#### Name…………………………………………………………….

#### Becoming self-sufficient

Last year Jane and Bob Wilford gave up their well-paid jobs in London and bought a farmhouse in South West England. Their intention was to help protect the environment by becoming completely self-sufficient. EcoPlanet takes a look at how they’ve been doing.

In terms of food, Jane and Bob are now totally self-sufficient. They grow most of their fruits and vegetables in their own garden and get the rest from the plants growing wild in the country. “Wild fruit and vegetables taste great and they’re really nutritious” Jane says, “but you have to be careful about what you pick and where you pick it. We got food poisoning last January because we’d picked the wrong mushrooms and last month a local farmer set his dog on us while we were looking for blackberries. We’d gone onto his land by mistake.”

The Wilfords get fish from their garden stream, keep chickens for meat and eggs and a goat for milk. “We didn’t fancy milking cows so we bought a goat instead “ Bob says “Goat’s milk tastes a bit sour at first but you soon get used to it”. They make goat’s cheese, which they sell at the local market.

In other ways, they are not yet self-sufficient. They originally planned to sell their car, but they soon realized that they couldn’t do without it: “We need to go to the local town quite often and the bus service is just not reliable enough”, Jane says. At the moment, they only generate about a quarter of the electricity they use. They have a small wind turbine, which produces electricity and they use solar panels for hot water. The wind turbine works OK most of the time, but the solar panels are proving unreliable. “We end up having cold showers most of the time”, Bob says, laughing.

They have decided to get rid of their fridge next month in order to reduce their energy needs. They plan to turn some of the excess food into jams and pickles so that it keeps longer and to give the rest of it to the neighbours in return for clothes and other things. So far, the Wilfords are both delighted with their new lifestyle but they’re not sure how long they can keep it up. “Things are fun at the moment but in ten years time I might get bored with the farm” Bob says. Jane is more practical: “We’ll keep doing this until the money runs out”.

#### Glossary

self sufficient = able to have all the things you need without help from other people.

#### Answering Multiple Choice questions

#### Jane and Bob….

A sell most of their food in the local market. B no longer buy any food.

C still buy some of their food.

#### Jane says that picking wild fruit and vegetables …

A is entertaining. B is hard work.

C can be dangerous.

#### 3 Bob…………

1. didn’t like goat’s milk initially.
2. prefers goat’s milk to cow’s milk. C still doesn’t like goat’s milk.

#### The Wilfords have kept their car because…..

A they need it for long journeys. B they haven’t been able to sell it.

C they need to make regular short journeys.

#### The Wilfords are generally happy with the way the ……

A wind turbine works B solar panels work.

C the way the solar panels and the wind turbine work.

#### When the Wilfords sell their fridge, they will……..

* 1. sell all their excess food.
  2. sell and exchange all their excess food.
  3. turn part of it into conserves and give the rest away free.

#### Jane is worried that ………………….. the farm

1. she will lose interest in managing
2. they will not have enough money to maintain C they will soon be too old to manage

#### Complete the conversation by choosing the correct form in brackets ( ).

Sarah: (0) Have you ever been (Have you ever been/Did you ever go) to the United States?

Jim: Yes, (1) …………………………(I’ve been/I went) to California last year. Sarah: (2) ………………………… (Have you liked/Did you like) it?

Jim: Yes, (3) ………………………. (I’ve enjoyed/I enjoyed) the trip a lot. Sarah: What (4) ………………………… (have you done/did you do) there?

Jim: (5) ………………………….(I’ve visited/I visited) Hollywood, Disneyland and SanFrancisco.

(6) ………………………. (Have you been/Did you go) to California, Sarah?

Sarah: No, but (7) ……………………..(I’ve booked/I booked) a holiday there. I’ve got my ticket and I’m going next week!

#### Complete the dialogues using the Present Perfect (*I have seen*) or Past Sim- ple (*I saw*).

A: I (0) saw (see) Jack last night.

B: Oh really. I (1) ………………………..(not/see) him for months. How is he?

A: We (2) …………………………. (go) to the theatre last Saturday. B: (3) ………………………….(you/enjoy) the play?

A: Yes, it (4) ………………………. (be) very good.

A: I (5) ………………….. (never/hear) of this group before. Are they famous in your country? B: Yes, they are very popular. They (6) ……………………………….(be) famous in my country for years.

A: What (7) ………………………………(you/do) last weekend?

B: I (8) …………………………(stay) at home. I (9) ……………………….. (need) a rest.

A: (10) …………………….. (you/ever/win) a competition?

B: Yes, I (11) ……………………….(win) a photographic competition in 2001.

A: So, John is your best friend. (12) ……………………….(you/meet) him when you were at university?

B: Yes. We (13) ……………………… (be) friends for more than ten years

#### Complete this paragraph about the London Underground by putting in the Present Perfect or Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets ( ).

**THE LONDON UNDERGROUND**

London (0) has had (have) an underground train system since the nineteenth century. The London Underground (1) ………………. (start) in 1863, when Victorian engineers and workers (2) ………………. (build) the Metropolitan railway. This railway line (3) ………………. (go) from Paddington Station to Farringdon Street Station, and steam engines (4)

………………. (pull) the coaches. Eleven more lines

1. ………………. (open) since then. The world’s first underground electric railway
2. ………………. (open) in 1890. This line (7) ………………. (go) from the City of Lon- don to Stockwell in South London. The most modern line is the Jubilee line, which (8)

………………. (open) in 1979. Since the London Underground (9) ………………. (begin), many other cities, such as New York and Moscow, (10) ………………. (build) their own systems.