

In Hot Water Reader



You are going to read an extract from a magazine article about underwater exploration. Seven sentences have been removed from the extract. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Rachel Mills is a scientist who spends as much time as she can at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Rachel Mills teaches and does research into marine geochemistry, which means she studies the chemical processes happening in the sea. She is a lecturer at the Oceanography Centre at Southampton University. When she isn't teaching, she lowers herself into a steel vehicle, a vessel for underwater exploration the size of a small car, and dives three kilometers down into the Atlantic Ocean to study underwater volcanoes.

"Inside," she says, "space is so limited that I can reach out and touch the two pilots." (1)____. A dive can last for 16 hours - three hours to reach the ocean floor, ten hours gathering samples of rock and water and then three hours to get back up to the surface again.

"If anything happens, and you have a problem and have to get to the top quickly, you can hit a panic button." The outside drops away leaving a small circular escape vessel that gets released, and it's like letting go of a ping-pong ball in the bath - it goes rapidly to the surface. (2)_____.

"I didn't know how I was going to react the first time I climbed into the vehicle. It was on the deck of a ship and I got in with an instructor. (3)____. They were testing me to see how I would react to being in such a small place."

Now Rachel has made six dives. Last year she dived with a Russian crew. "We went to a site which

was a five-day sail west of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic. (4)... It is where the Atlantic Ocean comes alive. The Russian team were dropping off some scientific equipment there to discover the effect of a multi-national program that would make a hole 150 meters through a volcano."

When she isn't at sea, Rachel is in her office at the Oceanography Centre, Southampton. "Two thirds of my salary comes from teaching, which I love, but I do it so I can get on with my research into the 'black smokers'". This is just another name for the underwater volcanoes - water comes out of the rock and turns into what looks like black smoke. (5)_____.

"The only time I've been frightened is when I first went down with the Americans. We were towing equipment on a 50-metre rope when suddenly there was an explosion. There was this immense bang as the shock waves hit our vehicle and I thought, "I'm going to die." We stared at each other in silence, waiting. (6)_____ The relief was incredible - we were still alive!"

"It's such an adventure diving down to the deepest part of the ocean. Every time I look out of the porthole and see those chimneys, there is such a sense of wonder. (7)_____ I had studied the black smokers for three years for my PhD. When I got down there and saw them for real, it was such an amazing feeling."

A Here on the ocean floor, is a huge area of underwater volcanoes, their chimneys all blowing out black smoke.

B Here I am on the bottom of the sea, and no one else on this planet has ever before seen them.

C "No one's tested it yet, but I don't think it would be very pleasant journey.

D He then talked me through the emergency procedures, including what to do if the pilot had a heart attack!

E They are used to these conditions, which mean they can't stand up or move, and they must stay inside until someone opens the door from the outside.

F When it didn't happen, we couldn't believe it.

G This pours out at a rate of one meter per second and at a temperature of 350 degrees.

H After that, as you get really deep, it's near freezing point so you need a sweater, thick socks, gloves and a woolly hat.