Practice 1- U8- Reading

Read the passage carefully, then choose the correct answers.

Ecotourism: See the World While Saving It

Imagine a vacation in a place of amazing natural beauty. Picture yourself relaxing on a clean beach in Belize. Picture yourself exploring the desert on a camel in Dubai. Or picture yourself following lions and zebras in Kenya. Now imagine that you are enjoying these experiences and helping to preserve the environment. You are protecting wildlife and supporting local communities. Is this too good to be true? No! These vacations are part of a growing trend in the travel industry. The trend is called ecotourism.

Ecotourism was not common before the 1990s. It is now a multi-billion dollar industry. But what is ecotourism? These are some of its characteristics:

It means travel to natural, often far away, places. These are often protected areas where development is limited.

- Ecotourism destinations focus on recycling, water conservation, and using renewable energy sources.
- It builds environmental awareness. Visitors explore an area and learn about it.
- It provides an economic reason to save the environment. It raises money to help protect it.
- It creates financial opportunities and jobs for the local people.

Costa Rica was one of the first success stories. Costa Rica once had the highest rate of deforestation in Latin America. However, since ecotourism, there has been a major reduction in deforestation. Now, more than a quarter of Costa Rica's land is protected from development. Costa Rica is now the world's top ecotourism destination. This small country of four million people has about 1.5 million visitors per year!

Ecotourism is very important to preserving the land in Costa Rica. This is true for other ecotourism sites around the world. Ecotourism provides visitors with a special vacation too. These vacations are unforgettable and educational. Ecotourism is basically **a win-win situation.** It is good for both the tourists and the countries they visit.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

   a. The rise of ecotourism in Costa Rica.

   b. Ecotourism and its positive effects.

   c. The impact of ecotourism on the environment.

   d. How to develop ecotourism.

2. What is **not** the purpose of ecotourism?

   a. To conserve the natural environment.

   b. To promote the environmental awareness of visitors.

   c. To attract more tourists to protected natural areas.

   d. To provide financial benefits for local communities.

3. Which of the following statements is **not true** about ecotourism?

   a. It first came onto the scene in the early 1990s.

   b. It can mean travel to far off places of great natural beauty.

   c. It contributes to conservation of the natural resources.

   d. It is big business, generating millions of dollars annually.

4. Which of the following statements is **not true** about Costa Rica?

   a. Costa Rica was very successful in embracing ecotourism.

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b. Costa Rica experienced the world's highest deforestation rate.

c. Costa Rica is a small country with a population of 4 million.

d. Costa Rica is known worldwide as a top spot for ecological tourism.

5. What is the meaning of **"a win-win situation"?**

a. A situation in which everyone benefits.

b. A situation in which there is no chance of success.

c. A situation in which something unpleasant could happen.

d. A situation in which people achieve success after a lot of difficulty.

6. According to the passage, ecotourism in Costa Rica _____

a. has helped diminish deforestation in the country.

b. prevents farmland from being converted to other uses.

c. contributed to land development of the country.

d. will encourage ecotourists to come to the country.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that ecotourism _____

a. can earn a lot of money and do a lot of harm to nature.

b. aims to boost visits to natural protected areas.

c. offers tourists an enjoyable holiday while conserving the environment.

d. is more damaging than helpful to wildlife.

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