

Reading and discussion

4 Read the four descriptions of gap-year placements. With a partner, explain which one(s) you'd prefer to go on, and why. Why wouldn't you like to go on the others?

Writing and roleplay

5 You are going to take turns interviewing and being interviewed for www.gapyearplacement.org. First complete the application form, then follow the steps below.

application form

www.gapyearplacement.org

Name: _____

Current occupation: _____

A Describe your previous participation in any organization, your experiences in other countries and your contact with persons of other nationalities, races and cultures.

B What are your main reasons for spending a year abroad and why have you applied for a gap-year placement?

C What is your preferred destination and type of voluntary work?

- 1 Divide into A Groups and B Groups of four students each.
- 2 Three students from Group A interview one student from Group B. At the same time, three students from Group B interview one student from Group A. Use the completed application forms above (and CVs, if available) for the interviews.
- 3 When the first interview is finished, a different person from each group goes to the other group to be interviewed. The interview panel will, therefore, be slightly different each time.
- 4 When all the interviews are finished, decide in your groups which candidates have been successful.
- 5 Group A and Group B join together and give the candidates feedback on why their applications have or have not been successful.

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eco-
find your feet
step back
tangible
underprivileged

Care Work in South Africa

Population: 45 million
Official Language: 11 official languages, including English and Afrikaans
Placement: Schools for 4 to 18 year olds with special needs

Job: Classroom assistant in a special needs school, providing classroom support and working on an individual basis with children with mental and physical disabilities.
Working week: 45 hours, some evening duties.



Conservation in Malaysia

Population: 24 million
Official Language: Bahasa Melayu
Main Religion: Islam
Placement: Conservation work
Job: Various conservation projects: construction and maintenance of trails, identification of species, eco-tourism projects, organic farms, animal sanctuaries, turtle-conservation projects. Work is physically demanding.



Care Work in Costa Rica

Population: 4 million
Official Language: Spanish (Indian languages and Patois also spoken)
Main Religion: Roman Catholic
Placement: Care work

Job: Care-work placements in homes for children with disabilities or orphanages: assisting individual children, organizing activities, helping with lessons or assisting at meal times. Intensive Spanish language course recommended.



Teaching in Tanzania

Population: 37 million – over 129 tribes
Official Language: Swahili and English
Main Religion: Christianity and Islam

Placement: Teaching in primary or secondary schools
Job: Teaching five days a week: all subjects, including sport and drama. Participants must have excellent English. Four weeks' school holidays per year.

