



Reading Comprehension Homework

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the 15 multiple-choice questions below.

Traveler Profile: Levison Wood — Walking the World's Edges

****[1]**** Every remarkable expedition begins with a single step into the unknown. For British explorer, photographer, and documentarian Levison Wood, that journey began in earnest after years of military service and backpacking across distant continents. However, his break into mainstream travel filmmaking came with an unprecedented proposal: to become the first person in history to walk the entire length of the River Nile on foot.

****[2]**** Undertaken in 2013, the grueling nine-month trek spanned over 4,250 miles across six countries, taking Wood through baking deserts, dense jungles, and active conflict zones. Despite facing immense physical hardship, extreme heat, and the tragic loss of a traveling companion along the way, Wood successfully completed the journey. The resulting television series and accompanying book were massive commercial successes, establishing him as a prominent new voice in modern travel storytelling.

****[3]**** Having conquered the Nile horizontally across North-Eastern Africa, Wood sought an even greater challenge. In 2015, he embarked on his next ambitious venture: walking 1,700 miles along the length of the Himalayas. Trekking through Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Pakistan, Wood navigated treacherous mountain passes, altitude sickness, and unstable geopolitical landscapes. The physical strain reached a climax when he survived a severe car crash on a mountain road, yet he persevered to complete the documentary series.

****[4]**** Refusing to slow down, his subsequent expeditions expanded in scale and cultural scope. In "Walking the Americas," he traversed the 1,800-mile stretch from Mexico to Colombia, wading through the



notoriously dangerous Darién Gap. Later, in "Walking the Silk Road," Wood covered 5,000 miles across the Middle East and Central Asia, following ancient trade routes. Unlike his early extreme walking feats, these later outings shifted focus more heavily toward local voices, highlighting community traditions, geopolitical tensions, and environmental degradation in regions often misunderstood by Western audiences.

****[5]**** What is it that continually draws millions of viewers to Wood's travel narratives? First, his approach is grounded in extreme authenticity; because he travels primarily on foot or using humble local transport, audiences witness the raw, unedited reality of the environment rather than a polished holiday guide. Second, Wood places local people at the heart of his storytelling—allowing indigenous guides, villagers, and border guards to share their own perspectives on camera. Finally, as a seasoned photojournalist, Wood brings a compelling visual artistry to his work. Viewers do not merely observe a journey; they feel as though they are trudging alongside him through every dust storm and mountain pass.

Notable & Quotable:

- "To travel is to discover that everyone is wrong about other countries."— Aldous Huxley
- "Adventure is not in the guidebooks, and the trail is not on the map."— Levison Wood

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was Levison Wood's first major walking expedition featured in his mainstream break?

- A) Walking along the Himalayas
- B) Walking the length of the River Nile
- C) Traversing from Mexico to Colombia
- D) Crossing the Silk Road on foot



2. How long was the Nile expedition and how far did it span?
- A) 5 months across 50,000 miles
 - B) 9 months spanning over 4,250 miles
 - C) 10 months across 17 countries
 - D) 1,700 miles over 2 years
3. Which major accident did Wood survive during his Himalayan trek?
- A) A severe snow avalanche
 - B) A fall from a cliff in the Darién Gap
 - C) A car crash on a mountain road
 - D) A flash flood in Central Asia
4. As used in paragraph 2, what does the word "grueling" mean?
- A) Relaxing and luxurious
 - B) Extremely demanding and exhausting
 - C) Brief and fast-paced
 - D) Predictable and boring
5. Which notoriously dangerous area did Wood cross in "Walking the Americas"?
- A) The Sahara Desert
 - B) The Darién Gap
 - C) The Silk Road
 - D) The Arctic Circle



6. How did the focus of Wood's later documentaries change compared to his earlier trips?

- A) He focused more on high-end luxury destinations
- B) He stopped writing books about his journeys
- C) He placed greater focus on local voices and cultural issues
- D) He traveled strictly by helicopter and aircraft

7. Which synonym is used in paragraph 3 as an alternative for "trip" or "expedition"?

- A) Venture
- B) Artistry
- C) Landscape
- D) Degradation

8. What primary background did Levison Wood have before becoming a travel documentarian?

- A) Commercial airline pilot
- B) Military service and photography
- C) Hollywood film director
- D) Environmental scientist



9. What makes Wood's travel documentaries feel authentic to viewers according to Paragraph 5?

- A) He stays exclusively in five-star hotels
- B) He travels on foot or via local transport, capturing raw reality
- C) He relies on scripted actors to re-enact events
- D) He uses camera filters to remove dust and dirt

10. What role do local inhabitants play in Wood's films?

- A) They only serve as background extras
- B) They share their own perspectives centrally on camera
- C) They translate Wood's speeches into English
- D) They write the background musical score

11. What main theme connects the quote by Aldous Huxley with Wood's work?

- A) Travel is too dangerous for average people
- B) Travel challenges stereotypes and preconceived ideas
- C) Maps are the most important part of any trip
- D) Walking long distances is the only true way to exercise



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12. Which word in paragraph 3 means "dangerous or hazardous"?

- A) Ambitious
- B) Treacherous
- C) Unstable
- D) Geopolitical

13. What can be inferred about Levison Wood's personality from his reaction to hardships?

- A) He gives up easily when obstacles arise
- B) He is remarkably resilient and persistent
- C) He prefers quiet, suburban lifestyles
- D) He dislikes interacting with strangers

14. What distance did Wood cover during his "Walking the Silk Road" expedition?

- A) 1,700 miles
- B) 1,800 miles
- C) 4,250 miles
- D) 5,000 miles



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15. What is the primary purpose of this article?

- A) To convince people to walk instead of driving cars
- B) To profile an explorer's career and explain his audience appeal
- C) To critique the dangers of high-altitude mountain climbing
- D) To review a specific book about the Nile River