

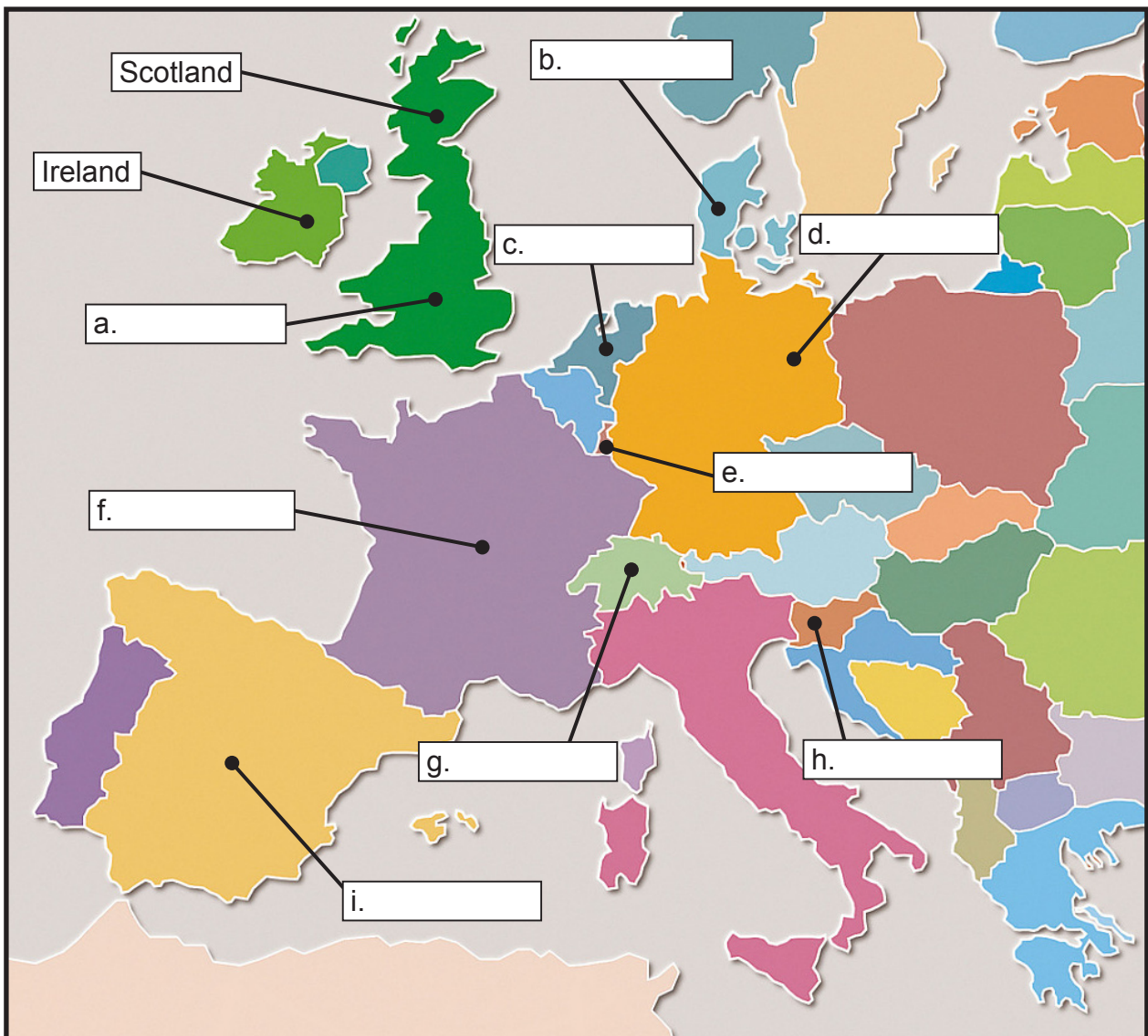
My holiday

1 QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of Europe. Find and label the countries (a-i).

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Denmark | England | France |
| Germany | the Netherlands | Luxembourg |
| Slovenia | Spain | Switzerland |

In which countries are these places: *Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow* and *Cornwall*? _____



Which country would *you* like to visit? Find someone who agrees with you.

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2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the words from the article (in boxes) with the definitions. The paragraph title will also help you find the correct word.

nature

rainforest macaw pool
dolphin moors turtle

activities

to do research to get sunburnt
to go inter-railing to go white-water rafting
barbecue wax museum

places to sleep or live

hut shanty town
host family hostel
tent eco-camp
prison cell

feelings

shocking
atmosphere
cool
homesick

1. Amazon adventure

a forest in a tropical region of the world where it rains a lot _____
a small simple shelter _____
an area where very poor people live in badly built houses _____
an animal with a shell and four short legs that lives on the land, in the ocean, or in rivers and lakes _____
something that makes you feel extremely surprised or upset _____
feeling sad and alone because you are far from home _____
a large ocean animal, similar to a fish, with a big nose _____
a South American bird with a long tail and coloured feathers _____
to make a detailed study of something in order to discover new facts _____

