

Wi-Fi Not Wanted (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Egill Bjarnason

Hikers take an early morning trek on the southern part of the Internet-free Hornstrandir Nature Reserve in Iceland.

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 cell signal so weak that it could be blocked by clouds.

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. But with its mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines, Hornstrandir has plenty of ways to connect with nature instead. Visitors can try wildlife watching, sea kayaking, trail running, and other activities that don't require having a Wi-Fi signal on an electronic device.

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 deliver high-speed Internet service to every corner of the world by putting thousands of small satellites into orbit around Earth. 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. Internet communication would be brought to places that are off the grid because of poverty or war, as well as places where Internet access is reserved for the wealthy. The initiatives would also benefit sparsely populated communities and remote destinations in the vast Arctic region, where Internet service is often prohibitively expensive. In many of these places, having Internet service would offer new opportunities to the local populations. Easier communication with the rest of the world 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. Iceland ranks first on a United Nations index comparing nations by information technology use. 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, who patrols the peninsula's southern end. "Looking to the future, 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." The details of the plan haven't been fleshed out, and time will tell if anything can or will be implemented.

However, not everyone wants to keep Hornstrandir digital-free. Alexander Gudmundsson, who vacations in Hornstrandir, doesn't have to look far down the family tree to find someone who probably wouldn't mind having Wi-Fi access on the peninsula. Gudmundsson's teenage daughter refused to come to Hornstrandir in the summer of 2018 because it would have meant giving 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.

Dictionary

<p>implication (<i>noun</i>) the far-reaching effect that something will have</p> <p>initiative (<i>noun</i>) a plan or strategy designed to deal with a particular problem</p> <p>prohibitively (<i>adverb</i>) in a way that prevents something from happening</p>

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

The best alternate headline for this Article would be _____.

- (A) Teen Refuses to Give Up Wi-Fi, Forfeits Family Vacation in Nature Reserve
- (B) Visitors Want Peninsula to Remain Connected to Nature, Not the Internet
- (C) Remote Areas of Iceland Offer Outdoor Adventures and Beautiful Scenery
- (D) SpaceX Makes Plans to Deliver High-Speed Internet Around the World

Question 2

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

- (A) Because Hornstrandir offers beautiful scenic backgrounds of mountains, cliffs, and coastlines, visitors are shocked when they can't post their pictures on Instagram or Snapchat.
- (B) 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."
- (C) Because Iceland may be the most wired nation in the world, many vacationers and hikers are drawn to the country's northernmost peninsula.
- (D) Because cell towers are unreliable, companies such as SpaceX are racing to offer high-speed Internet access by placing satellites in Earth's orbit.

Question 3

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

- (A) Drastically
- (B) Initially
- (C) Ultimately
- (D) Minimally

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) Elon Musk's SpaceX is one company that is attempting to deliver high-speed Internet service to remote areas of the world.
- (B) Hornstrandir, a nature reserve in the northern part of Iceland, has mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines.
- (C) The benefits of delivering Internet access around the globe, including the employment and educational opportunities this can provide, make it a worthy cause.
- (D) 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 infer that _____.

- (A) Some vacationers will probably still choose to disconnect from the wired world when enjoying nature in Hornstrandir, even if the destination gets Internet service.
- (B) 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.
- (C) SpaceX probably plans to remove all cell towers currently on the ground once its satellites are situated in Earth's orbit.
- (D) Elon Musk is probably making plans to relocate to a remote location so that he can disconnect from the digital world.

Question 6

The Article states:

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." The details of the plan haven't been fleshed out, and time will tell if anything can or will be *implemented*.

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *implemented*, as it is used above?

- (A) Encountered
- (B) Evaded
- (C) Eliminated
- (D) Enacted

Question 7

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

- (A) 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.
- (B) It's all because of some commercial initiatives. Companies are racing to deliver high-speed Internet service to every corner of the world by putting thousands of small satellites into orbit around Earth.
- (C) Vacationers and hikers may choose to visit Hornstrandir, which is Iceland's northernmost peninsula, because it is disconnected from the wired world. But with its mountains, cliffs, fjords, and coastlines, Hornstrandir has plenty of ways to connect with nature instead.
- (D) The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve may not have Internet access, but it's located in what might be the most wired nation in the world. Iceland ranks first on a United Nations index comparing nations by information technology use.

Question 8

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

- (A) People who are worried about safety in Hornstrandir will celebrate if the region is officially declared a "digital-free zone."
- (B) 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.
- (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.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

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

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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