Grammar - Present Perfect vs. Past Perfect

In the real world, we all know what the word "**PERFECT**" means. But in the context of verbs, "**PERFECT**" means "**BEFORE**". All perfect tenses are made the following way:

auxiliary **HAVE** (have, has or **had**) + PAST PARTICIPLE verb.

Past Simple
(*a point in the past*)
I **climbed** the mountain.
This communicates a *singular moment in the past*, even if that singular moment is not mentioned or specified.
(I **climbed**... last month, or a year ago, etc.)

Present Perfect
(*before now*)
I have climbed the mountain.
This communicates that it happened sometime **before now**, and that "when" or "how many times" is not the purpose of the communication.

Past Perfect
(*before a point in the past*)
I **had** climbed the mountain.
This communicates that it happened **before a singular moment in the past**, even if that singular moment is not mentioned or specified.
(I **had** climbed the mountain ***the previous summer***... so they **chose** me to lead the expedition ***the following year***).

A Use the verbs in parenthesis to fill in the spaces in each dialog using the correct conjugation of the three presented above, according to context.

1. **A**: _____ you ever _____ extreme cold?
   B: Yes! Last winter, I _____ to Alaska, and it was -30°C!
   A: That's freezing! But surely you _____ properly before the trip, hadn't you?
   B: Not really. I _____ how cold it would be until I _____ there.
   (**prepare; travel; not realize; arrive; experience**)

2. **A**: The desert is a dangerous place! You _____ there before, haven't you?
   B: Yeah, and you're right. When I _____ the Sahara, we _____ caught in a sandstorm.
   A: That's terrifying! _____ you ever _____ a sandstorm before?
   B: No, and I _____ never _____ so scared in my life.
   (**feel; get; be; hike; see**)

3. **A**: I _____ some time in the Amazon rainforest and it's full of surprises!
   B: Absolutely. When we _____ it last year, a heavy rain storm _____ a flash flood.
   A: That must have been scary!
   B: It was! By the time we _____ what was happening, the water _____ already _____ around our camp.
   (**cause; rise; explore; spend; realize**)

4. **A**: Your friends just _____ from climbing Mount Everest, didn't they?
   B: Yeah I think so, but I _____ them since they got back. It's been a year now.
   A: But it didn't take them that long to climb it, did it?
   B: No, but before they _____ the climb, they _____ for months in Nepal to acclimate and avoid hypoxia at the upper levels.
   A: That makes sense. When I _____ in the Alps, I _____ some months preparing for the cold, but it was still difficult!
   (**begin; hike; train; get back; spend**)

LIVEWORKSHEETS