

Total English

Upper Intermediate

Volunteering overseas

1 You are going to go on the Internet to investigate Voluntary Services Overseas. Log on to <http://www.vso.org.uk/> and answer questions 1-10.

- 1 How is VSO defined on the home page?
- 2 Click on the link **About VSO** on the left-hand side of the homepage. How many skilled professionals do VSO currently have working overseas, and in how many different countries?
- 3 What is the aim of the volunteers whilst they are working overseas?
- 4 How many volunteers have served in developing countries since the first volunteers in May 1958?
- 5 Now click on **What we do** on the left-hand side of the page. What is VSO's vision?
- 6 What does VSO focus on instead of short term relief of problems?
- 7 Next click on **Volunteering**. What age do you need to be to qualify for a volunteer job?
- 8 Click on **Volunteer Jobs**. How long does a volunteer usually live in the local community?
- 9 Does VSO cover volunteer's flights to and from their destination as well as accommodation when they arrive?
- 10 How about when a volunteer returns to their native country - does VSO remain in contact?

2 Now navigate around the website yourself and find four interesting facts. Write them in spaces below.

1 _____ 3 _____
2 _____ 4 _____

3 Once again navigate around the website and this time, find six new words. Check them in your monolingual dictionary.

1 _____ 3 _____ 5 _____
2 _____ 4 _____ 6 _____

4 Compare your words in pairs and write a short paragraph using the new words.

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TEACHER'S NOTES:

Aim: to explore the theme of work further by using the Internet for information. This webquest is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 2.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student

- 1 Tell students they are going to go on the internet to find out more about a voluntary charity organisation called VSO. Ask class if anyone has heard of this charity or knows what VSO stands for. Then get students to type in the website and check they are all on the correct website address. Get students to work through questions either independently or in pairs. Monitor to check they are going in the right direction and give help if necessary. Elicit answers from students.

Answers: (correct at the time of going to press) 1 VSO is an international development charity that works through volunteers. VSO = Voluntary Services Overseas. 2 They currently have 2,000 professionals working in forty different countries. 3 To pass on their skills and expertise to the local people so that when they return home, the local people have learnt their skills. 4 Over 30,000 volunteers have served in over seventy countries. 5 A world without poverty in which people work together to fulfill their potential. 6 sustainable development through teaching people new skills and expertise 7 between twenty and seventy-five 8 two years 9 yes, accommodation and flights paid for 10 Yes, VSO gives support, grants and advice to help volunteers settle in once they return home.

- 2 After navigating around a fair amount of the website with the above questions, students now can either navigate back to something of interest or go on to search the website for information of interest. They write down four facts about what they find. Elicit students' answers and encourage peer correction.
- 3 Students note down six new words from the website and check them in their monolingual dictionary. Students swap with their partner and note down each other's to increase their list of new words. In pairs, ask students to write a short paragraph using the twelve words to check they can use the words in context. Get feedback by asking each pair to read their paragraph to the rest of the class at the end.