Part 1

Cross-country skiing in Sweden

by Jenna Walton, aged 15

Last year, Mum and I wanted to try a winter sport called cross-country skiing – travelling on skis across the countryside. And pictures of one area in Sweden, with people skiing along through forests on wonderful white snow, persuaded us that destination was a good choice. We hadn't done much skiing, though, so weren't sure how difficult cross-country skiing was, compared with skiing fast down steep mountains. But we signed up to join a group of people, of all ages, plus a guide.

We'd read about the place we went to before we left, so we knew it was close to where Sweden ends and Norway starts. And our family knew we couldn't text home, as there was no internet connection – and actually, it was relaxing to be far from anywhere, or anyone. What we hadn't realised was that from there, we'd be able to see amazing coloured lights in the sky, which appeared at certain times of year, called the Northern Lights – what a sight!

On our first day there, I hated getting up in the dark, but it meant I saw the sun come up over the forest, so I was glad I did. And sunshine was forecast for the week, I was delighted to hear! But the real problem was my 15kg rucksack, full of food and clothes – I had no idea it would weigh that much. Anyway, we skied for hours across mainly flat snow. Having special light skis was supposed to help us climb the few hills there were – although I still couldn't do it!

Finally we stopped for the night. It wasn't until we'd reached our hut that our guide mentioned we'd just crossed a frozen lake to get there – but nothing surprised us by that point! Anyway, he gave us all jobs to do – cutting fire wood and cooking food – and soon we were having dinner, made from whatever food we'd brought – a strange mix, but it tasted delicious. And everywhere was so peaceful outside that none of us stayed awake long.

Mum and I want to try another winter sports trip, maybe snowboarding. But we'll probably end up just as exhausted as we were after this trip!

1 Jenna and her mum decided to go cross-country skiing in Sweden because

A they wanted a change from mountain skiing holidays.

B they'd heard the sport would be easier than skiing down hills.

C they'd met a group of people who wanted to go, too.

D they found a place there that they were keen to visit.

2 After their arrival, what did they discover about where they were staying?

A It wasn't far from the border with another country.

B They could get great views of a spectacular natural event.

C It was at a point where they couldn't use technology.

D They weren't near local people of their homes.

3 How did Jenna feel about the long trips through the snow on skis?

A surprised she had to carry such a heavy bag

B pleased about the weight of the skis she was given

C glad that going uphill wasn't as hard as she'd thought

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D worried the good weather they were having wouldn't last

4 Regarding their accommodation, Jenna says everyone

A had difficulties getting to sleep there.

B was unhappy at the quality of the food.

C had to help out with all the housework.

D was shocked to hear details of their journey there.

5 What would Jenna text to a friend about her trip?

A One reason we chose this trip was that we thought we'd be among loads of trees, which we love – but that hasn't happened so far.

B The people in our group were really friendly – but they were all Mum's age and older, really.

C I'm not used to getting out of bed so early to do things! But it was worth it, as the sunrise was wonderful.

D Mum and I have agreed that although the trip was great, we might attempt something less tiring on our next winter holiday.

Lost in the mountains

When you're a mountain rescue volunteer, you never know when you're going to be called to work. We go out in all weather, and at any time of the day or night. If someone is in danger, there's no time to lose. On New Year's Day last year, I was sitting down to breakfast with my family. (1)…….. Two hikers had decided to celebrate the new year by walking along a mountain ridge in Country Kerry, Ireland, just a few miles from my home. They were staying in a small guest house, and had set off early on New Year's Eve. When they didn't return by the following morning, their host because worried and called the police. (2)……..

I was just one of 12 volunteers who left our breakfast tables and set out to look for the missing hikers. We pushed through strong winds and thick cloud, calling and listening over and over again. (3)…….. It was too cold to survive for long out on the mountains, and the hikers had been missing for a whole day and night. (4)…….. I shouted out, and was relieved to hear a voice about back. (5)…….. They were so happy to see us. They explained that they'd got lost, and the winds had been too strong for them to keep walking. Luckily, they had warm clothes, food and the tent.

We led them back down the mountain and returned them to their guest house, where a delicious hot meal was waiting for them and for the rescue volunteer team. They said that they'll never forget that New Year's Day when they were rescued by local people who became heroes.

A The police called Kerry Mountain Rescue Team.

B The hikers were huddled together in a small tent between two large rocks.

C They said it's extremely dangerous to go hiking in bad weather.

D Nobody answered back so we began to lose hope.

E We didn't know they had already found their way home.

F Suddenly, I heard the sound of a whistle.

G We were just about to start eating when my phone rang.

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H After searching all night, we gave up and went back home.

Part 2
A new partnership

In 1884, a small engineering firm was (1)…… in a part of Manchester. Its owner had (2)…… to complete only two years in formal education yet was still successfully (3)…… a business. In 1903, he bought his first car but it did not meet his high (4)…… and, being an engineer, he could not (5)…… having a go at improving it. By the following year he had designed a new car himself, and then started manufacturing this model. One of his cars came to the (6)…… of a wealthy car salesman from an aristocratic background. He was (7)…… impressed by the car and a meeting was (8)…… between the two of them at the Midland Hotel in Manchester. The meeting was a success and the two men decided to go into business together. The name of the manufacturer was Henry Royce and that of the wealthy aristocrat, Charles Rolls – and so the world-famous brand, the luxurious Rolls-Royce, was (9)…… .

1	A settled	B established	C installed	D found
2	A passed	B achieved	C managed	D allowed
3	A arranging	B running	C working	D dealing
4	A standards	B rates	C levels	D ranks
5	A obstruct	B resist	C oppose	D refuse
6	A attention	B view	C interest	D attraction
7	A widely	B mainly	C greatly	D fully
8	A put out	B turned up	C taken out	D set up
9	A brought	B originated	C discovered	D born

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