2. Holiday on horseback

the mood or feeling that exists in a place _____
attractive or fashionable _____
a small area of still liquid _____
a large area of high land covered with grass and bushes _____

3. The best of Britain

a family that provides the place for you to stay _____
a place where visitors can see a collection of wax models of famous people _____
to get skin that is red and sore from too much sun _____

4. One trip, many places

to travel by train through Europe (using a special ticket that is valid for several countries) _____
a building where people can stay and get meals at cheap prices _____
a shelter made of cloth and supported with poles and ropes _____

5. Big holiday, small country

an institution where people are kept as punishment for committing a crime _____
a small room in a prison _____
a camp relating to the environment _____
a meal at which meat and other food is cooked and eaten outside _____
to float in a simple boat along rivers where the current is very fast _____

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MY HOLIDAY

by Ann Foulds and Paul Wheatley

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? **Ann Foulds** and **Paul Wheatley** speak to six teens who went to fantastic places.

1

Amazon adventure

When **Amber Mezbourian**, 19, went to a meeting at her school in Jersey, she didn't expect to be in the middle of the Amazon rainforest a few months later. Amber told us: "Someone from the British Schools Exploring Society (BSES) talked to us about the adventure trips the organization offers. It all sounded really exciting, so I decided to go to the Amazon.

As the holiday got closer, I was worried. I was leaving all my friends behind for the whole summer! My big day arrived – I flew to London, then to Madrid, Spain, then to Lima, in Peru, and finally to my destination, Iquitos. The airport was just a hut – with insects all over it!

We stayed in Iquitos for three days. We saw shanty towns and markets with fruit, dead turtles and parts of monkeys – it was quite shocking! Then we went to the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, where boats became our home for six weeks. All I could see was the river and lots of trees! It was very hot and difficult to stay clean – this seemed like a strange dream holiday! Every evening, we saw a fantastic sunset, after which it always got dark very suddenly. There were no lights anywhere, except on the boat. And all we could hear were the insects and birds in the rainforest.

The first week was hard. Many of us felt quite homesick but that quickly disappeared and I started to have a good time.

All BSES trips have a scientific aim. On my trip we did research about the way the rainforest is changing. We studied dolphins, turtles, macaws and caimans, which are like crocodiles. Sometimes we had to catch and measure them.

I loved my trip and it has made me want to travel more. Next I'm going to south-eastern Asia and then India!"

Amber's tip: "Make sure the company you go with is respectful of the country you're visiting – you don't want to destroy nature just so you can have fun."

2

Holiday on horseback

Jess Borer, 19, from Basel, Switzerland, and **Brittany Lankston**, 17, from England, have been great friends since they met on holiday at a horse-riding school in Cornwall.

Jess: "I wanted to go on a horse-riding holiday. My mum said yes – if I went to England. We found the school, T.M. International, on the Internet. Mum phoned and asked lots of questions. It looked great!

There was a great atmosphere at the school – the instructors were cool and everyone loved the school's owners, Ted and Mary. The food was good – we even ate fish and chips a few times! I love Cornwall. It's perfect for horse-riding! Sometimes we went to a pool on the moors and rode the horses into the water. Everybody got really wet but had a great time!"

Jess's tip: "Come prepared for all kinds of weather."

Brittany's tip: "Talk to everyone and try new things!"

The best of Britain

Silke Wessels, 15, from Germany, went to England with 40 of her classmates. She lived with a host family for three weeks.

"I was excited but also nervous. I couldn't believe that I would be in England – speaking another language every day and meeting lots of new people. Sometimes they spoke so quickly I couldn't understand but I really enjoyed speaking English.

The best thing about Seaton was the beach – because the weather was fantastic, we went swimming in the sea whenever we had time. After swimming we sunbathed – we even got sunburnt!

Every morning, we had English lessons. And every Wednesday, we visited a different city.

London was the best place we visited. We saw the Hard Rock Café, walked through Hyde Park and saw Buckingham Palace. We saw the flag – which meant the Queen was at home – but we didn't see her! We also visited Madame Tussauds wax museum.

I did lots of great things in Britain and would love to go back. English people are really friendly and polite. My friends and I might visit England this summer – but not for English lessons this time, just for lots more fun!"

Silke's tip: "It's always good to go with a friend (or 40!)!"

One trip, many places

You don't have to go to the other side of the world to have a fantastic adventure.

Dominic Kraus, 19, from Bavaria, went inter-railing for three weeks in 2004 with his friend Bernward. Their ticket allowed them to travel in six other countries.

"For our holiday we wanted to go to places where we could practise our English. So we started our trip in Munich and went to Paris, London, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Denmark and Luxembourg. In most places, we spoke English.

