Field games. Reading







GEOCACHING

GPS CHALLENGE

1.24 CLAUDIA'S BLOG

Dear Friends,

Sorry I haven't blogged for a while. I've been a bit busy lately. You'll find out why … But first of all, have you ever heard of geocaching? It's a kind of treasure-hunting game that uses a GPS device – usually your smartphone – to find small containers called geocaches. These are hidden all over the world – but usually people start with geocaches that are close to their home. The great thing about geocaching is that it leads you to some beautiful and amazing places that you probably didn't know about. I can definitely recommend it – it's healthy and it's fun. Although I should warn you that it's also seriously addictive!

So how does it work, exactly? Well, the first step is to go to the geocaching website or download the geocaching app onto your phone. Then you choose a geocache and you start looking. People have been hiding geocaches for more than ten years, so there are literally millions of them around the world. There are sure to be some near your home, wherever you live. (There are geocaches across all seven continents, including Antarctica!) Some are very hard to find. They may be hidden beside a river, up a tree, or even below the ground.

Geocaching is quite a new game: it began around the year 2000. However, similar games did exist in the past. For example, in the middle of the 19th century, a game called 'letterboxing' became popular in the south of England. People who enjoyed walking in the countryside began to hide boxes all along the route. These boxes contained postcards addressed to themselves. When other walkers found a box, they collected the cards and posted them. This often took many weeks, because the boxes were often hidden in remote places, not by the paths.

In geocaching, the boxes don't contain postcards. They contain a logbook, where the person who finds it can write their name and the date. (They also record the find on the website.) As well as the logbook, geocaches often contain a toy or gift. You are welcome to take this, provided you replace it with something you have brought with you.

The basic game just involves finding a geocache and recording it online and in the logbook. However, there are lots of variations. For example, there are multi-cache challenges, where each cache contains the co-ordinates for the next cache, until you reach the final cache containing the logbook. There are also 'travelling caches', where each person who finds the cache then hides it in a different location and updates the information on the website. And there are 'webcam caches'. When you do these, you don't find a physical container or logbook; you find a public webcam and then capture an image of yourself on the webcam as proof that you have been successful. I've tried all of these types, and personally, I've enjoyed the multi-cache challenges the most.

Geocaching is an activity you can do alone or, like me, with a couple of friends. But there are also geocaching events where you can get together with hundreds of other fans of the game. For example, the 'Fumble after Dark' event is held every November in Sweden and sounds like great fun. About a thousand geocachers get together for a day of talks and presentations about geocaching. And then they head outside into the darkness for some night-time adventures! I've been enjoying my geocaching experiences so much that I'm seriously thinking about going to 'Fumble after Dark' next year. So why don't you get into geocaching too, and I might see you there!

Bye for now!!

Claudia

geocaching - геокешинг — туристична гра із застосуванням GPS, яка полягає у знаходженні сховів, створених іншими учасниками гри.

1 Listen and read the blog post and decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. Geocaching is a new game that has only been around for a few years. T / F
2. You need a special GPS device to play geocaching. T / F
3. Geocaches are usually hidden in plain sight. T / F
4. Geocaching can be done alone or in groups. T / F
5. You can find geocaches in every country in the world. T / F

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6. The goal of geocaching is to find a treasure chest filled with gold. T / F
7. Geocaching can be a good way to explore nature and discover new places. T / F
8. Letterboxing is a similar game to geocaching that was popular in the 19th century. T / F
9. You can take a gift from a geocache, but you must replace it with something else. T / F
10. The "Fumble after Dark" is a geocaching event that takes place in the dark. T / F

2 Read the blog post again. Choose the correct options (a-d).

1 To take part in geocaching you need
- **a** a mobile phone with GPS.
- **b** a mobile phone with GPS and a toy or gift.
- **c** a mobile phone, a toy or gift and a logbook.
- **d** nothing – just yourself!

2 The activity of geocaching
- **a** began in the 19th century, but only became popular after 2000.
- **b** was originally only popular in one region of England, but now has fans all over the world.
- **c** was called 'letterboxing' when it was first invented.
- **d** has similarities with a 19th-century game.

3 When you find a gift in a geocache, you
- **a** make a note of the gift on the website.
- **b** can borrow the gift, but have to return it.
- **c** are allowed to take the gift if you replace it with something else.
- **d** take a photo of the gift as proof that you have found it.

4 The writer thinks that the most enjoyable kind of geocaching is when
- **a** you have to find a public webcam.
- **b** you have to find a series of geocaches.
- **c** you have to find a geocache and then hide it in a different place.
- **d** you simply have to find one geocache.

5 The writer believes the 'Fumble after Dark' event
- **a** is less fun than geocaching with a couple of friends.
- **b** would be a very enjoyable event to attend.
- **c** is only suitable for adventurous people.
- **d** needs to attract more people.

6 The writer has written the blog mainly to
- **a** suggest that people try geocaching.
- **b** explain the differences between letterboxing and geocaching.
- **c** publicise a geocaching event in Sweden.
- **d** warn the reader that geocaching is addictive.

3 Answer the questions.

1. What is geocaching?

2. Where are geocaches usually hidden?

3. What do geocaches typically contain?

4. What is the basic rule for geocache etiquette?

5. What is a multi-cache challenge?

6. What is a webcam cache?

7. Why is geocaching considered a good hobby?

8. How has geocaching evolved over time?

9. What is the "Fumble after Dark" event?

10. Why do people enjoy this game so much?

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