

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## The Best Vacation Ever

Winter break was fast approaching, and all Scott wanted to do was go snowboarding. Unfortunately, Scott's parents had different plans. They had booked a weeklong tropical cruise. Scott hated warm weather and asked if he could just stay at his best friend's house so he could snowboard every day with his buddies at the local mountain. His parents didn't want to hear anything of it. He kept debating them about the topic, but they would not change their minds. Family time was important to them, and it was tradition that they spend winter break together.

The week of the cruise arrived, and Scott continued to mumble his complaints as he and his family left their house to head south. Scott's dad told him that he would only make the vacation worse for himself if he didn't change his attitude and open his mind to a new experience. Scott still couldn't stop thinking about all of the snow he was leaving behind.

When they arrived at the port to board the ship, Scott had a hard time admitting that he was actually impressed with the size of the ship. He had seen the brochures but seeing the ship in person was a whole different animal. Then he remembered that the brochure said something about a surfing pool. Maybe surfing would be somewhat like snowboarding. After all, it involved riding a board.



Scott climbed aboard the ship with his parents, and then they walked around to check everything out. He couldn't believe how extravagant the accommodations were. The dining room looked like a royal hall; the game room had all of his favorite games and then some; the ship's deck had several different swimming pools for different purposes. Then Scott saw the surfing pool. It was incredible. It wasn't a big pool, but it had big waves, and the girl who was demonstrating how to ride the waves made it look like a ton of fun.

## Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

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Scott asked his parents if he could go put his swim shorts on so that he could try surfing. They said, "Of course." They wanted to put their swim suits on as well, and, much to Scott's surprise, they wanted to try surfing too.

When Scott and his parents had their swim suits on, they headed back to the surfing pool. There was a line, but it wasn't too long. Scott's dad went first and only lasted about five seconds before he wiped out. Then it was his mom's turn. She actually made it longer than his dad did. When it was Scott's turn, he was excited and nervous. He hopped on the board and took a stance similar to his snowboarding stance. Then the waves started. It felt similar to snowboarding but different at the same time. On his first ride, Scott rode for almost 30 seconds before wiping out. He was hooked though.

A lot of the passengers tried surfing the first day of the cruise, but only eight people or so really took to it, so for the remainder of the cruise the lines weren't very long, and Scott got to know the regulars quite well.

By the time the weeklong cruise was over, Scott had new friends he planned to keep in touch with, a new hobby, and great memories. He apologized to his parents for initial moaning and groaning, and told them it was his best vacation ever.



**Questions:**

1. Based on the context, what type of climate is considered tropical?

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2. What do you think the word "*tradition*" means?

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3. The phrase "*a whole different animal*" is an informal way of saying what?

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4. Why do you think Scott was surprised that his parents wanted to try surfing?

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5. Based on the context, what do you think the word "*extravagant*" means?

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6. Why would Scott have wanted to apologize to his parents?

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**Answers:**

1. Based on the context, what type of climate is considered tropical?  
Based on the context of the story, the tropical climate is warm.
2. What do you think the word “*tradition*” means?  
Tradition means it's something the family does together regularly. In this case they spend winter break together every year.
3. The phrase “*a whole different animal*” is an informal way of saying what?  
A whole different animal means completely different.
4. Why do you think Scott was surprised that his parents wanted to try surfing?  
Answers will vary.
5. Based on the context, what do you think the word “*extravagant*” means?  
Extravagant means very fancy and very expensive.
6. Why would Scott have wanted to apologize to his parents?  
Answers will vary, but one appropriate answer is he's want to apologize because he was rude about wanting to not go on a vacation they had spent time, effort and money on booking for the family.