

EXAMPLE:

A: What does a screw-top bottle contain?

B: It contains a small notebook and a unique rubber stamp. What are hidden throughout the wild country of Dartmoor National Park?

A: Thousands of letterboxes are hidden throughout the wild country of Dartmoor National Park.

THEY LIVE AND BREATHE LETTERBOXING

A letterbox is a plastic, screw-top bottle that contains _____.

Thousands of letterboxes are hidden throughout the wild country of Dartmoor National Park in southwestern England. Letterboxing is a sort of combination of _____

that consists of using maps, clues, and compasses to find the hidden containers. Once a box is located, the finder inks the stamp from the box and presses it into his notebook, then inks his personal stamp and presses that into the notebook kept in the box. The stamp copy he takes home is _____. Many letterboxers have collected hundreds of stamp copies, which they enjoy reviewing at their leisure.

Letterboxing gives enthusiasts an excellent excuse for spending long days _____. The great challenge is to interpret the complicated clues to the whereabouts of each box. The clues are given on _____, available from letterboxers (all of the boxes hidden in Dartmoor have been put out over the years by letterboxers themselves) and an organization that publishes a clue catalogue.

Letterboxers trace their hobby back to 1854, when _____ put his calling card in a bottle and stuck the bottle into a bank at Cranmere Pool, in a remote part of Dartmoor. Who could have foreseen that from such a modest beginning would emerge an elaborate pastime that has become almost a way of life for many of its aficionados?

Source: Chris Granstrom, "They Live and Breathe Letterboxing." Originally appeared in *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 1998. Reprinted by permission of the author.