

Name:

Class:

READING



GPS CHALLENGE

1.26

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 hidden all over the world. I can definitely recommend it – it's healthy and fun.

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 choose a geocache and start looking. People have been hiding geocaches for more than ten years, so there are literally millions of them around the world, including Antarctica!

Geocaching 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 walking in the countryside began to hide boxes of addressed postcards all along the route. When other walkers found a box, they collected the cards and posted them.

In geocaching, the boxes contain a logbook, where the person who finds it can write their name and the date.

(They also record the find on the website.) Geocaches often contain a toy or gift, too. 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: multi-cache challenges (each cache leads to the next until the final cache containing the logbook), 'travelling caches' (you move it to a different location and update the information on the website) and 'webcam caches' (you find a public webcam and capture an image of yourself on the webcam as proof of success). 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, or at events with hundreds of other fans of the game. An example of such event is the annual 'Fumble after Dark' in November in Sweden. I'm seriously thinking about joining it next year. So why don't you get into geocaching too, and I might see you there!

Bye for now!

Claudia

Exercise 1: Read the blog post. Choose the correct option (a-d)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 readers that geocaching is addictive

Exercise 2: Read the sentences and decide whether they are True (T) or False (F)

- 1. Geocaches have been hidden around the world for a decade**
- 2. If you want to take anything in the geocaches, you need to replace it with what you have**
- 3. The writer believes that the most enjoyable kind of geocaching is when you have to find a series of geocaches**