



Wi-Fi Not Wanted

Before Reading Poll

There are places in the world without Internet service, but some companies want to change this. What do you think?

Every place in the world should have Internet service.

Agree

Disagree

Explain why you voted the way you did.

Article

HORNSTRANDIR, Iceland (Achieve3000, December 5, 2018). Forget Wi-Fi! Imagine spending the summer in Iceland, on a remote peninsula that has no Internet. You have no way to use social media. You can't post photos on Instagram or Snapchat. You can't even Google the weather forecast before you plan a day of hiking. It would even be hard to use your cell phone to call a friend!

This unwired way of life suits many summer residents of Iceland's Hornstrandir Nature Reserve just fine. It's one of the Nordic nation's last digital-free places. Many of its visitors wouldn't want it any other way.

Vacationers and hikers may choose to visit Hornstrandir, which is Iceland's northernmost peninsula, because it is disconnected from the wired world. Hornstrandir has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines. People go there to connect with nature.

Many summer residents of rugged Hornstrandir have long resisted adding cell towers. But Internet service could soon be making its way to the area, whether it is welcomed or not.

Some companies are working to put thousands of small satellites into orbit around Earth. SpaceX is one. The company gained approval from the U.S. government in November 2018 to send nearly 12,000 satellites into space as part of its Internet-providing plan. The success of such projects would bring high-speed Internet service to every corner of the world. Now, many areas do not have Internet access. Some places have no Internet because of poverty or war. Other places are remote or have very small populations. Bringing Internet to these places would change things. It would bring new opportunities to the local populations. They would be able to communicate more easily with the rest of the world. This could mean new jobs, as well as business and educational opportunities.

The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve does not have Internet access. But it's located in what might be the world's most wired nation. Roughly 98 percent of Iceland's population uses the Internet. Among adults, 93 percent report having Facebook accounts. And two-thirds are Snapchat users, according to a recent poll. But people who visit Hornstrandir have the chance to put their digitally driven lives on hold. And they worry that being able to check e-mail, news, and social media would destroy a simpler way of life.

"We see a growing appreciation for the lack of online connection," said ranger Vesteinn Runarsson. "We want to keep Hornstrandir special in that way."

Many people who live in or visit northwestern Iceland now say they want Hornstrandir to be officially declared a "digital-free zone."

However, not everyone wants to keep Hornstrandir digital-free. Alexander Gudmundsson vacations in Hornstrandir. But in 2018, his teenage daughter refused to come to Hornstrandir in the summer. She didn't want to give up the Internet.

Others maintain that the lack of connectivity in Hornstrandir is more than just inconvenient. It's risky. A hiker might fall and break a leg, for example, and have no way to call for help.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



Photo credit: AP/Egill Bjarnason
Hikers take an early morning trek on the southern part of the Internet-free Hornstrandir Nature Reserve in Iceland.

Dictionary

digital (*adjective*) having to do with computers

disconnect (*verb*) to stop being linked or connected to something

fjord (*noun*) a long, narrow part of the sea between steep cliffs or slopes

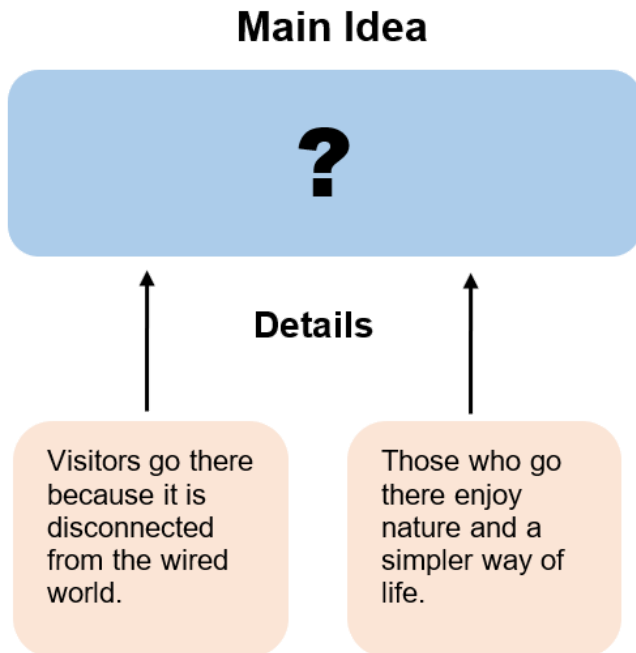
peninsula (*noun*) a piece of land that is almost completely surrounded by water, except for a part that joins to a larger piece of land

remote (*adjective*) far away from other people, houses, cities, and so on

Activity

PART 1

Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The box on the left says "Visitors go there because it is disconnected from the wired world." The box on the right says "Those who go there enjoy nature and a simpler way of life."

