Kid Ambassadors

Aspen Wilson, 10, and Thorin Bell, 10, of Leavenworth, Washington are a little too young to walk the halls of the United Nations. But they aren’t too young to learn about becoming ambassadors. An ambassador is a person who represents his or her government in another country.

The two boys were accepted to the People to People Student Ambassador Programs. They will travel to the United Kingdom for two weeks. Thorin and Aspen will visit England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

While in England, they plan to see a Shakespeare play and ride the huge London Eye Ferris wheel, which opened in 1999. They also will visit Oxford University, one of the oldest universities in the world.

"I hope to come back with the knowledge of how people live in other parts of the world," Thorin told Weekly Reader. He is looking forward to meeting new people and trying new foods in his first trip abroad.

The goal of the student ambassador program is to help young people gain a better sense of what it means to be a good neighbor and a global citizen. Since the program was started in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, thousands of U.S. kids and teens have represented their country overseas.

1 United Nations: building where political people from many different countries meet to discuss issues
“Kid Ambassadors” Questions

1. Which trait below is not necessary in becoming an ambassador?
   a. They should like to travel.
   b. They should like to try new things.
   c. They should enjoy riding ferris wheels.
   d. They should enjoy meeting new people.

2. An ambassador has to be
   a. an adult.
   b. a parent.
   c. a government official.
   d. responsible.

3. The goal of the Student Ambassador Program is
   a. to send students to other countries.
   b. to teach students how to be good neighbors.
   c. to teach students to be global citizens.
   d. all of the above.

4. The Student Ambassador Program was started by
   a. George Bush.
   b. Franklin Roosevelt.
   c. Dwight Eisenhower.

5. How would you describe Thorin based on the information given in the article? Explain.

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   a. an adult.
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   a. to send students to other countries.
   b. to teach how to be a good neighbor.
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   d. all of the above.

EI  4. The Student Ambassador Program was started by
   a. George Bush.
   b. Franklin Roosevelt.
   c. Dwight Eisenhower.

C  5. How would you describe Thorin based on the information given in the
   article? Explain.

   Answers will vary, but may include that Thorin is 10 years old, lives in
   Leavenworth, Washington, is adventurous, and looks forward to
   meeting new people and trying new things.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: overseas, global citizen