

1) If you went to a country, which of these things would you like to do?

- Eat food from many different cultures
- Visit a rainforest
- Go to the beach
- See wildlife
- Go deep-sea diving
- Visit a vineyard

2) Read the following article. Which of the things above did Dannii do on her trip?



Dannii Minogue loves travelling the world as much as her sister Kylie, but after working away she says there's no place like home ...

Melbourne is where I grew up so it obviously means a lot to me. It's a city that is constantly evolving. Melbourne people, like all Australians, enjoy travelling and their increasing experience of other countries means local tastes have changed. The city has become much more cosmopolitan.

One of the best places to visit is the Crown Casino, which features more than forty eating places all under one roof. Someone told me that in Melbourne you can sample the cuisines of seventy-five different countries; I haven't managed to eat my way through them all, but it's a wonderful challenge. And besides the top-class restaurants, you mustn't miss Melbourne's vibrant cafe culture, with wonderful beachside places at St Kilda.

If you enjoy your food, you will love exploring local produce markets. One I really like is the Queen Victoria Market on the corner of Queen and Elizabeth streets, which is open five days a week and sells a huge variety of fruit and vegetables.

My boyfriend joined me for my most recent trip home. It was fun showing him all the familiar landmarks, but also going to places I've never been before. From Melbourne, we took the Great Ocean Road, a 150-mile highway that is a scenic delight. You pass through an area that includes the world-famous Twelve Apostles rock formations, the Otways rainforest and Bell's Beach along with resort towns such as Torquay and Apollo Bay. We loved spending time on the beach, as well as visiting vineyards and taking in jazz music. It really was an amazing summer.

That said, we've still got a pretty extensive 'to do' list, including a trip to Queensland and the Barrier Reef. And although I've been to Hayman Island a couple of times, I'd like to get to know some of the more exclusive resort islands that can be reached only by private boat or helicopter.

The flight to Australia is a long one but perfectly comfortable if you follow a routine like mine. I get on board and immediately change into my flight pyjamas — one day I'm going to work out how to accessorise them with fashion items, but until then I just look like someone wearing pyjamas!

I just love to travel. It's an Aussie thing: as a people we are up for jumping on a plane and going off to explore. I can't wait to see where I'll go next.

3) Answer the questions.

- a) Why does Dannii think Melbourne has become more cosmopolitan?
- b) What does Dannii think is a "wonderful challenge"?
- c) What is St Kilda well known for?
- d) What does the Queen Victoria Market sell?
- e) What can you see as you drive along the Great Ocean Road?
- f) What area of Australia does Dannii still hope to visit?
- g) Why is it quite difficult to visit some of the resort islands?
- h) What is Dannii's tip for making the long flight to Australia more comfortable?

4) Read the article and match the places (a-f) with the paragraphs (1-5). There are 2 places in one of the paragraphs.

- a) Roswell, USA
- b) Papua New Guinea
- c) Dubai, UAE

- d) Sahara Desert
- e) Lajamanu, Australia
- f) Bhutan

Amazing experiences in amazing places

1 _____

If you're in the United Arab Emirates, why not go to the Dubai Aquarium? Every day at 4:00 p.m., divers get into the 10-million litre fish tank, and feed the sharks. And you can watch from 11 metres below the surface. But don't worry – you don't need to get wet. Just walk down the aquarium tunnel for an unforgettable view!

2 _____

Go to the International UFO Museum and Research Center, in Roswell, USA. Something strange fell out of the sky in 1947, and people have been going there ever since. Don't expect to see any little green men, though: there aren't any!

