home.
b ~~different. Did she change her hairstyle?~~
c awesome photos of the lightning.
d boring. The weather is the same all year round.
e boiling. On some days it was over 40 degrees.
f strange man on our street.

2 Read the article. Tick (✓) the topics Takashi mentions.

[ ] the weather [ ] taking selfies
[ ] skiing [ ] films
[ ] homework [ ] pets

3 Read the article again and choose the correct answer.

1 Takashi says …
a he usually stays in bed when it snows.
b the temperature in Sapporo is usually minus seven in the winter.
c his hometown usually has a lot of snow.

2 Last month, Takashi …
a learned how to make chocolate.
b visited a park with his family.
c went on holiday with his family.

3 When Takashi climbed a mountain, he didn't …
a take enough water.
b have time to take photos.
c want to climb in the dark.

4 Takashi says he feels good when he …
a remembers the day he climbed the mountain.
b looks at the photos he took on the mountain.
c spends time outside climbing mountains.

My hometown is awesome!

Takashi lives in Sapporo in Northern Japan.

Do you like snowy weather? My hometown, Sapporo, is famous for very heavy snow. When I woke up today, the temperature was minus seven degrees. I wanted to stay in bed, but my sister came and asked me to go skiing. I love skiing, so I got dressed quickly. Sometimes there is so much snow that I can't get to school. But it isn't cold all year. In the summer, it can be warm and sunny, which is perfect weather for trekking.

Sapporo is the fifth biggest city in Japan and there are great places to visit. Last month, I went to a chocolate factory with my family. We went on a tour and they showed us how they make chocolate. I tried some and it was absolutely delicious! Then we took a walk in one of Sapporo's many amazing parks.

There is a mountain close to my home called Moiwayama. Last summer, I went on a trip there with my friends. It was absolutely boiling when we climbed the mountain, so it took a long time to reach the top. We rested and drank water every thirty minutes. I was quite worried when it started to get dark.

I didn't want to be on the mountain at night, but it was all OK in the end. We got back home when it was still light. The views from the top were amazing and I love looking at the photos I took. Thinking about that day makes me feel great.

Every year in February, there is a special event in Sapporo — the Snow Festival. It started more than seventy years ago and now teams from more than twenty countries come to create sculptures. You can see sculptures made from snow and ice all around the city. Last year, one team created a really amazing *Star Wars* sculpture. It was my favourite!

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