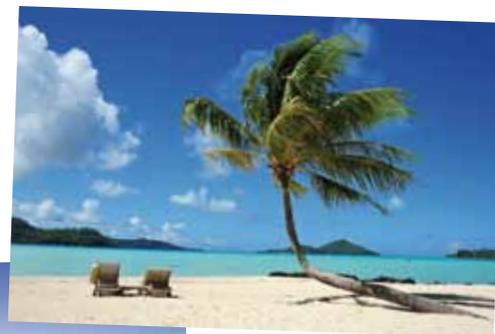


# Geography: Islands

## Before you read

1 Find these words in the text. Translate them.

- 1 piece \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 surround \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 moist \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 uninhabited \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 stick out \_\_\_\_\_



## Reading

2 Write the missing headings for each paragraph. The first is done for you.

- The British Isles   Tropical islands   Oceanic islands   Islands  
 Continental islands   Desert islands



**A** Islands

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water. We call a group of islands an archipelago. The Aegean islands are an archipelago. Countries like Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are also archipelagos. Australia, a country and a continent, is also the world's biggest island; it has an area of 7.6 million km<sup>2</sup>. Greenland is another big island, with an area of 2.1 million km<sup>2</sup>. There are two types of islands: continental islands and oceanic islands.

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

These islands lie on the continental shelf of a continent. Examples include Barbados and Trinidad off South America; Great Britain, Ireland and Sicily, off Europe.

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

These islands are not part of continental shelves. The majority are volcanic. Iceland, the world's second largest volcanic island, is in the Atlantic. Other examples include the Mariana Islands and the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

**D** \_\_\_\_\_

These islands have a tropical climate; this means it is warm or hot and moist all year and there is often lush vegetation. There are about

45,000 tropical islands in the world. Examples of tropical islands are the Maldives, Polynesia, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Hawaii. Tropical islands are often very popular with tourists because of the hot weather, beautiful beaches, plants and flowers.

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

These are islands with no people. Many small, tropical islands are also desert islands. Some uninhabited islands are nature reserves or they are the private property of very rich people. There are a lot of movies and stories about desert islands; in these stories shipwrecked people usually find 'paradise', but not always.



**F** \_\_\_\_\_

These islands include Great Britain, Ireland and about 6,000 other islands, some small and some large. The Isle of Man, Shetland, Orkney and the Channel Islands are big islands; others are just rocks sticking out of the sea. The oldest rocks in the group are in Scotland and Ireland and are 2,700 million years old! In Ireland they do not like using the expression 'The British Isles'. The Irish prefer to say 'Britain and Ireland' because Ireland is an independent country.

**3 P** Read the text again and write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Australia is an archipelago. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Europe has got a continental shelf. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Iceland is in the Pacific Ocean. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Tropical islands are good for holidays. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Desert islands have got no flowers or plants. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The Channel Islands are small rocks. \_\_\_\_\_

**Listening**

**4** **2 P** Listen and choose the correct answer.

- 1 What is the weather like in Iceland?  
**a** snowy      **b** windy      **c** hot and sunny
- 2 What is the weather like in Sicily in winter?  
**a** hot      **b** rainy      **c** very cold
- 3 What do these tourists do in Ireland?  
**a** They listen to music.    **b** They go dancing.  
**c** They go swimming.
- 4 Where are the Maldives?  
**a** In the Pacific Ocean    **b** In the Atlantic Ocean  
**c** In the Indian Ocean

**5** **2** Which speaker? Listen again and write speaker 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- 1 They like holidays in the Pacific Ocean. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 They like swimming. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 They live in the south of their country. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Their summers are very hot. \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY SKILLS**  
**Researching a topic**

You can find out useful information on a topic by searching the Internet and by using reference books. Information on the web is not always reliable, so use well-known or official sites; if you are not sure, check the information in an encyclopedia or other reference books. List the sites and books you have used.

**6** Find out about an island in Italy.

- Where is it?
- What do local people do there?
- Why do visitors go there?
- Why is it popular?
- What is the weather like?
- When is the best time to go?

**Writing**

**7 P** Write about the island of Capri. Use:

- the questions above to help you
- the information below
- the text on these pages as a model
- headings

Capri	
Location	Tyrrhenian Sea
Region	Campania
Province	Naples
Area	10.4 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	12,200
Weather	May, June: warm July, August: hot winter: cold, wet
Activities	swimming, sailing



**Speaking**

**8** Work in pairs. Talk about an Italian island. Use the information from your research on the web and in books. Do not mention the name of the island. Can your partner guess which island you are talking about?