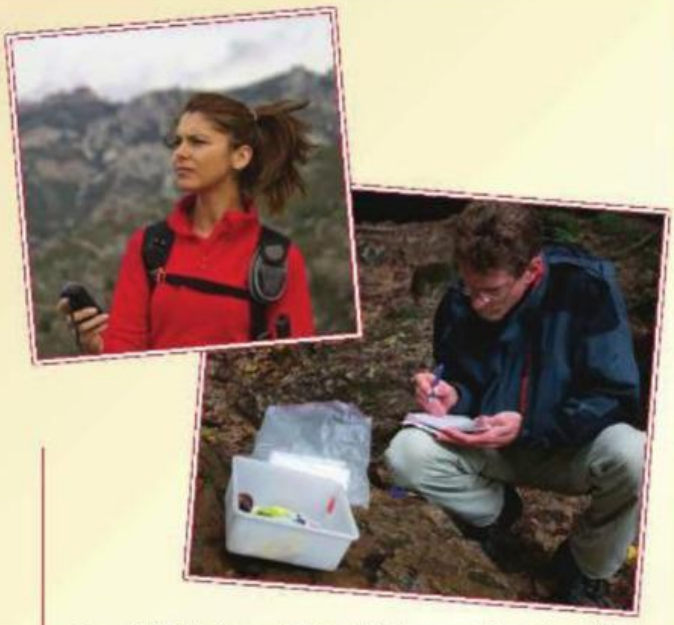
Intermediate 1
Reading Unit 7

Modern-Day Treasure Hunters



Scan the article. What is geocaching? Who enjoys it? Why?

Geocaching is a game played worldwide – even though it only began in 2000! *Geo* is from the word *geography,* and *caching* (pronounced "cashing") means hiding a container with "treasure" inside. The purpose of geocaching is to use GPS technology to find a hidden cache – some people call it a high-tech treasure-hunting game. Technophiles love it because you need technology. Hikers love it because you may have to walk a long way. And looking for treasure is fun, so it's also great for children.

It isn't difficult to become a geocacher. First, buy a small handheld GPS device. Next, search online for a geocaching website and choose a cache to look for. Some caches are in beautiful locations, such as river valleys, mountains, or beaches. For each cache, websites list coordinates – numbers that give an exact geographical position (for example, 48°51.29' N, 02°17.40' E is the Eiffel Tower in Paris). Input the coordinates for your cache into your GPS device, and you're ready to go!

Your GPS device will identify the exact location of your cache. That's the easy part. The hard part comes after you get to the location – finding the cache! Some caches are hidden under stones, in trees, or even in water. And what will you find in your cache? If you're looking for gold or diamonds, you'll be very disappointed. Most caches contain inexpensive things like books, toys, coins, or DVDs. There's also a logbook and pencil for you to record the date you found the cache and make comments. The real prize is the pleasure of saying, "I found it!"

Geocaching etiquette allows you to take whatever you want from the cache, but you must replace it with something of the same or higher value. Don't forget to bring some treasure for the next geocacher!

A Read the article. Check (✓) True or False for each statement.

True	False	
☐	☐	1. Geocaching is a new low-tech game.
☐	☐	2. Geocaching is popular in many countries.
☐	☐	3. You need information from websites.
☐	☐	4. Your GPS device gives you coordinates.
☐	☐	5. Your GPS device finds cache locations for you.
☐	☐	6. Caches contain pencils as well as treasure.
☐	☐	7. Geocachers usually find gold.
☐	☐	8. Geocaching is about giving and taking.

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