

14 The biggest and the best!

1 WORD POWER Geography

A Label the picture with words from the list. Then compare with a partner.

- a. beach
- b. desert
- c. forest
- d. hill
- e. island
- f. lake
- g. mountain
- h. ocean
- i. river
- j. valley
- k. volcano
- l. waterfall



B Pair work What other geography words can you think of? Do you see any of them in the picture above?

C Group work Try to think of famous examples for each item in part A.

A: A famous beach is Waikiki in Hawaii.

B: And the Sahara is a famous . . .

2 CONVERSATION Which is larger?

A Listen and practice.

Mike: Here's a geography quiz in the paper.
 Wendy: Oh, I love geography. Ask me the questions.
 Mike: Sure, first question. Which country is larger, China or Canada?
 Wendy: I know. Canada is larger than China.
 Mike: OK, next. What's the longest river in the Americas?
 Wendy: Hmm, I think it's the Mississippi.
 Mike: Here's a hard one. Which country is more crowded, Monaco or Singapore?
 Wendy: I'm not sure. I think Monaco is more crowded.
 Mike: OK, one more. Which South American capital city is the highest: La Paz, Quito, or Bogotá?
 Wendy: Oh, that's easy. Bogotá is the highest.



B Listen to the rest of the conversation.
 How many questions did Wendy get right?

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Comparisons with adjectives

Which country is **larger**, Canada or China?
 Canada is **larger than** China.

Which city has **the largest** population:
 Tokyo, Mexico City, or São Paulo?
 Tokyo has **the largest** population of the three.

What is **the most beautiful** mountain in the world?
 I think Mount Fuji is **the most beautiful**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
long	longer	the longest
dry	drier	the driest
big	bigger	the biggest
famous	more famous	the most famous
beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst

For more information on comparatives and superlatives, see the appendix at the back of the book.

A Complete questions 1 to 4 with comparatives and questions 5 to 8 with superlatives. Then ask and answer the questions.

- Which country is , Monaco or Vatican City? (small)
- Which waterfall is , Niagara Falls or Angel Falls? (high)
- Which city is , Hong Kong or Cairo? (crowded)
- Which lake is , the Caspian Sea or Lake Superior? (large)
- Which is : Mount Aconcagua, Mount Everest, or Mount Fuji? (high)
- What is river in the world, the Nile or the Amazon? (long)
- Which city is : Tokyo, Moscow, or Hong Kong? (expensive)
- What is ocean in the world, the Pacific or the Atlantic? (deep)

B Class activity Write four questions like those in part A about your country or other countries. Then ask your questions around the class.

4

PRONUNCIATION Questions of choice

▶ Listen to the intonation in questions of choice. Then practice the questions in part A of Exercise 3 again.

Which city is bigger, Bangkok or Beirut?

Which country is the most interesting: Korea, Brazil, or Greece?

5

SPEAKING Our recommendations

Group work Imagine these people are planning to visit your country. What would they enjoy doing? Agree on a recommendation for each person.

Molly



"I really like quiet places where I can relax, hike, and enjoy the views. I can't stand big crowds."

Rod



"I love to eat in nice restaurants, go dancing, and stay out late at night. I don't like small towns."

Teresa



"My favorite activity is shopping. I love to buy gifts to take home. I don't like modern shopping malls."

- A: Molly should go to . . . because it has the best views in the country, and it's very quiet.
 B: Or what about . . . ? I think the views there are more beautiful.
 C: She also likes to hike, so . . .

6

LISTENING Game show

▶ Three people are on a TV game show. Listen and check (✓) the correct answers.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> the Statue of Liberty | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> gold | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> India |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Eiffel Tower | <input type="checkbox"/> butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Russia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Panama Canal | <input type="checkbox"/> feathers | <input type="checkbox"/> China |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Taipei 101 | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> the U.S. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Australia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Jin Mao Building | <input type="checkbox"/> China | <input type="checkbox"/> Argentina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the Petronas Towers | <input type="checkbox"/> Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> Brazil |

7 INTERCHANGE 14 How much do you know?

You probably know more than you think you do! Take a quiz.
Go to Interchange 14.

8 SNAPSHOT

TEST YOUR WORLD KNOWLEDGE

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> France is the most popular country to visit. It has about 76 million visitors a year. | <input type="checkbox"/> The longest nonstop flight is from New York to Singapore. It's 18 hours long. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> China has the greatest number of stores in the world. There are over 19 million stores. | <input type="checkbox"/> The busiest airport in the world is London Heathrow, with over 55 million passengers a year. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Baikal in Russia is the deepest lake on earth. It's 1,637 meters (5,371 feet) deep. | <input type="checkbox"/> Canada has the longest coastline of any country on earth. It's 243,792 kilometers (151,485 miles) long. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tokyo Disneyland is the world's most popular amusement park. It has over 25 million visitors a year. | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Island is the world's most isolated island. It's about 3,700 kilometers (2,300 miles) from the South American continent. |

All the facts are true.

