

14B A life-changing experience

Activity type: Reading, speaking and writing – Information gap and guided writing – Pairs

Aim: To practise speaking and writing about life changes

Language: Life changes – Use at any point from 14.2.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for each learner and cut each worksheet up along the dotted lines.

Time: 30–40 minutes

- 1 Divide learners into pairs and give each learner a copy of the first part of the worksheet – *Welcome to Volunteer World*. They read the text and decide what kind of text it is and where it might have come from.

It is an advertisement, perhaps from a magazine or a website.

- 2 Dictate the following questions, or write them on the board. Learners work in pairs and answer the questions using the information in the text.

- a) *What is the name of the organisation?*
- b) *How long are the projects?*
- c) *What experience and qualifications are needed?*
- d) *Are there any other requirements?*

a) Volunteer World b) Six months c) None d) Lots of enthusiasm and energy

- 3 Explain that they are each going to read about one person's experience as a volunteer with Volunteer World. Give one learner in each pair a copy of the Kim Allen text, and the other, the Hiroyuki Kuneguchi text. Give each learner a copy of the table. Learners read their text and complete the part of the table that relates to their text.
- 4 Learners ask each other questions in order to complete the rest of the table, and then decide which of the two experiences they have read about sounds the most interesting and why.
- 5 Learners imagine they are participants in a similar Volunteer World project. Give each learner a copy of the three adverts at the bottom of the worksheet. They read them and agree with their partner which project they would most like to participate in.
- 6 Learners work in pairs to think about what responsibilities and difficulties the project might involve, and what participants might gain from the experience.
- 7 Explain that they are going to interview another learner about their 'experience' on a Volunteer World project and then write a short profile based on what they are told. Learners work in pairs to write questions which they would ask a volunteer. Encourage them to use the experiences they have read about to help them decide what questions to ask – they should include questions about:
 - why the person decided to be a volunteer
 - how they heard about Volunteer World and why they chose their particular project
 - what training they did
 - their first impressions of the project, and what it involved
 - what they learnt from the experience
- 8 Learners work with a different partner, if possible someone who chose a different project from them. Learners take it in turn to interview their partner, noting down the answers they give.
- 9 Learners write a profile of the person they have interviewed.

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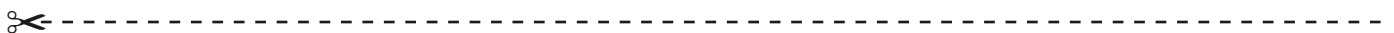
Welcome to Volunteer World!

Are you bored with your routine? Do you want to do something different with your life? Volunteer World is a worldwide organisation which finds people to work as volunteers on all kinds of six-month projects around the world. You spend one month at one of our 40 training centres, learning about the country you are going to work in and receiving training from our project experts. Then you travel to your project centre, where you spend five months living and working with local people. No experience or qualifications are necessary, because we give you all the necessary training. All you need is an interest in finding out about a new part of the world and lots of enthusiasm and energy!



Kim Allen

“When I left school 18 months ago I didn’t really know what I wanted to do next. I planned to go to university to study medicine, but I wanted to do something new and exciting first. A friend told me about Volunteer World, so I decided to look at their website and it was exactly what I wanted. I got a place on a project in Ecuador, in South America, helping to preserve the tropical rainforest. I spent one month at the UK training centre, learning the basic skills I would need, and then I flew to Quito, the capital, before travelling to the site of the project. The work was hard and very physical – planting trees and collecting scientific data – but it was very interesting, the people were really friendly, and it was an experience I’ll never forget. It really changed my way of looking at the world.”

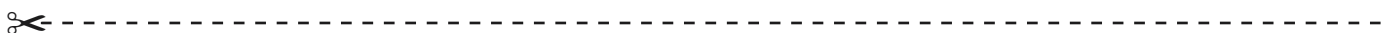


Hiroiyuki Kuneguchi

“I left school at sixteen and got a job in a factory. After seven years I decided I wanted to do some travelling while I was still young. I didn’t want to move to another country for ever, but I read about Volunteer World in a magazine and it sounded interesting. I applied to join a project in Thailand, teaching some basic computer skills to local children to help them find a good job in the future. They accepted me, and after one month of training in Tokyo I flew out to join the project. The first month was hard, but after that it was great. The children were very keen to learn, and I made a lot of new friends. If you want to do something different with your life and have an adventure as well, Volunteer World is exactly what you need.”



	Kim Allen	Hiroiyuki Kuneguchi
Reason for applying		
Location of project		
Responsibilities		
Comments		



Panda conservation in China

Take this opportunity to get close to these rare animals in the beautiful forests of China.



Teach street kids to paint in LA

Learn to paint, and help street kids to do the same and sell their work on the beaches of California.



Build homes in Malawi

Help the people from poor areas by working on local projects to improve housing.

