

How much do you know about geography?

Try our quick quiz and see!

- 1 Which ocean is the smallest?
 - a) the Pacific
 - b) the Atlantic
 - c) the Arctic
- 2 Which desert is the biggest?
 - a) the Sahara
 - b) the Gobi
 - c) the Kalahari
- 3 Which country was the first to give women the vote?
 - a) the USA
 - b) Australia
 - c) New Zealand
- 4 Which is the world's second longest river?
 - a) the Amazon
 - b) the Nile
 - c) the Yangtze
- 5 Which town is the home of the White House?
 - a) New York
 - b) Washington
 - c) Chicago
- 6 In which country is English not an official language?
 - a) the USA
 - b) South Africa
 - c) the Philippines
- 7 Who was the first European to sail around the world?
 - a) Christopher Columbus
 - b) Ferdinand Magellan
 - c) Juan Sebastian Elcano
- 8 When is the best time to see the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights)?
 - a) September and October
 - b) December and January
 - c) June and July



Quiz answers
 1 the Arctic 2 the Sahara 3 New Zealand 4 the Amazon 5 Washington 6 the USA: there is no official language in the USA
 7 Juan Sebastian Elcano – he was a member of Magellan's crew. Magellan died in a battle before his ships got home.
 8 September and October (or March and April)

Presentation

Names without *the*

You do **not** normally use *the* with the names of ...

- people: *Ferdinand Magellan, Christopher Columbus*
- towns: *Washington, New York*
- countries: *New Zealand, Australia, South Africa*
- continents: *Asia, Africa, Europe, Antarctica*
- lakes and mountains: *Lake Geneva, Lake Titicaca, Mount Everest, Mount Whitney*
- months and days of the week: *January, February, Monday, Tuesday*
- languages: *English, French, Japanese*
- school subjects: *geography, history, art*

Names with *the*

You use *the* with the names of ...

- deserts: *the Gobi, the Kalahari*
- rivers: *the Amazon, the Nile*
- mountain ranges: *the Alps, the Himalayas, the Andes*
- oceans and seas: *the Pacific, the Mediterranean*
- groups of countries or states: *the USA, the European Union*
- countries whose names are plural: *the Philippines, the Maldives*
- countries whose names include a political label: *the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom*
- some buildings: *the White House, the Eiffel Tower, the Sheraton Hotel*
- periods of time: *the nineties, the 21st century, the holidays, the weekend*
- geographical regions: *the Middle East, the north, the coast, the mountains, the countryside, the Antarctic*

Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with *the* or – (no article).

- 1 ____ Roald Amundsen was the first man to reach the South Pole.
- 2 More than 370 million people speak _____ English at home.
- 3 The population of _____ China is four times bigger than the population of _____ United States.
- 4 _____ Nile is the longest river in the world.
- 5 _____ Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in _____ Africa.
- 6 _____ Sahara desert is expanding to _____ south at a rate of 30 miles a year.
- 7 Most children study _____ history and _____ geography at school.
- 8 The coldest month of the year in _____ Antarctica is _____ July.
- 9 _____ Middle East is the region of the world east of _____ Mediterranean Sea and west of _____ India.
- 10 Global warming is one of the biggest problems facing the world in _____ 21st century.

2 Cross out any unnecessary articles. Then listen and check.

- 1 A: Where are you from?
B: A small town called ~~the~~ Amasra. It's in the Turkey on the Black Sea.
- 2 A: Who's your teacher for the maths this year?
B: It's the Mr Smith I think.
- 3 A: What are you reading?
B: It's a book about the British explorer, the Scott of the Antarctic.
- 4 A: What did you do at the weekend?
B: We went to the country. We stayed at a hotel near the Lake Balaton.
- 5 A: Excuse me, do you speak the German?
B: No, I'm sorry. I don't. Do you speak the Portuguese?
- 6 A: What are you doing in the holidays?
B: We're going to the beach, in the south of the France.

3 Add the ten missing definite articles (*the*) to the text.

Chile

Chile, officially known as Republic of Chile, is the longest country in world. This long, thin country is situated between Pacific Ocean in west and Andes to east. It is more than 4,300 km long and is a land of extremes, from Atacama desert in north to the frozen lakes in south. The official language is Spanish and the capital city is Santiago, although the main government buildings are in the city of Valparaiso, on coast.

