

Bhutan

WORKSHEET A

Have you ever heard of a country called Bhutan? Could you find it on a map of the world? For many people, the answer to both questions would be “no”.

But Bhutan certainly _____, and you will be sure to find it on the map _____ northeast India and China.

The fact that Bhutan is not well known is partly due to its _____: it is only as big _____ Switzerland, and therefore tiny in comparison with its neighbours. Its population is much _____ than Switzerland’s, though – only around 700,000. The country does not have any famous celebrities, and fortunately it has not been in the news due to any wars or natural _____ in recent years.

However, there is also another reason for Bhutan’s low profile. Its government is very keen to preserve the country’s traditional Buddhist _____, and for a long time it limited Bhutan’s contact with the outside world. Until quite recently, for example, the government only _____ a few hundred foreign tourists to enter the country every year. Even now, foreign tourists still can’t travel around the country independently: they either have to be part of an organized group on a package tour, or they have to go everywhere with a local _____.

An _____ fact about Bhutan is that it did not have a television service until 1999 (although people were able to watch videos). The internet arrived in the same year.

Most people who visit Bhutan want to learn more about Buddhism or to go hiking in the Himalayan Mountains that cover most of the country.

In many ways Bhutan _____ and feels very different from other countries in the world, and that’s why visitors usually find it so interesting. Most Bhutanese people live in the countryside, not in towns, and work in agriculture rather than industry. The national sport isn’t football, rugby or basketball – it’s archery. And the capital city, Thimphu, is the _____ one in the world where you won’t find any traffic lights!

Bhutan

WORKSHEET B

A

Fill the twelve gaps in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the box below. There are four words that you will not be able to use.

culture	guide	looks	exists
mountain	Buddhists	size	idea
as	between	smaller	disasters
amazing	animal	allowed	only

B

The eight answers below are to questions about the text on Worksheet A. Can you write the questions?

1. _____

Answer: It's archery.

2. _____

Answer: No, it's the only capital city in the world that doesn't have any.

3. _____

Answer: Between northeast India and China.

4. _____

Answer: In 1999 – the same year that the country got its first television service.

5. _____

Answer: They can learn about Buddhism and go hiking in the Himalayan Mountains.

6. _____

Answer: In the countryside.

7. _____

Answer: No, they have to travel with an organized package tour or a local guide.

8. _____

Answer: It's the same size as Switzerland.