

Two countries

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 (1) _____, and you will be sure to find it on the map (2) _____ north-east India and China.

The fact that Bhutan is not well known is partly due to its (3) _____: it is only as big (4) _____ Switzerland, and therefore tiny in comparison with its neighbors. Its population is much (5) _____ 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 (6) _____ 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 (7) _____, and for a long time it limited Bhutan’s contact with the outside world. Until quite recently, for example, the government only (8) _____ 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 (9) _____.

An (10) _____ 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 (11) _____ and feels very different to 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, soccer, or basketball – it’s archery. And the capital city, Thimphu, is the (12) _____ one in the world where you won’t find any traffic lights.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Fill in the twelve blanks 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

Exercise 2

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 north-east 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.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Read one fact from the list out loud, then cross it off and pass the sheet to another member of your team.

Team A

- It was the first country in its continent to accept women into career ranks in the armed forces.
- This country has 4,105 airports.
- The two most popular religions are Roman Catholic and Protestant.
- It borders all but two countries in its continent.
- The country's name comes from a type of wood whose red dye was highly valued in Europe.
- In 1549, King João III of Portugal made the country a royal colony.
- There is a popular event held each year before Lent whose name probably comes from a translation of "goodbye to meat" (*carne vale*).

Team B

- All men must serve in the military for nine months to one year.
- There are over 42 million telephone lines and 202 million mobile phone lines.
- The country's population is 169,872,855.
- Since the sixteenth century, this country has been valued for its resources: first for gold, then rubber, then coffee.
- Over a third of the country's land is covered by rainforest.
- The original capital city was Salvador.
- The country declared independence on September 7, 1822.