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How far would you go?

- Why would anyone hop, skip or jump a mile?
- Why would anyone run for 72 hours, dressed as a medieval knight?
- Why would anyone swim 2,800 km along the Danube River?

Read the stories below and find out why, but also other key information. Note down your answers in four columns with the headings 'who', 'when', 'where', 'why'.

Give sport a chance

In 2006 Mimi Hughes, an American woman who had already swum along the Tennessee River and across the Bering Straits, swam from the Black Forest to the Black Sea.

Her 2800 km journey took her from Germany and Austria to Ukraine through the former Eastern bloc countries of Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro, Bulgaria and Romania. It lasted 3 months.

Her mission was to motivate others to work for peace and develop a sense of environmental responsibility. Mimi believes in the power of sport to bring about social and environmental change.

Many participants in the city marathons which take place all over the world every year – London, New York, Vienna etc – run for a good cause. They find a sponsor, an individual or a firm, who is willing to donate a certain sum for every mile that the person runs (or swims ...).

In a recent London Marathon a man wearing a medieval suit of armour took 72 hours for the course but raised several thousand pounds for an old people's organisation.

Every 2 years, on a Saturday in July, thousands of people all over the UK

become active by walking, running or cycling - or perhaps doing something more original. This is one of the initiatives organised by Sport Relief. The aim is to help charities in the UK and in the world's poorest countries.

On Sport Relief Saturday in 2006, for example, participants had to travel one mile in any way they chose and to get sponsored for doing it. They could run, walk or hop and skip, for instance. There was even a Sport Relief official single (McFly – Don't Stop Me Now) which went straight to number 1 in the charts.

Sport Relief participants range from government ministers and politicians to sports personalities and other celebrities. Big firms and their employees take part as well as school classes from all over the country.

Since it was introduced in 2002, Sport Relief has raised tens of millions of pounds for good causes. Sport Relief Saturday is always marked by a gala night of entertainment on TV.

Using your notes, write down "Wh-" questions about the text and try them out on your classmates who have read the text.

In the text, find the English equivalent for the following German expressions:

für einen guten Zweck
Geld sammeln / aufbringen
stattfinden
Teilnehmer
unterhalten, Unterhaltung
Wohtätigkeitsverein

- 1 Does the Sport Relief idea remind you of any similar events or galas to raise money for charities in Austria?
- 2 Have you ever participated in a sporting event for a good cause?
- 3 Would you be willing to run, swim etc for a good cause?