- (A) The Homstrandir Nature Reserve is in what might be the world's most wired nation.
- (B) People who spend time in Homstrandir want to keep the remote peninsula digital-free.
- (C) Some people maintain that the lack of connectivity in Homstrandir puts people at risk.
- (D) Companies want to bring the Internet to Homstrandir and other remote places.

Question 2

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

- (A) Because visitors go to Homstrandir to disconnect from the wired world, many people want the peninsula to be officially declared a "digital-free zone."
- (B) Because Iceland may be the most wired nation in the world, many vacationers and hikers are drawn to the country's northernmost peninsula.
- (C) Because cell towers are undependable, some companies are planning to bring high-speed Internet access to more places in the world.
- (D) Because Homstrandir offers views of mountains and coastlines, visitors are surprised when they can't post their pictures to Instagram or Snapchat.

Question 3

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *remote*, as it is used in the Article?

- (A) Nearby
- (B) Removed
- (C) Ordinary
- (D) Unusual

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) The Homstrandir Nature Reserve is Iceland's northernmost peninsula.
- (B) People would be foolish to disconnect from social media for an entire vacation.
- (C) Some vacationers go to Homstrandir to see mountains, cliffs, and fjords.
- (D) Alexander Gudmundsson tried to take his daughter on a vacation to Iceland.

Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that _____.

- (A) Most people who live in remote areas around the world probably do not want satellites to be placed in Earth's orbit.
- (B) Visitors looking for a place to stay in Homstrandir can probably choose from a number of hotels that offer free Wi-Fi.
- (C) Some vacationers will probably still choose to disconnect from the wired world when visiting Homstrandir, even if it gets Internet service.
- (D) Homstrandir Nature Reserve probably has more visitors during the winter than it does during the summer.

Question 6

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) Unwired and connected
- (B) Destroy and preserve
- (C) Resident and visitor
- (D) Resist and refuse

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that Hornstrandir's location makes it a perfect vacation spot for people who like to explore the great outdoors?

- Ⓐ Hornstrandir has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines. People go there to connect with nature.
- Ⓑ Bringing Internet to these places would change things. It would bring new opportunities to the local populations.
- Ⓒ But Internet service could soon be making its way to the area, whether it is welcomed or not.
- Ⓓ The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve does not have Internet access. But it's located in what might be the world's most wired nation.

Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Ranger Vesteinn Runarsson will create a Facebook page for supporters of the plan to bring high-speed Internet to every corner of the world.
- Ⓑ Most people throughout Iceland will decide to disconnect from social media and lead a simpler way of life.
- Ⓒ Those who support Hornstrandir as a "digital-free zone" will take further action to have the peninsula officially declared as such.
- Ⓓ Alexander Gudmundsson's teenage daughter will gladly leave her cell phone at home during the family's next trip to Hornstrandir.

After Reading Poll

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Every place in the world should have Internet service.

Agree

Disagree

Explain why you voted the way you did. Then read and respond to what others have to say.

Sorry, comments are not available at this time. Please try again later.

Thought Question

Should every place in the world have access to the Internet? Why or why not? Support your answer with information from the Article, as well as your own knowledge.

Type your answer in the text box below.

Poll Results

OPINION STATEMENT: **Every place in the world should have Internet service.**

BEFORE READING	AFTER READING
HOW YOU VOTED	
Agree	Agree
Disagree	Disagree

WORLDWIDE RESULTS					
Agree	<input type="text"/>	65%	Agree	<input type="text"/>	48%
Disagree	<input type="text"/>	35%	Disagree	<input type="text"/>	52%

26% changed their opinion after reading the article.

Math

PART 1

Suppose on Wednesday, Erik walks 3.2 kilometers from home to school. From school to soccer practice, he walks 2.8 kilometers. From the soccer field to home, he walks 0.8 kilometers. How far does Erik walk on Wednesday?

