

1. Two countries

This week's lesson features two countries whose names in English both begin with the letter *B* and have six letters. The first is *Bhutan*, and the second is a mystery to be revealed in Exercise 3.

Level

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

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Bhutan. (If your students have not heard of this country, you could ask what they know about the Himalayas or the region between China and India.)
2. Give each student a copy of Worksheet A. Divide them into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read through the text. Tell them they are going to have to fill in the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps encourage them to guess what those words might be and write them in pencil, but not pen yet.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the pairs another five to ten minutes to fill in the gaps on Worksheet A, using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that there is only one possible word for each gap, and that there are sixteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning that four of the words will not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to work with a different partner to complete Exercise 2 on Worksheet B, in which they have to formulate the questions about the text that would produce the eight answers given. Note that it is possible for there to be slight variations for each question.
6. Check questions in open class. Accept any question that is grammatically correct and could logically produce the given answer.
7. Cut one copy of Worksheet C in half. Split the class into two teams and give each team one half. Tell them they are going to hear some facts about a different country, and that the first team to guess it correctly wins. Teams take it in turns to read out the first bullet point from their list (move the activity along quickly so they do not have time to read the other facts and gain an advantage!) and allow the other team to guess the country, if they wish. If the other team does not feel confident enough to guess yet, the person who read the fact crosses off the item they announced and passes the sheet to a teammate. Before you begin, make sure teams understand that they only get one guess at the country – if they guess too early and are incorrect, they lose! If neither team can guess correctly after hearing all of the facts, you can give them the hints at the top of this page.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. exists 2. between 3. size 4. as 5. smaller 6. disasters
7. culture 8. allowed 9. guide 10. amazing 11. looks 12. only

Words that are not used: mountain, Buddhists, animal, idea

Exercise 2

1. What is the national sport of Bhutan? / What is Bhutan's national sport?
2. Are there any traffic lights in Thimphu? / Does Thimphu have traffic lights?
3. Where is Bhutan?
4. When did the internet arrive in Bhutan? / When did Bhutan get the internet?
5. What can (foreign) tourists/visitors do in Bhutan?
6. Where do most Bhutanese people live?
7. Can tourists/visitors travel in/around Bhutan independently?
8. How big is Bhutan?

Exercise 3

Brazil

2. Related websites

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

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

Official website of the Bhutan Tourism Corporation, containing interesting facts and photos as well as conveying a sense of the government's ambivalence towards tourism. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bt.html>

Facts about Bhutan from the US government's Central Intelligence Agency website. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/brazil-guide/>

A guide to Brazil from *National Geographic*, with photos, facts, map and a video (good for practising oral comprehension). Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.