Are we there yet?

Imagine travelling around the world with your family, by car, for 19 years straight. For some it would be like a dream come true. For others, it would get boring pretty quickly. But Argentinian couple Herman and Candelaria Zapp, along with their four children – all born on the road – are living the dream.

The couple spent their first few years of married life putting down roots in Argentina, where Herman had his own computer and telephone IT company, and they had a nice house with a swimming pool. 'Our family was happy with us. We had it all,' said Herman Zapp.

But something was missing: that around-the-world trip they had talked about, and children. So, the couple set out on a pre-baby road trip from Buenos Aires to Alaska. But they didn't get much support. 'Our family was saying that we wouldn't make it,' Zapp said. 'The most optimistic were giving us a week's journey. No more.'

Not only did the couple complete their nearly 44,000-mile initial journey, but they decided to keep going. Since then, they've been to 95 countries and travelled over 218,000 miles.

Each of their four children was born in a different country: Pampa in the United States, Tehue in Argentina, Paloma in Canada and Wallaby, the youngest, in Australia. The Zapps educate their kids themselves but also say the experiences they get are incredibly educational. 'Imagine taking your kids and watching the space shuttle take off, looking at polar bears in Alaska, seeing kangaroos in Australia and learning to speak the language of the country you're in,' Zapp said. 'We call it worldwide schooling.'

For their entire 19-year adventure, the Zapps have been travelling in a 1928 car that can't go faster than 40 miles per hour. Part tent, part kitchen, part schoolhouse and part rolling apartment, the car is definitely also a part of the family. They call it 'Grandpa'. 'I am not a mechanic at all, but every time we have a breakdown, we get a new friend,' said Zapp. 'Once we broke down in Puebla, a beautiful city in Mexico. When I looked at the engine, someone showed up right away and told me about a car museum nearby. We went there and they took apart a car on show to give us the part.' Not only did the museum not charge for that part, but the town organised a party for the Zapps, complete with a mariachi band and plenty of food.

In late 2018, the Zapps set sail from the Canary Islands back to South America on the final part of their incredible world tour.



4 What do these numbers from the article refer to?

1 19 _____
2 44,000 _____
3 40 _____
4 218,000 _____

5 Match the highlighted words and phrases in the text to the definitions.

1 when a vehicle or machine stops working for a period of time _____
2 start a journey by boat or ship _____
3 be successful _____
4 whole or complete, with nothing missing _____
5 a piece of a machine or vehicle _____

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