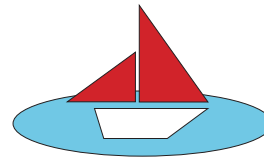
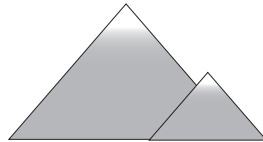


Homecoming hero

1 WARMER

Answer the questions and give reasons for your answers.

- a. Would you like to ...
... sail around the world?
... climb a mountain?
... drive across a desert?
- b. How old do you think someone should be in order to do these things (alone)?



2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Skim-read the article to find the words that fit in the gaps. The paragraph is given to help you.

engine

solo

experience

frustrating

respect

sail

- travel somewhere by boat or ship _____ (para 1)
- done by one person alone, without any help _____ (para 1)
- knowledge and skill you get by doing a job or activity _____ (para 2)
- to show that you understand the importance or power of something _____ (para 4)
- a machine with moving parts that produces movement _____ (para 4)
- making you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from achieving something _____ (para 4)

robbed

patrol

remote

the equator

cabin

alert

- the imaginary line that goes around the Earth and divides it into the northern and southern hemispheres _____ (para 5)
- paying attention to what is happening and ready to react quickly if necessary _____ (para 5)
- a private room on a boat for a passenger or one of the people working on the ship _____ (para 6)
- a group of people or vehicles that move around a place in order to prevent trouble or crime _____ (para 6)
- to take money or property illegally from a person or place _____ (para 9, past tense)
- far away from other cities, towns or people _____ (para 12)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

Homecoming hero

HOMECOMING HERO

by Talitha Linehan

1 Seventeen-year-old Zac Sunderland is one of the youngest people ever to sail solo around the world. On June 14, 2008, Zac climbed aboard his boat to start his 40,000-mile journey around the world. He sailed from the west coast of the USA to Australia, then across the Indian Ocean to South Africa. This interview took place when Zac was on his way home after sailing for a year.

2 "I've been really lucky", Zac said. "I've been sailing all my life, and I have great parents who've helped me a lot. It's been an amazing experience and a lot of fun."

Life at sea

3 "The first six months at sea were harder than the second six months. When I first left home, it all felt strange and new. But now it feels like everyday life. Time goes by quickly out here, and there's always something that needs doing on the boat. I've learned so much and have become a better sailor.

Hard times

4 The sea doesn't frighten me. I respect the sea. But I don't like it when things go wrong. I've had a lot of problems with my boat, for example. Because of a problem with my engine, I stopped at Saint Helena, an island in the South Atlantic about halfway between Africa and South America. I had to wait three weeks to get the parts I needed for the engine. That was really frustrating.

5 I had to cross the equator twice. It's really hot and there's hardly any wind, so you can be stuck in one place for a whole week. But there are also dangerous storms called squalls. So even though you're going nowhere for days, you have to be alert all the time in case you get hit by a squall.

6 My most frightening experience happened in the Indian Ocean in October 2008. A pirate ship came and started sailing around me. I didn't know what they wanted or what they were going to do, so I locked myself in my cabin and called the coast watch patrol. When the patrol arrived, the pirates left – so luckily, nothing happened in the end.

Exciting places

7 I've visited so many parts of the world. It's been amazing to see how people live. Everywhere I went, people were waiting for me, and sometimes my dad or friends came out to meet me too. People everywhere were really friendly.

8 The most beautiful place I visited was Cocos Keeling Island, which is a tiny place in the Indian Ocean with white beaches and green jungles. Only about 500 people live there.



9 One place I really hated was Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. I had to stay there for about a week because of another problem with my boat. It was really dangerous. You can't walk around there alone at night or you might get robbed or even killed.

Homecoming

10 It's going to be incredible to return to the US at the end of this trip. I can't wait to see my family and friends. The first thing I want to eat is a cheeseburger. American food is the best! I miss it a lot. Then I want to go surfing and skateboarding with my friends.

Media star

11 I did hundreds of interviews about my journey last summer. After the first few, I learned how to answer all the questions and what to say. When I get home, I'll do interviews on at least three TV shows, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. That will be very exciting.

Homecoming hero

The next adventure

- 12 I'm thinking about sailing across the top of Alaska for six months with a friend. We'd be alone for weeks at a time and stop on small, remote islands. That would be amazing.
- 13 The biggest thing I've learned in the last year is that you can do anything you want to do. If you have a dream, try hard to make it come true."

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3 TEEN TALK: THE BEST

Look back at the article and complete the sentence.

Zac says "American food is the best!"

Teens use *the best* to say that ...

- a) ... they do not like something.
- b) ... they really like something and think it is better than everything else.
- c) ... something is ok.

Who or what do you think is *the best*?

Homecoming hero

4 FIND THE INFORMATION

Put the sentence parts in the correct order to make questions for Zac. Then match Zac's answers to the questions.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. did it / around the world/ take you /How long / to sail / ? | By hiding from them and calling the coast watch patrol. |
| 2. miles / How many / did you travel / ? | Port Moresby. |
| 3. you start / your journey / Where did / ? | About forty thousand. |
| 4. favourite place/ was / your / Which / ? | Seeing my family and friends, and eating a cheeseburger. |
| 5. not like / did you / Which place / ? | Cocos Keeling Island. |
| 6. the pirates / did you / escape from / How / ? | Because the boat had engine problems. |
| 7. on Saint Helena / did you / Why / have to wait / ? | About a year. |
| 8. when you get home / looking forward / What are you / to doing / ? | The west coast of the USA. |

5 ROLE-PLAY

Use the questions and answers in task 4 to hold a short role-play. Work in pairs (A & B). A is Zac, B is the interviewer.

6 WEBQUEST

Imagine you are going to travel around the world. Use the Internet to answer all of the questions. Route planning websites and websites that include maps of the world (such as *Google Earth* and *Google Maps*) may help you. Fill in the table with information about your trip.

The trip will start from:	
The trip will finish at:	
On the way we will visit:	
We will travel by:	
The journey will take about (time):	
We will travel about (distance):	

Homecoming hero

KEY

2

1. sail
2. solo
3. experience
4. respect
5. engine
6. frustrating
7. the equator
8. alert
9. cabin
10. patrol
11. robbed
12. remote

3

- b. They really like something and think it is better than everything else.

4

1. How long did it take you to sail around the world?
About a year.
2. How many miles did you travel?
About forty thousand.
3. Where did you start your journey?
The west coast of the USA.
4. Which was your favourite place?
Cocos Keeling Island.
5. Which place did you not like?
Papua New Guinea.
6. How did you escape from the pirates?
By hiding from them and calling the coast watch patrol.
7. Why did you have to wait on Saint Helena?
Because the boat had engine problems.
8. What are you looking forward to doing when you get home?
Seeing my family and friends, and eating a cheeseburger.