

**A**

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-6). There are two choices you do not need to use.

# NATURE'S TREASURE TROVE



The Socotra Archipelago is situated in the north-west Indian Ocean, just south of Yemen. It consists mainly of four islands and is considered a place worth protecting for two reasons. Firstly, it supports a large number of land, sea and air animals, as well as a wide variety of plant life. More importantly, 37% of Socotra's 825 plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species cannot be found anywhere else in the world.



The Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, located amongst the Qionglai and Jiajin Mountains in China, include nine scenic parks and seven nature reserves. It is believed that the forests here are more than 65 million years old. After the tropical rainforests, they are the most plant-rich areas in the world. The sanctuaries are where more than 30% of the world's pandas live, alongside other endangered animals such as the red panda, the snow leopard and the clouded leopard.



The Great Barrier Reef, off the north-east coast of Australia, is famous for its breathtaking beauty and eye-catching colours. It covers around 345,000 km<sup>2</sup> of sea floor and contains the world's largest collection of coral reefs. Corals are tiny marine animals that live on a hard, rock-like substance which they make as they grow; it's this substance that gives shape to the reefs. When conditions are good—lots of light, steady temperatures and mild wave action—corals may grow up to 4.5 centimetres per year.

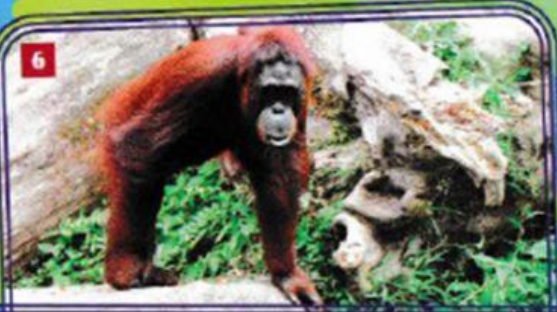


4



Surtsey is a new island that was formed after volcanic eruptions in the 1960s. It is situated 32 km off the south coast of Iceland and is exceptional because it has been protected from human activity ever since it was created. This is why scientists have used it as an open-air, natural laboratory to study how a place gets 'invaded' by organisms, plants and animals. First, seeds were carried there by the ocean waters, then bacteria and fungi grew; after that, plants appeared, with 10 species inhabiting the island by the end of the first decade. Today, it also hosts 89 species of birds and 335 species of other types of animals.

6



The Sangha Trinational protected area consists of three different national parks belonging to Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville. Most of the 7,500 km<sup>2</sup> of land is unaffected by humans and features various plants and animals found in tropical forests, including Nile crocodiles, goliath tigerfish, elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees. Many of the species living there are endangered, as are some tree species, like the Mukulungu, which are cut down on a large scale elsewhere.

5



The Los Glaciares National Park in the south of Argentina owes its beauty to the mountains that surround numerous glacial lakes, including the 160 km long Lake Argentino. This is where three glaciers meet and falling icebergs echo like thunder as they hit the waters below. What many find amazing is how the glaciers moving back and forth as the seasons change. The park contains black-necked swans, Chilean flamingos and Andean condors (one of the largest birds in the world when it comes to size and length of wings), among other beautiful species.

Which World Heritage Site \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. is made up of sixteen different sites
- B. crosses national borders
- C. allows you to see the activity of huge blocks of ice
- D. is disturbed by human activity a lot
- E. includes structures that are made of small organisms
- F. contains a large number of species that exist only there
- G. is extremely dangerous to visit
- H. is the youngest of all those mentioned

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