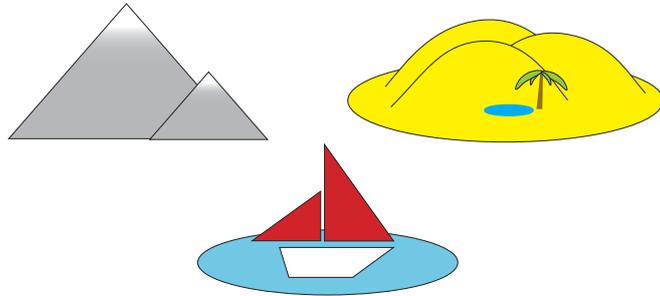


Homecoming hero

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.

solo frustrating the equator
 crippled respect home stretch encounter

- done by one person alone, without any help _____ (para 1)
- the final part of a journey _____ (para 2)
- When something is damaged severely so that it doesn't work properly, it is _____ (para 2)
- an unplanned meeting _____ (para 2)
- to show that you understand the importance or power of something _____ (para 5)
- making you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from achieving something _____ (para 5)
- imaginary line that goes around the Earth and divides it into the northern and southern hemispheres _____ (para 6)

firing patrol succeed
 remote robbed alert sinking

- paying attention to what is happening and ready to react quickly if necessary _____ (para 6)
- another word for shooting _____ (para 7)
- making something, especially a boat, disappear below the surface of the water _____ (para 7)
- a group of people or vehicles that move around a place in order to prevent trouble or crime _____ (para 7)
- to take money or property illegally taken a person or place, often using threats or violence _____ (para 10, past tense)
- far away from other cities, towns or people _____ (para 13)
- to achieve something that you planned to do or attempted to do _____ (para 14)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

Homecoming hero

HOMECOMING HERO

by Talitha Linehan

1 He's risked his life and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to make his dream come true. Seventeen-year-old Zac Sunderland is one of the youngest people ever to sail solo around the world.

2 On June 14, 2008, Zac climbed aboard his boat, *Intrepid*, to start his 40,000-mile journey around the world. He has sailed from the west coast of the USA to Australia, then across the Indian Ocean to South Africa. He's had to survive violent storms, a crippled boat and an encounter with pirates. This interview took place when Zac was on the home stretch after a year of sailing.

3 "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

4 "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

5 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.

6 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.

7 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. I'd heard stories of pirates firing at boats and sinking them, 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

8 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 and interested in hearing my stories.

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



10 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

11 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. We're also planning to do a road

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trip. We've bought an old van and will probably go to Mexico or across the US. It'll be nice to travel on land again after all these months at sea.

Media star

12 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.

The next adventure

13 I've been getting so many job offers in the last few months. I could sail around the world giving sailing

classes. Or I could go on a new adventure. 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.

14 The biggest thing I've learned in the last year is that you can do anything you want to do. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do it. If you have a dream, try hard to make it come true. Who knows? You might even succeed!"

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

Choose the correct answer according to the information in the article.

- Approximately how long did it take Zac to sail around the world?
a) 6 months b) a year c) a year and a half
- Approximately how many miles did he travel?
a) four thousand b) fourteen thousand c) forty thousand
- Where did he start his journey?
a) The USA b) Australia c) Papua New Guinea
- What or who is a squall?
a) a storm b) a pirate c) an engine part
- Which place did he not like?
a) Saint Helena b) Cocos Keeling Island c) Port Moresby
- Which was his favourite place?
a) Saint Helena b) Cocos Keeling Island c) Port Moresby
- How did he escape the pirates?
a) By firing at them b) by sailing away from them c) by calling the coast watch patrol
- Why did he have to wait on Saint Helena?
a) weather problems b) engine problems c) pirate problems
- What is he looking forward to when he gets back?
a) eating American food b) seeing his dog c) driving a car
- Where will he go next and how?
a) Alaska by boat b) Mexico or around the USA by van c) across the desert by camel

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4 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*?

5 WRITING

In the article, Zac talks about being interviewed. Write six questions you would like to ask Zac during an interview. Use the question words below.

What Where Why Who When How

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6 ROLE-PLAY

Work in groups of three (A, B and C).

- A is Zac
- B is the interviewer
- C is the camera operator / director

Combine the questions you wrote to make a longer interview. Practice asking and answering the questions. Add an introduction and an ending, and then film your interview with Zac. Show your video to your class.



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7 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):	

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KEY

2

1. solo
2. home stretch
3. crippled
4. encounter
5. respect
6. frustrating
7. equator
8. alert
9. firing
10. sinking
11. patrol
12. robbed
13. remote
14. succeed

3

- b. 1.b; 2.c; 3.a; 4.a; 5.c; 6.b; 7.c; 8.b; 9.a; 10.b

4

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