- A 48.0 kilometers
- B 7.2 kilometers
- C 6.8 kilometers
- D 38.0 kilometers

Stretch Article

HORNSTRANDIR, Iceland (Achieve3000, December 5, 2018). Forget Wi-Fi! Imagine spending the summer in Iceland, on a remote peninsula that has no Internet. You have no way to post photos of the gorgeous views on social media sites like Instagram or Snapchat. You can't even Google the weather forecast before you plan a day of hiking or scuba diving. You consider calling a friend, but even that would be hard to do. You'd need to walk up a mountain just to get a weak cell signal.

This unwired way of life suits many summer residents of Iceland's Hornstrandir Nature Reserve just fine. It's one of the Nordic nation's last digital-free places. And many of its visitors wouldn't want it any other way.

Vacationers and hikers may choose to visit Hornstrandir, which is Iceland's northernmost peninsula, because it is disconnected from the wired world. Hornstrandir has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines. People go there to connect with nature. Visitors can try wildlife watching, sea kayaking, trail running, and other activities that don't require having a Wi-Fi signal.

Many summer residents of rugged Hornstrandir have long resisted adding cell towers. But Internet service could soon be making its way to the area, whether it is welcomed or not.

It's all because of some commercial initiatives. Companies are racing to put thousands of small satellites into orbit around Earth. This would deliver high-speed Internet service to every corner of the world. Elon Musk's SpaceX, in fact, gained approval from the U.S. government in November 2018 to send nearly 12,000 satellites into space as part of its Internet-providing plan. The success of such projects would have global implications. Some places have no Internet because of poverty or war. In other places, only the wealthy have Internet access. These initiatives would bring Internet to some of these places. This would benefit communities with few people, as well as remote destinations. In many of these places, having Internet service would offer new opportunities to the local populations. They would be able to communicate more easily with the rest of the world, which could mean new jobs, as well as business and educational opportunities.

The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve may not have Internet access, but it's located in what might be the most wired nation in the world. Roughly 98 percent of Iceland's population uses the Internet. Among adults, 93 percent report having Facebook accounts. And two-thirds are Snapchat users, according to a recent poll. But people who visit Hornstrandir don't mind putting their digitally driven lives on hold for a while. And they worry that being able to check e-mail, news, and social media would destroy a simpler way of life.

"We see a growing appreciation for the lack of online connection," said ranger Vesteinn Runarsson. "We want to keep Hornstrandir special in that way."

Many people who live in northwestern Iceland or visit as outdoor enthusiasts now say they want Hornstrandir's 570 square kilometers (220 square miles) to be officially declared a "digital-free zone." But details of the plan haven't been fleshed out. Time will tell if anything can or will change.

However, not everyone wants to keep Hornstrandir digital-free. Alexander Gudmundsson vacations in Hornstrandir. But in 2018, his teenage daughter refused to come to Hornstrandir in the summer. She didn't want to give up the Internet.

Others maintain that the lack of connectivity in Hornstrandir is more than just inconvenient. It's risky. A hiker might fall and break a leg, for example, and have no way to call for help.



Photo credit: AP/Egill Bjarnason
Hikers take an early morning trek on the southern part of the Internet-free Hornstrandir Nature Reserve in Iceland.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

enthusiast (*noun*) a fan or supporter of something

fjord (*noun*) a long, narrow part of the sea between steep cliffs or slopes

implication (*noun*) the far-reaching effect that something will have

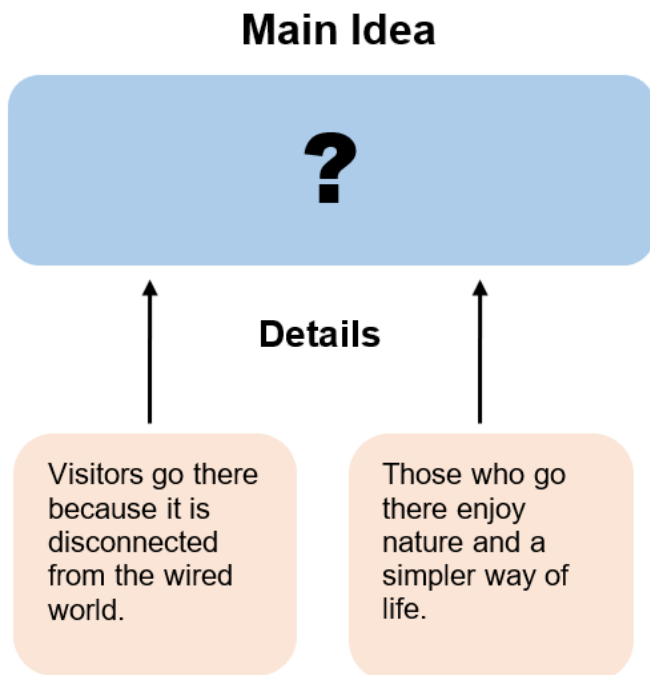
initiative (*noun*) a plan or strategy designed to deal with a particular problem

