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Gap years

International cultural knowledge

Gap years

1 Work with a partner. Look at the pictures and describe what you can see. Would you like to do either of these activities? Why?/Why not?

2 **LISTENING** 1.02 Listen to a radio programme about gap years and answer the questions.

- 1 What is a gap year?
- 2 Who can take a gap year?
- 3 When do people usually take a gap year?

3 Listen again. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 People didn't normally have a gap year in the past. T/F
- 2 People often decide to have a gap year because they are tired of studying. T/F
- 3 People who take gap years usually have a lot of money. T/F
- 4 A gap year can help you to decide what course to study at university. T/F
- 5 People normally prefer travelling short distances during their gap year. T/F
- 6 You need to pay for everything yourself when you do volunteer work. T/F
- 7 One way of spending a gap year is teaching languages. T/F
- 8 Universities always prefer taking students who have done a gap year. T/F

4 **SPEAKING** What about you?

- 1 What are the main advantages and disadvantages of having a gap year?
- 2 Would you like to have a gap year when you finish school? Why?/Why not?

5 Look at these titles for texts about how five different people spent their gap years. Work with a partner. Predict what the people did.

1 A trip to remember for the rest of my life

2 Sun + snow = relaxation

3 A long way from home, helping people without a home

4 Boring but necessary

5 Opening my eyes to an amazing new world

6 Read this newspaper article about how the five students spent their gap years. Match the titles in 5 with the texts A-E.

7 Read the texts again. Which student(s)

- 1 planned his/her gap year for a long time?
- 2 didn't make any plans?
- 3 worked first and then travelled?
- 4 didn't work during his/her gap year?
- 5 learnt two languages?
- 6 enjoyed being with or seeing unusual animals?
- 7 says that the gap year has helped him/her to be more positive when things go wrong?
- 8 thinks his/her gap year encouraged him/her to work hard at university?
- 9 enjoyed living in bad conditions?
- 10 says that his/her gap year is going to influence his/her choice of a career?

