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***Should I go there?***

***Travel writer Carlos Gomm is planning his next holiday. But should he go there?***

I don't like holidays with hotels, beaches and swimming pools, and I'm not interested in sightseeing in old cities. I'd like to do something exciting and nowadays lots of holidays have excitement. There's backpacking over the Andes of South America, or I could go on a safari and see animals in Africa. Maybe I should visit Australia and swim with dolphins along the coast.

But when I choose a holiday, I always have the same problem. I don't want to go somewhere and see lots of other tourists. I want to be the only person there. The problem is there are other tourists everywhere these days. Is there anywhere in the world without other people?

What about Antarctica? It's huge and beautiful. Between 1,000 and 5,000 scientists work there, but nobody lives there. It doesn't have a government and there are no cities so there's no pollution or noisy traffic. It has lots of nature and wildlife. It sounds perfect!

Actually, there are also tourists in Antarctica. Tourism in Antarctica began in the late 1950s. About 500 people a year visited from Chile and Argentina. Nowadays, about 50,000 tourists from all over the world go by ship to the continent every year and the number of cruises is increasing.

So like everywhere else with tourists, Antarctica is changing. You can't stay overnight, but you can visit areas with wildlife. Some people think the numbers of wild animals and birds are decreasing as a result. However, there is also some

positive news. Many cruise ships are members of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO). They teach their passengers about Antarctica and its wildlife. The cruise companies also give money to environmental organisations in the region. These organisations want to help the nature and wildlife of Antarctica so it doesn't change in the future.

So what should I do? Go to Antarctica, go somewhere else or stay at home?

1- Decide if these sentences are True or False

- a- Carlos Gorn is a tour guide. **True / False**
- b- A trip to Europe would be great for the writer. **True / False**
- c- He doesn't like crowded places. **True / False**
- d- Pollution and traffic could be a problem in Antarctica **True / False**
- e- Tourism has not yet begun in Antarctica **True / False**
- f- Cruises are becoming more and more popular in Antarctica. **True / False**
- g- The numbers of wild animals and birds is going up. **True / False**
- h- Many ecological organizations are working to help preserve Antarctica.  
**True / False**

2- Choose the correct answer in each sentence.

- a- According to the writer, you ..... visit Antarctica.
- b- There are ..... people there
- c- There ..... a lot of wildlife.
- d- There ..... a lot of birds.
- e- There is ..... tourism these days.
- f- There are ..... tourists choosing Antarctica as a destination.
- g- Cruise companies ..... to help the region