3 _____

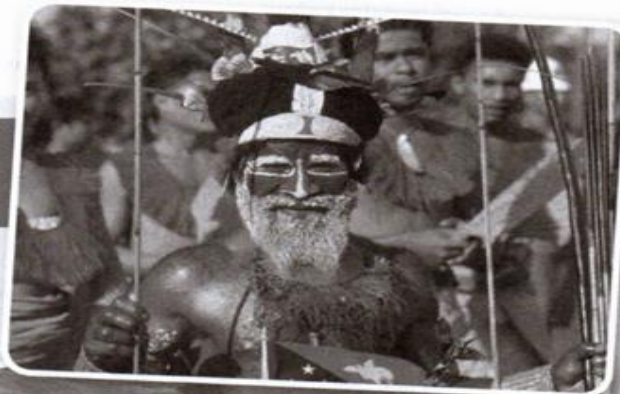
Talking of strange things falling out of the sky, one day in 2010 in Lajamanu, Australia, it rained fish. Yes, hundreds of fish fell from the sky into the town. The amazing thing is that the nearest river is 500 km away. So how did it happen? Winds in a thunderstorm lifted the fish out of the water and took them as far as Lajamanu. Believe it or not, this happens quite often in Lajamanu!

4 _____

Go to Bhutan in the Himalayas. There are very few cars, so wherever you go, it's very calm and peaceful. Going to Bhutan is like traveling back in time. The only problem is getting into the country, as visas are limited. Still, if you can't get one, go to the Sahara Desert. It's 9,065,000 square kilometres, so there should be enough space for everybody!

5 _____

Go to Papua New Guinea. Kelly Woolford of First Contact holidays will take you on a three-week trip for \$8,000. There, you will trek through the rainforest and search out traditional tribespeople. Kelly Woolford says, 'There are places in West Papua which are untouched (by modern travellers). People are too scared to go there.'



5) Match the headings (a-e) with paragraphs (1-5).

- a) Where can I see some crazy weather?
- b) Where can I watch sharks safely?
- c) Where can I learn about UFOs?
- d) Where can I find some peace and quiet?
- e) Where can I meet remote tribes?

6) Read the article again and write true(T) or false (F).

- a) You need to swim underwater to see the sharks.
- b) Visitors to Roswell will see little green men.
- c) People go fishing in the river at Lajamanu.
- d) It is easier to go to the Sahara than to Bhutan.
- e) Kelly Woolford is a tourist in Papua New Guinea.



Comic marathon man raises £200,000

To the cheering of taxi drivers and the honking of horns, the comedian and actor Eddie Izzard ran into London yesterday to complete his 43rd marathon in 52 days. In total he had covered 1,100 miles.

Fighting blisters that have caused the nails on his smaller toes to fall off and his larger toes to swell into 'alien monsters', he ran up The Mall and into Trafalgar Square where he had started 7½ weeks ago.

In finishing he proved what many thought was an impossible task: that a 47-year-old comedian with no sporting experience could do something a top athlete might find difficult.

His 43 marathons were in aid of the charity *Sports Relief*, which raises money for the poor all over the world. So far Izzard has raised more than £200,000.

After only six weeks' training he started out on a journey that would take him to every corner of the British Isles. 'The first three weeks were the hardest,' he said. The non-stop pressure on his body led to sleepless nights and he would wake exhausted with 'blisters on top of blisters'.

But the people he met along the way cheered him up. 'People stopped their cars and cheered, they gave me money and food.'

More than 500,000 people 'followed' the comedian, in a different sense, on Twitter. Running into London he looked lean and muscular. 'Everyone says my legs look very good but I thought they looked quite good beforehand,' he said.

Simon Blease, 51, a sports doctor and mountain runner who has been following his progress, was waiting on Tower Bridge. 'I didn't think he could do it,' he said. 'Like a lot of people I thought he would have a good try, but his body would break down. Someone with so little training, I find it extraordinary that he has done it.'

Asked what he had gained, Izzard said: 'I know now I can do that. Sport is one of those words that stopped being part of my life when I was about 14. Sporting success was not something I ever associated myself with.' He now plans to continue jogging and hopes to inspire others into sport.

He then excused himself – to take an ice bath. 'I'm going to have a party somewhere that is dry and then I'm going to sleep for a week,' he said.

7) Read the article and answer the questions.

- What is Izzard's age and usual job?
- What was marathon-running in aid of?
- How much training did he do for the marathon?
- What effect did the run have on his body?
- How did it change his view of himself?

8) Write your opinion.

- Do you think his run is likely to inspire others? Why/Why not?
- What other big charity events do you know about/have you participated in?
- Do you think that raising money for charity can make a real difference to people's lives? Why/Why not?