TASK 3

The world's hardest countries to visit

1 North Korea

The world's most secretive country welcomes just about 4.000 to 6.000 tourists in a year and deportes a fair few for possible offences against the state. In North Korea you're not allowed to travel independently and must be accompanied by a guide from one of Pyongyang's three state-approved tour operators. You may be surprised to hear that acquiring a tourist visa for North Korea isn't too tricky (although it does take six to eight weeks to arrive), but you're limited to a pre-planned itinerary once you're there.

2 Bhutan

Before 1974, people were unable to visit the Kingdom of Bhutan. Mountainous Tibet to the north and the dense jungles of West Bengal to the south made it very inaccessible. Today there are two airlines that fly to and from Bhutan (Drukair and Bhutan Airlines) and the roads have been drastically improved if you're travelling by car. However, you will need to pay for your trip in advance – not just the plane ticket but an all-inclusive package through a Bhutanese travel agent.

3 Kiribati

In order to reach the unspoiled beauty of Kiribati you have to make a series of connections through other equally remote Pacific islands. According to seasoned travellers you have to begin your journey from either Fiji, Honolulu, Brisbane, Manila or Taipei and hop across a number of islands in progressively smaller planes and airports until your reach Kiribati. Entering Kiribati isn't easy either unless you're from one of the 60 countries that are allowed to pay for a visa on arrival, otherwise you'll have to apply for a tourist visa at one of Kiribati's few foreign consulates. The UK consulate is conveniently located in the small village of Llanddewi Rhydderch in Wales.

4 Libya

Most foreign offices warn against travelling to Libya, but it is not impossible to visit. Libya's land borders with Algeria, Niger, Sudan and Chad are closed to non-Africans so you'll need to enter via Egypt. There are no direct flights to Libya from either the UK or US, but Afriqiyah Airways flies from Istanbul to Tripoli or you could take a connecting flight through Tunis. The ancient Roman ruins of Leptis Magna (approximately 80 miles east of Tripoli) are meant to be stunning.

5 Equatorial Guinea

This is a country many avoid because of state-oppression and a terrible record of human rights abuses. The hostility towards its own people extends to visitors and as a result Equatorial Guinea is a very difficult place to enter, unless you're American. Bizarrely, United States citizens are the only foreigners in the world who don't require a visa. Once there, getting around can be hard and the hotels are expensive when compared to neighbouring countries.

6 Angola

The visa process for Angola can take several weeks so apply with plenty of time to spare before you visit. Many seasoned travellers are drawn to Angola simply because it's so hard to get to. You'll need a formal letter of invitation and proof of a prepaid hotel – and that's before you even know whether or not you're allowed to visit.

Which country can you _____?

A	enter from only one neighbouring country, unless you are from the same continent
B	visit only if travelling with a certified local
C	never be deported from
D	visit if you pay for the hotel before you apply for a visa
E	get to after a number of flights
F	get into only driving a car
G	visit if you pay for all your expenses in advance
H	visit without a visa if you are from one particular country

LIVEWORKSHEETS