Source: *The Top 10 of Everything*

Check (✓) the facts that you think are true. Then check your answers at the bottom of the Snapshot.

What is the largest city in your country? the most popular city to visit? the busiest airport?

9 CONVERSATION Distances and measurements

A Listen and practice.

Scott: I'm going to Australia next year. Aren't you from Australia, Beth?

Beth: Actually, I'm from New Zealand.

Scott: Oh, I didn't know that. So what's it like there?

Beth: Oh, it's beautiful. It has lots of farms, and it's very mountainous.

Scott: Really? How high are the mountains?

Beth: Well, the highest one is Mount Cook. It's about 3,800 meters high.

Scott: Hmm. How far is New Zealand from Australia?

Beth: Well, I live in Auckland, and Auckland is about 2,000 kilometers from Sydney.

Scott: Well maybe I should visit you next year, too!

B Listen to the rest of the conversation.
What else is New Zealand famous for?

Mount Cook



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10 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Questions with how

How far is New Zealand from Australia?	It's about 2,000 kilometers.	(1,200 miles)
How big is Singapore?	It's 648 square kilometers.	(250 square miles)
How high is Mount Cook?	It's 3,740 meters high .	(12,250 feet)
How deep is the Grand Canyon?	It's about 1,900 meters deep .	(6,250 feet)
How long is the Mississippi River?	It's about 5,970 kilometers long .	(3,710 miles)
How hot is Auckland in the summer?	It gets up to about 23° Celsius.	(74° Fahrenheit)
How cold is it in the winter?	It goes down to about 10° Celsius.	(50° Fahrenheit)

A Write the questions to these answers. Then practice with a partner.

1. A:?
B: Angel Falls is 979 meters (3,212 feet) high.
2. A:?
B: California is about 403,970 square kilometers (155,973 square miles).
3. A:?
B: The Nile is 6,670 kilometers (4,145 miles) long.
4. A:?
B: Washington, D.C., gets up to about 32° Celsius (90° Fahrenheit) in the summer.

B Group work Think of five questions with *how* about places in your country or other countries you know. Ask and answer your questions in groups.

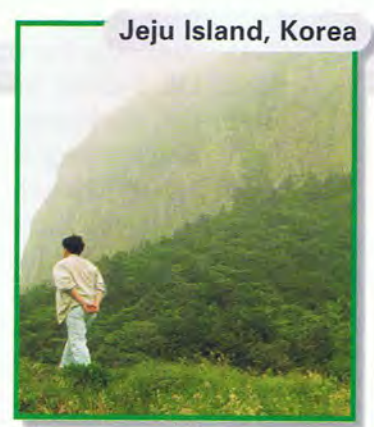
11 WRITING An article

A Write an article for a country's Web site. Include general information about the country and recommend the best places to visit.



Korea's Best Kept Secret

Korea is one of the most interesting countries in the world. There is a fascinating mix of both ancient and modern in this small northeast Asian country. It's famous for its beautiful landscape, rich culture, and delicious food. One of the most popular places to visit is Jeju Island, located off the southern coast. This unique island is . . .



B Pair work Read your partner's article. Ask questions to get more information. Does the article make you want to visit that country?

Things You Can Do to Help the Environment

Look at the pictures. Which show environmental problems? Which show solutions?



CARS

Cars are getting bigger. SUVs – large, truck-like vehicles – are now the most popular new cars in the United States. Bigger vehicles burn more gas and increase problems with acid rain and air pollution. So try to walk, bicycle, or use public transportation. And if you drive a car, keep it tuned up. This can save gas and reduce pollution.



ENERGY

The biggest use of home energy is for heating and cooling. So turn up your air conditioner and turn down the heat, especially at night. Replace regular light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, which use less energy. And remember to turn lights off.



PRODUCTS

Each American throws away an average of 10 kilograms (4.5 pounds) of trash every day. Most of that trash goes into landfills. Reduce waste before you buy by asking yourself: Do I need the item? Is it something I can only use once? Buy products that you can use over and over again. If you use disposable products, choose those made from recycled materials.



WATER

Showers use a lot of water. In one week, a typical American family uses as much water as a person drinks in three years! Buy a special “low-flow” showerhead or take shorter showers. This can cut water use in half. Also, fix any leaky faucets.



A Read the article. Where do you think it is from? Check (✓) the correct answer.

- a textbook an encyclopedia a magazine an advertisement

B Read these statements. Then write the advice from the article that each person should follow.

1. Stephanie always takes long showers in the morning.
2. In the winter, Ralph keeps the heat turned up all day.
3. Matt buys a newspaper every day, but never reads it.
4. Stuart drives to work, but his office is near his home.
5. Sheila leaves the lights on at home all the time.

C Group work What other ways do you know about to help the environment?