We stayed in hostels in Paris and London but camped everywhere else. We nearly always found really nice places to camp. But we arrived in Belfast at night and nothing was

3

4

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open. We couldn't find anywhere to pitch our tent and so we slept in front of a police station!"

Dominic's tip: "Travelling is a great chance to meet new people."

Big holiday, small country

Deirdre McCarthy, 19, had heard that Slovenia was great. So she and her friend Ann started planning their dream holiday!

"We'd read that Slovenia was a very safe country, but of course we were careful.

The best part was the Soca Valley. We stayed at an eco-camp run by young Slovenians. We ate from a barbecue, slept in a tent, went canyoning and white-water rafting and talked to lots of people from different countries.

Ljubljana is a wonderful city. The castle was ... wow! Fantastic! We stayed at the Celica hostel. It's an old prison and you sleep in the cells. There are still prison bars – but they open! It's full of international people and the atmosphere is cool. I'd love to go back!"



Deirdre's tip: "People will be very happy if you can say *please* and *thank you* in their language. It's not difficult!"

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5

3 FIND THE INFORMATION

1. Who experienced these problems? Write: **Amber, Jess, Silke or Dominic.**

I couldn't find a place to pitch my tent one night in Northern Ireland. So I slept in a very strange place!

a. _____

I felt really homesick and sad at the start but it went away quickly.

b. _____

I got really wet on the moors! But I had a lot of fun.

c. _____

I was nervous. I couldn't understand English at the beginning because people spoke too quickly.

d. _____

- Read paragraph 4 again. Dominic and Bernward visited six countries. Draw their journey by marking the countries they travelled to on the map in Part 1.
- Read about the holidays again. What was the *most interesting* thing each person did, in your opinion? Find someone in your class who agrees with you.

names	most interesting thing (write one thing only!)
1. Amber	
2. Jess and Brittany	
3. Silke	
4. Dominic and Bernward	
5. Deirdre and Ann	

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4 TEEN TALK

1. Read paragraph 5 again. Match the adjectives to the words on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. great | the atmosphere |
| b. wonderful | Slovenia |
| c. fantastic | the castle |
| d. cool | Ljubljana |

2. Read paragraph 3 again. Which words does Silke use to talk about her holiday?

5 SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!

What things have you done? Complete the 'me' column. Then interview two classmates and write their answers in the other columns. If the answer is 'yes', ask your classmate for more information, e.g. *When? Where? What was it like?*

Have you ever ...?	me	student 1	student 2
1. felt homesick			
2. ridden a horse			
3. studied English abroad			
4. eaten from a barbecue			
5. been to a wax museum			
6. slept in a tent			
7. got sunburnt			
8. been white-water rafting			
9. spent a night on a boat			
10. seen a dolphin or a turtle			

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6 WEBQUEST

Alone or in small groups, visit a website and choose a holiday. Find out:

- What can you see there?
- What can you do?
- What can you learn?
- How do you travel?
- Where can you stay?
- How long is the trip?

Then make a brochure about a holiday you like. Share your brochure with other groups. Vote on the best holiday!

Useful websites:

- www.istc.org
- www.interrailnet.com
- www.lonelyplanet.com

7 PACKING FOR A HOLIDAY

1. With two classmates, choose a travel destination that you would like to visit. Then make a list of all the things you would like to take with you in your rucksacks (equipment, clothes, etc.). Have you included the items from the box below?

Don't leave home without ...

- | | |
|---|---|
| ... your passport and visa (if you need one). | ... tickets (for trains, planes or events). |
| ... travel insurance (to help you if you lose your bags). | ... health insurance. |
| ... money. | ... a camera. |
| ... your toothbrush and any medicines you need. | ... a map. |

2. Look at your own list again. Decide which things are: *extremely necessary* (N), *quite important* (I) or *a luxury* (L). Do you all agree?
3. You have packed too much! Which five things *can't* you take? Decide as a group.

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KEY

1

- England
- Denmark
- the Netherlands
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- France
- Switzerland
- Slovenia
- Spain

Dublin = Ireland; Belfast = Northern Ireland, Glasgow = Scotland; Cornwall = England

2

- 1. Amazon adventure**
rainforest
hut
shanty town
turtle
shocking
homesick
dolphin
macaw
to do research
- 2. Holiday on horseback**
atmosphere
cool
pool
moors
- 3. The best of Britain**
host family
wax museum
to get sunburnt
- 4. One trip, many places**
to go inter-railing
hostel
tent
- 5. Big holiday, small country**
prison
cell
eco-camp
barbecue
to go white-water rafting

3

- a. Dominic, b. Amber, c. Jess, d. Silke
- France, England (UK), Ireland, Northern Ireland (UK), Scotland (UK), the Netherlands, Denmark, Luxembourg

4

- a. great – Slovenia, b. wonderful – Ljubljana, c. fantastic – the castle, d. cool – the atmosphere
- Silke says the weather was fantastic and she did great things in Britain.