A Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-6). There are two choices you do not need to use.

NATURE'S TREASURE TROVE

1

The Socotra Archipelago is situated in the north-west Indian Ocean, just south of Yemen. It consists mainly of four islands and is considered a place worth protecting for two reasons. Firstly, it supports a large number of land, sea and air animals, as well as a wide variety of plant life. More importantly, 37% of Socotra's 825 plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

2

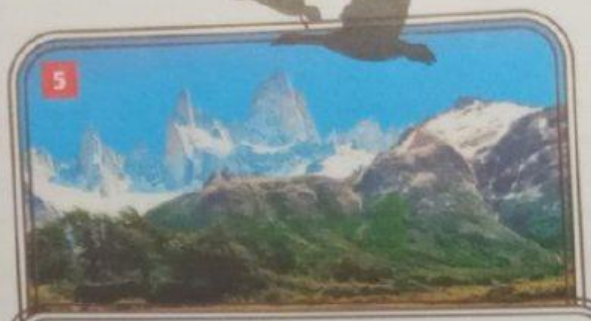
The Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, located amongst the Qionglai and Jiajin Mountains in China, include nine scenic parks and seven nature reserves. It is believed that the forests here are more than 65 million years old. After the tropical rainforests, they are the most plant-rich areas in the world. The sanctuaries are where more than 30% of the world's pandas live, alongside other endangered animals such as the red panda, the snow leopard and the clouded leopard.

3

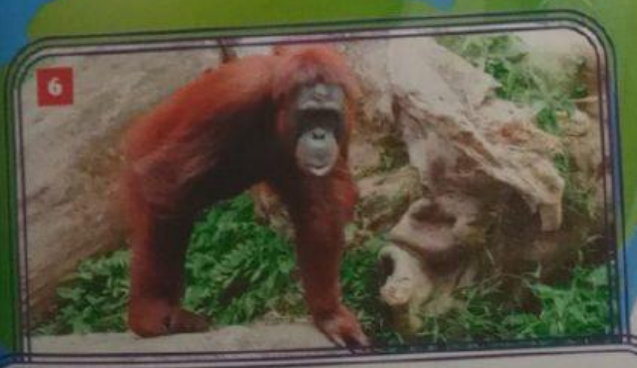
The Great Barrier Reef, off the north-east coast of Australia, is famous for its breathtaking beauty and eye-catching colours. It covers around 345,000 km² of sea floor and contains the world's largest collection of coral reefs. Corals are tiny marine animals that live on a hard, rock-like substance which they make as they grow; it's this substance that gives shape to the reefs. When conditions are good—lots of light, steady temperatures and mild wave action—corals may grow up to 4.5 centimetres per year.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Surtsey is a new island that was formed after volcanic eruptions in the 1960s. It is situated 32 km off the south coast of Iceland and is exceptional because it has been protected from human activity ever since it was created. This is why scientists have used it as an open-air, natural laboratory to study how a place gets 'invaded' by organisms, plants and animals. First, seeds were carried there by the ocean waters, then bacteria and fungi grew; after that, plants appeared, with 10 species inhabiting the island by the end of the first decade. Today, it also hosts 89 species of birds and 335 species of other types of animals.



The Los Glaciares National Park in the south of Argentina owes its beauty to the mountains that surround numerous glacial lakes, including the 160 km long Lake Argentino. This is where three glaciers meet and falling icebergs echo like thunder as they hit the waters below. What many find amazing is how the glaciers moving back and forth as the seasons change. The park contains black-necked swans, Chilean flamingos and Andean condors (one of the largest birds in the world when it comes to size and length of wings), among other beautiful species.



The Sangha Trinational protected area consists of three different national parks belonging to Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville. Most of the 7,500 km² of land is unaffected by humans and features various plants and animals found in tropical forests, including Nile crocodiles, goliath tigerfish, elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees. Many of the species living there are endangered, as are some tree species, like the Mukulungu, which are cut down on a large scale elsewhere.

Which World Heritage Site _____?

A. is made up of sixteen different sites ☐
B. crosses national borders ☐
C. allows you to see the activity of huge blocks of ice ☐
D. is disturbed by human activity a lot ☐
E. includes structures that are made of small organisms ☐
F. contains a large number of species that exist only there ☐
G. is extremely dangerous to visit ☐
H. is the youngest of all those mentioned ☐

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B Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

KILLER WAVES

They're monsters of the open ocean, a series of giant waves that travel for thousands of kilometres and have enough power to destroy anything and drown anyone in their way: *tsunamis*! *Tsunami* is a Japanese word which means 'harbour wave'. In the past, tsunamis were sometimes referred to as 'tidal waves' or 'seismic sea waves'.

Tsunamis are not like normal waves caused by strong winds. They are caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under the ocean. It's a bit like when you jump into a swimming pool or throw a stone in a pond: you create a series of small waves. A tsunami is just like those ripples, only bigger because the ocean is no swimming pool or pond—and volcanoes are no pebbles!

Out in the ocean where the water is deep, tsunamis are not dangerous: the waves are small, and they can pass under a ship and not be felt or seen. However, as a tsunami approaches land, it can become very dangerous. The waves that reach the coast can be as high as 30 metres, and they can travel up to 950 kilometres per hour—as fast as a passenger jet! They sweep away anything in their path, damaging buildings and other structures. Most people who get caught in a tsunami will find it almost impossible to swim and stay in control. The only way they can survive is by holding onto something like a standing tree but, even then, the force of the water can be so strong that they won't be able to hold on for long.

The only way to minimise damage and loss of life is to have sufficient warning. Many countries have the technology to know when a tsunami is about to happen. For example, Australia uses earthquake monitors to detect events that might cause tsunamis around its coast and in the south-west Pacific Ocean. In places like Japan and Hawaii, where tsunamis occur frequently, there are official tsunami warning systems. However, these are not perfect: local tsunamis can reach the shore within minutes, almost before warning can be given; and with distant tsunamis, scientists can tell when they will arrive, but they cannot tell how big they will be.

1. What is true about tsunamis?
   A. They can destroy thousands of kilometres of land.
   B. They occur frequently in harbours in Japan.
   C. They are a recent phenomenon.
   D. They consist of more than one wave.
2. What are tsunamis?
   A. underwater earthquakes
   B. waves caused by seismic movements
   C. underwater volcanic eruptions
   D. waves caused by strong winds
3. Which is **NOT** true about tsunamis in the open ocean?
   A. They are easy to detect.
   B. They are not very high.
   C. They are not very dangerous.
   D. They are very fast.
4. According to the text, what is the best course of action to take in the event of a tsunami?
   A. stay calm and in control
   B. swim in the same direction as the tsunami
   C. grab hold of anything that is fixed to the ground
   D. wait until the tsunami loses its force
5. How is it possible to reduce the loss caused by tsunamis?
   A. by providing a warning in advance
   B. by finding out what causes them
   C. by determing how frequently they take place
   D. by developing new technologies

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What natural disasters can you think of?
- Which do you consider to be the worst? Why?
- How can we minimise the effects of natural disasters?

LIVEWORKSHEETS