Section 3

VICTOR: Right, well, for our presentation shall I start with the early life of Thor Heyerdahl?

OLIVIA: Sure. Why don't you begin with describing the type of boy he was, especially his passion for collecting things.

VICTOR: That's right, he had (1) ……. And I think it's unusual for children to develop their own values and not join in their parents' hobbies; I'm thinking of how Heyerdahl wouldn't go hunting with his dad, for example.

OLIVIA: Yeah, he (2) ……. by listening to his mother read to him. And quite early on he knew he wanted to become an explorer when he grew up. That came from his camping trips he went on in Norway I think...

VICTOR: No, it was climbing that he spent his time on as a young man.

OLIVIA: Oh, right... After university he married a classmate and together, they decided to experience living on a small island, to find out how harsh (3)…… ……

VICTOR: As part of their preparation before they left home, they learnt basic survival skills like building a shelter. I guess they needed that knowledge in order to live wild in a remote (4) ……. , cut off by the sea, which is what they were aiming to do.

OLIVIA: An important part of your talk should be the radical theory Heyerdahl formed from (5) ……. that he happened to find on the island. I think you should finish with that.

VICTOR: OK.

OLIVIA: All right, Victor, so after your part I'll talk about Thor Heyerdahl's adult life, continuing from the theory he had about Polynesian migration. Up until that time of course, academics had believed that humans first (6)…… ……. in Polynesia from Asia, in the west.

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VICTOR: Yes, they thought that travel from the east was impossible, because of the huge, empty stretch of ocean that (7) ……. and the nearest inhabited land.

OLIVIA: Yes, but Heyerdahl spent ages (8) ……., ocean currents and wind patterns to find if it was actually possible. And another argument was that there was no (9) ……. in the communities lying to the east of Polynesia. But Heyerdahl knew they made lots of coastal voyages in locally built canoes.

VICTOR: Yes, or sailing on rafts, as was shown by the long voyage that Heyerdahl did next. It was (10) …….. to undertake – sometimes I wonder if he did that trip for private reasons, you know? To show others that he could have spectacular adventures. What do you think, Olivia?

OLIVIA: Well, I think it was more a matter of simply trying out his idea, to see if migration from the east was possible.

VICTOR: Yes, that's probably it. And the poor guy suffered a bit at that time because the war forced him to stop his work for some years...

OLIVIA: Yes. When he got started again and (11)……., do you think it was important to him that he achieve it before anyone else did?

VICTOR: Um, I haven't read anywhere that that was his motivation. The most important factor seems to have been that he (12)……. ……. and local materials to build his raft.

OLIVIA: Yes. I wonder how fast it went.

VICTOR: Well, it took them 97 days from South America to the Pacific Islands.

OLIVIA: Mm. And after that, Heyerdahl went to Easter Island, didn't he? We should mention (13) ……. I think he sailed there in a boat made out of reeds.

VICTOR: No, that was later on in Egypt, Olivia.

OLIVIA: Oh, yes, that's right.

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VICTOR: But what he wanted to do was talk to the local people about their old stone carvings and then make one himself to learn more about the process.

OLIVIA: I see. Well, what a great life. Even though many of his (14)…….. ……., he certainly left a lasting impression on many disciplines, didn't he? To my mind, he was the first person to (15)…….. ……call practical archaeology. I mean, that they try to recreate something from the past today, like he did with his raft trip. It's unfortunate that his ideas about where Polynesians (16) ……completely discredited.

VICTOR: Yes. Right, well, I'll prepare a PowerPoint slide at the end that acknowledges our sources. I mainly used The Life and Work of Thor Heyerdahl by William Oliver. (17) ……. he used were very sound, although I must say I found the overall tone somewhat old-fashioned. I think they need to do a new, revised edition.

OLIVIA: Yeah, I agree. What about the subject matter – I found it really challenging!

VICTOR: Well, (18) …….

OLIVIA: I thought the book had lots of good points. What did you think of...

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