peninsula (*noun*) a piece of land that is almost completely surrounded by water, except for a part that joins to a larger piece of land

Stretch Activity

PART 1

Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The box on the left says "Visitors go there because it is disconnected from the wired world." The box on the right says "Those who go there enjoy nature and a simpler way of life."

- Ⓐ Hornstrandir is one of Iceland's last digital-free places, and people who spend time there want to keep it that way.
- Ⓑ People visiting Hornstrandir can try wildlife watching, sea kayaking, trail running, and other activities.
- Ⓒ Companies want to bring the Internet to Hornstrandir and other remote destinations around the world.
- Ⓓ As Iceland's northernmost peninsula, Hornstrandir has some gorgeous views that people might want to share online.

Question 2

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

- Ⓐ Because visitors go to Hornstrandir to disconnect from the wired world and enjoy a simpler way of life, many people want the peninsula to be officially declared a "digital-free zone."
- Ⓑ Because cell towers are undependable, companies such as SpaceX are planning to provide high-speed Internet access by placing satellites in Earth's orbit.
- Ⓒ Because Iceland may be the most wired nation in the world, many vacationers are drawn to the country's northernmost peninsula.
- Ⓓ Because Hornstrandir offers beautiful backgrounds of mountains and coastlines, visitors are shocked when they can't post their pictures on Instagram or Snapchat.

Question 3

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *enthusiasts*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Experts
- Ⓑ Opponents
- Ⓒ Inhabitants
- Ⓓ Tourists

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ The benefits of delivering Internet access around the globe, including the employment and educational opportunities this can provide, make it a worthy cause.
- Ⓑ Hornstrandir, a nature reserve in the northern part of Iceland, has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines.
- Ⓒ Elon Musk's SpaceX is one company that is attempting to deliver high-speed Internet service to remote areas of the world.
- Ⓓ A recent poll showed that 93 percent of adults in Iceland have Facebook accounts and two out of three are Snapchat users.

Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that _____.

- Ⓐ SpaceX probably plans to remove all cell towers currently on the ground once its satellites are situated in Earth's orbit.
- Ⓑ Visitors looking for a place to stay in Iceland's Hornstrandir Nature Reserve can probably choose from a variety of hotels offering free Wi-Fi.
- Ⓒ Some vacationers will probably still choose to disconnect from the wired world when enjoying nature in Hornstrandir, even if the destination gets Internet service.
- Ⓓ Elon Musk is probably making plans to relocate to a remote location so that he can disconnect from the digital world.

Question 6

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) Remote and distant
- (B) Destination and area
- (C) Resist and refuse
- (D) Destroy and preserve

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that Hornstrandir's location makes it a prime destination for outdoor enthusiasts?

- (A) It's all because of some commercial initiatives. Companies are racing to put thousands of small satellites into orbit around Earth.
- (B) The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve may not have Internet access, but it's located in what might be the most wired nation in the world.
- (C) Many summer residents of rugged Hornstrandir have long resisted adding cell towers. But Internet service could soon be making its way to the area, whether it is welcomed or not.
- (D) Hornstrandir has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines. People go there to connect with nature.

Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- (A) Ranger Vesteinn Runarsson will create a Facebook page for supporters of the initiative to deliver high-speed Internet service to every corner of the world.
- (B) People who are worried about safety in Hornstrandir will celebrate if the region is officially declared a "digital-free zone."
- (C) Alexander Gudmundsson's teenage daughter will eagerly agree to leave her cell phone at home during the family's next summer vacation to Hornstrandir.
- (D) Those who support Hornstrandir as a "digital-free zone" will take further action to have the peninsula officially declared as such.