195 · 35 · accomplishment · affect · black · both · cattle · chance · complicated · connected · countries · cultural · customs · dark · following · germany · graduate · graduated · identity · last · outer · positive · raised · record · similarities · steal · traditions · treat

Male: I know that you like to travel, and you have been to a few different **(1)** _____, right?

Female: Yeah, sure—traveling is great if you have the **(2)** _____ to do it. And you're right—I've been to Canada and **(3)** _____, and last year I went with my family to Vietnam.

Male: Three countries—you're catching up to me! What if I told you that there is a woman who has travelled to every country on Earth? That's 195 countries! And she was only **(4)** _____ years old when she made it to the **(5)** _____ country on her list.

Female: Are you serious? That's quite an **(6)** _____! Who is she?

Male: Her name is Jessica Nabongo. She is the first **(7)** _____ woman to visit every country in the world. Her parents were from Uganda. She grew up in the United States—in Detroit, Michigan—but was **(8)** _____ with Ugandan traditions. She writes a travel blog, and she has also written a book about her travels.

Female: That's interesting. Does she see herself as American or Ugandan?

Male: Good question! In terms of her **(9)** _____, I'm pretty sure she sees herself as **(10)** _____, but it must be kind of **(11)** _____. In the U.S., people tend to see her **(12)** _____ skin and identify her as "African." And when she visits Uganda, some people hear her North American accent and **(13)** _____ her differently. In one article, she wrote that they treated her like a muzungu, which is a term that means "white person" in that part of Uganda.

Female: Well, the way you look and the way you talk **(14)** _____ how people see you, I guess. Did her crosscultural experiences growing up make her interested in traveling?

Male: Yes, trips to Uganda as a child definitely affected her. From Detroit, she moved to New York to attend university. When she **(15)** _____ in 2005, she moved back to Detroit for work, but quit two years later and moved to Japan. She taught English there for a year, and then she went to London for **(16)** _____ school. She spent six months in Benin and then worked for three years in Italy after that. But during her time in all of these places, she traveled to other countries, too. She started writing her travel blog to stay **(17)** _____ with friends and family. I found her blog one day, and I've been **(18)** _____ her ever since.

Female: What an exciting life! I should look for that blog.

Male: It's good. I've learned a lot. Only a small number of people have ever been to all **(19)** _____ countries—in fact, there are more people who have traveled to **(20)** _____ space than to every country on Earth! And Nabongo wondered if any Black people had done it. She found just one, and he was a man. She wanted to do the same thing that he had done.

Female: It sounds like it was important to her to do that.

Male: Yes, but it wasn't just about the number and setting a new **(21)** _____. She wanted to have some kind of **(22)** _____ experience in every country. She wanted to learn a little bit about what makes each country special—about people's lives . . . about their **(23)** _____ and **(24)** _____ . . . and their values, too.

Female: And what kinds of cultural experiences has she had?

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Male: Let's see . . . I remember her talking about a trip to Tonga, where she swam in the ocean with whales! And in South Sudan, where **(25)** _____ are really important, she spent an afternoon milking cows and just spending time with the local people. And of course, there is the food . . .

Female: Of course! Sometimes trying new kinds of food is the best part!

Male: Nabongo really loves the food in the country of Georgia. On the other hand, not all of her travel experiences have been **(26)** _____ . One time in Paris, someone tried to **(27)** _____ her phone. So, she has a few stories about those not-so-good experiences, but all in all, she clearly loves to travel, and to learn, and to share all of that in her writing. She says that if you travel a lot, you see more **(28)** _____ than differences among people.

Female: That's very cool, and that has always been my belief, too. But while I enjoy learning about other cultures, I can't imagine doing that much traveling.

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