

e-lesson

Week starting: January 25, 2010

1. Countries challenge!

This week's lesson has a geographical theme, comprising information about various different countries.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above).

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students to describe any foreign countries they have visited, and/or to say what countries they would like to visit in the future. If they were able to have, say, a six-month, all-expenses-paid trip around the world, where would they go, what would they like to do, and why?
2. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet A. Give the students at least five minutes to read the information and, through discussion with their partners, try to match countries in the box to the twelve descriptions. Make sure the students understand that four of the sixteen countries in the box are not described. (As a preliminary exercise, you could perhaps fold the worksheets so that the box at the bottom is hidden, and see if the students know any of the countries that are being described before unfolding the paper and seeing the names of the possible countries.)
3. Check answers in open class. (When going through the answers, you could also provide a little extra information so as to aid the students' understanding of how the countries match the descriptions – see below.)
4. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask the students to complete the crossword, which is based on the correct answers to Exercise 1.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheet A or to hand them back to you temporarily. Keeping them in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and give them at least another five minutes to find and correct the mistakes. Each description contains two mistakes. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, that most corrections only require the students to change a word, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
7. Check answers in open class.

Answers

Exercise 1

1. India 2. China 3. Turkey (The city mentioned is Istanbul, part of which is in Europe and part in Asia. The capital of Turkey is Ankara.) 4. Australia 5. New Zealand (The New Zealand soccer team is widely regarded as one of the weakest to have qualified for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™; its rugby team is widely regarded as the best in the world.) 6. Bolivia (Its capital city, the highest in the world, is La Paz, in the Andes mountains.) 7. Indonesia 8. United Arab Emirates. (The tallest building in the world, at over 800 meters, is the Burj Dubai tower in Dubai, one of the seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates. It was officially inaugurated in the first week of January 2010.) 9. Norway (The proficiency in English shown by Norwegians, and indeed by Scandinavians in general, is well known.) 10. Angola (Angola is in the south of Africa, which is generally considered the world's second-biggest continent after Asia. The Americas cover a greater total area than Africa, but are conventionally divided into North and South, which are both smaller than Africa. The country from which Angola became independent in 1975 is Portugal.) 11. United States (The largest of its fifty states is Alaska, which doesn't share a border with any other state.) 12. Kazakhstan (The world's largest continent is Asia.)
Countries not described: Pakistan, Sweden, Egypt, Brazil

Exercise 2

1. population 2. snakes 3. hemisphere 4. rugby 5. Africa 6. Indonesia 7. oceans 8. won
9. biggest 10. Turkey 11. Asia 12. rain 13. smaller 14. China
If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Papua New Guinea* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 3

1. India is the second most **populous** country in the world. Its population is smaller than China's but more than three times **bigger** than that of the United States.
2. China's **athletes** won the highest number of gold **medals** at the 2008 Olympic Games.
3. Turkey **contains** the only city in the world that is built on two different continents. (The city is not the country's capital, but receives more foreign tourists than the capital.) The country's **flag** is mostly red, and so are the shirts of its national soccer team.
4. As well as having many species of animal that do not live anywhere else in the world, Australia has a lot of dangerous animals, **including** crocodiles, **snakes**, and poisonous snakes and spiders.
5. New Zealand's capital city is further south than any other in the world. Its soccer team has **qualified** for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, but few people expect it to win any games. (This would be different, however, if it were the **Rugby** World Cup.)
6. Bolivia is **landlocked** and has the highest capital city in the world. It used to be part of the Spanish **Empire**.
7. Indonesia consists **of** more than 15,000 islands, lies on the **equator**, and has a higher number of active volcanoes than any other country in the world.
8. The United Arab Emirates is a hot, dry country with lots of **desert**. It has the world's tallest building, **officially** opened in January 2010.
9. Norway has fewer than five **million** people, but it is not very small. Although English is not the first language, most people here speak it very **well**.
10. Angola is in **the** south of the world's second-largest continent. It became **independent** in 1975 and its official language is Portuguese.

11. The United States consists of fifty states. The largest, **whose** name begins with “A,” does not have a **border** with any of the other forty-nine.

12. Kazakhstan is **the** world’s ninth-largest country, in the world’s largest continent. It has borders with five **other** countries, including Russia and China.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/>

The official website of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>

One of numerous online world atlases. Generally intermediate level and above, but some sections are accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

The website of *National Geographic* magazine. Intermediate level and above.