1. In paragraph 1, how does the writer help the reader get a clearer idea of what the land looks like from above?
2. In paragraph 2
3. How does the writer suggest a sense of remoteness and isolation?
4. What other adjective(s) could be used to describe the country? Can you give evidence from the text to support your choice(s)?
5. In the first two paragraphs, list all the words associated with a mountain landscape. What is the effect of this?
6. What is the effect of writing this memoir in
7. the present tense?
8. the first person?
9. Which phrases are used in paragraphs 2 and 3 to give the narrative part of the memoir a chronological structure?
10. In paragraph 3, the writer reveals differences between her and the other two Canadian teachers. What are they?
11. Which is the odd one out? Why?

* English news on the radio
* traffic lights
* a movie poster (Rambo)
* denim jeans
* Willie Nelson (country and western) songs

1. This text mixes information (on history, geography, and Bhutanese life) with narrative (the author’s ‘story’) and comment (the writer’s opinions and reflections on her experiences).

For each quotation, say which category it falls into:

* historical information
* geographical information
* Bhutanese life
* narrative
* opinion.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quotation | Category |
| a frozen desert 45,000 metres above sea level |  |
| the next morning I share breakfast |  |
| Tibetan immigrants settled in Bhutan sometime before the tenth century |  |
| men and women wear their hair short |  |
| I find I agree |  |

Find at least one more example of each type of writing in the text.

1. Underline the adjectives in paragraphs 4, 7 and 8 that are used to describe Bhutanese people. Make a list of those that reveal something about the writer’s opinion. Are her opinions positive or negative?
2. List some of the things that the writer has negative feelings about, or that make a bad impression on her.
3. Look closely at the last sentence of the text. What is the effect on the reader of the writer’s feelings? What is the effect of having this as the ‘final word’ on the subject?