



Worksheet 5. Reading: *The Trans-Siberian Railway*

Read this passage from a travel website. Answer the questions on the next page.

Q: What is the best way to go from Moscow to Beijing?



A: The best way to go from Moscow to Beijing is on the Trans-Siberian Railway, which is the longest railway in the world. On this train, you will travel across half of the globe, and pass through eight time zones to reach the **furthest edge** of one immense country.

Your journey will leave you with **unique** memories and the feeling of experiencing something **extraordinary**. It will change the way you see time and distance. Days slide by as different passengers meet, have drinks and meals together, and form friendships as the train rolls on, stops for **provisions**, and takes on new passengers. Outside, you will view the **scenic** Ural Mountains, the great Siberian plains, the **bottomless** Lake Baikal, the steppes of the Mongolian nomads, and the easternmost Russian city, Vladivostok, before crossing the border into China.

You can stop off at one of the stations, take a tour or stay **awhile**, and **board** the train again on another day. Your travel plans can be **flexible**, providing you with maximum opportunities for independent discovery.

Q: What about money? How should we carry money?

A: Take some cash for use on your arrival in Russia (for immediate food, taxis, and hotels), and for the rest, take credit cards and traveler's checks. Take cash if you visit small towns or the countryside, or if you take a **cruise**. Cash is used more often than credit cards in Russia. U.S. dollars and euros are often easier to change than other currencies. Sometimes you will get a better exchange rate with euros, and sometimes with dollars when you change to the Russian ruble, the Mongolian Togrog, or the Chinese Yuan. Of course, the safest way to carry your money is in traveler's checks.

steppes = a large land area without trees, especially in Russia, Asia, and eastern Europe

nomad = a member of a tribe that travels from place to place instead of living in one place all the time, usually in order to find grass for their animals



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Choose the correct answers based on the information in the reading. Question 7 has more than one correct answer.

1. According to the passage, what is the best way to travel from Moscow to Beijing?
 - a. By train
 - b. On a cruise
2. In which directions does the Trans-Siberian Railway go?
 - a. East and west
 - b. North and south
3. Which sentence is true?
 - a. Passengers spend all their time alone in private cabins.
 - b. Passengers spend a lot of their time socializing with other passengers.
4. Which two places will you see, if you stay on the entire ride?
 - a. The Ural Mountains and the Great Wall of China
 - b. The Alps and a part of Mongolia
5. True or false: passengers may get off the train and get on again on another day.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. True or false: you can use only cash in Russia.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. Which of the following are currencies of countries?
 - a. Euros
 - b. Dollars
 - c. Rubles
 - d. Checks
 - e. Credit cards
 - f. Yuan
8. Which is safer?
 - a. Cash
 - b. Traveler's checks