ICELAND

Question: What do you already know about Iceland?

• Complete the paragraph on the right with the words on the left.

Welcome to Iceland!

Welcome to my home, the second largest island in Europe, and one of the most (1)___________ places in the world. Welcome to Iceland! The first people to live in Iceland arrived there from Northern Europe about 1,200 years ago. First Norway and then Denmark (2)___________ Iceland for hundreds of years until its (3)___________ in 1918. At one time it was one of the poorest countries in the world, but it is now one of the richest. Fishing is a very important part of its (4)___________. The (5)___________ is only about 320,000 and most of its people speak a (6)___________ called Icelandic. Many Icelanders also speak English very well. Reykjavik, the (7)___________, is home to about two-thirds of the people of Iceland, while about 19,000 people in the country are foreign workers. The (8)___________ is cold. The July high temperature is usually only around 10 degrees Celsius, and in winter about 3 or 4 degrees below zero. Iceland is (9)___________ its many beautiful (10)___________ – these are large (11)___________ of ice and snow that you can see in both summer and winter. There are also many active (12)___________, with the last major eruption of fire and rocks and smoke in 2011. This is Iceland, my home!

(about 200 words)
ICELAND

Welcome to Iceland!

Vocabulary Practice

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

1. capital city     H. the city where a country’s government is located
2. climate          A. the usual weather of a place or country
3. economy          B. the number of people who live in a place
4. fascinating      C. famous for (something)
5. population       D. the way things are made, sold and bought in a country
6. glaciers         E. a very large area of ice
7. known for        F. a mountain with a hole on top that can explode
8. volcano          G. very interesting

How Much Do You Understand?

- Write ‘T’ (True) or ‘F’ (False) next to each statement.

1. T. The paragraph describes the country of Iceland.
2. ______ The first people to live in Iceland lived there a few hundred years ago.
3. ______ Iceland is a very poor country.
4. ______ Fewer than a million people live in Iceland.
5. ______ Many people in Iceland can speak at least two languages.
6. ______ Iceland is not very warm in the summer.

Discuss

- Ask and answer the following questions with your classmates.

1. Would you like to visit Iceland? Why? / Why not?
2. Would you like to live in Iceland? Why? / Why not?
3. How is Iceland similar to – or different from – your country?
4. What other interesting countries do you know about?
Welcome to my home, the second largest island in Europe, and one of the most fascinating places in the world. Welcome to Iceland! The first people to (1)_______ in Iceland arrived there from Northern Europe about 1,200 (2)_______ . First Norway and then Denmark controlled Iceland for (3)_______ until its independence (4)_______ 1918. At one time it (5)_______ one of the poorest countries in the world, but it is now one of the richest. Fishing is a very important part of its economy. The population is only about 320,000 and most of its people (6)_______ a language called Icelandic. Many Icelanders also speak English very (7)_______ . Reykjavik, the capital city, is home to about two-thirds of the people of Iceland, while about 19,000 people in the country are foreign (8)_______ . The climate (9)_______ . The July high temperature is usually only around 10 degrees Celsius, (10)_______ in winter about 3 or 4 degrees below zero. Iceland is known for its (11)_______ beautiful glaciers – these are large mountains of ice and snow that you can see in both summer and winter. (12)_______ also many active volcanos, with the last major eruption of fire and rocks and smoke in 2011. This is Iceland, my home!

1. (A) lived (B) live (C) living (D) lives

2. (A) years ago (B) before years (C) ago years (D) the years ago

3. (A) hundred year (B) hundreds of year (C) hundreds years (D) hundreds of years

4. (A) at (B) on (C) in (D) by

5. (A) was (B) is (C) were (D) did

6. (A) spoke (B) are speaking (C) speak (D) speaks

7. (A) better (B) best (C) good (D) well

8. (A) work (B) workers (C) works (D) working

9. (A) very cold (B) has cold (C) cold (D) is cold

10. (A) because (B) so (C) for example (D) and

11. (A) many (B) a few (C) much (D) a little

12. (A) There has (B) There are (C) There (D) There is
Welcome to my home, the second largest island in Europe, and one of the most fascinating places in the world. Welcome to Iceland! The first _______ to _______ _______ Iceland arrived there _______. Northern Europe _______ 1,200 _______ _______. First Norway and _______ Denmark _______ Iceland for _______ _______ _______ until its independence _______ 1918. At one time it was _______ _______ the poorest countries _______ _______ _______, but it is now _______ _______ _______ _______.

Fishing is a very _______ _______ of its _______. The _______ is only _______ 320,000 and _______ _______ its people speak a language called Icelandic. Many Icelanders _______ _______ _______ very well. Reykjavik, the _______ _______, is home to about two-thirds of the _______ of Iceland, while _______ 19,000 _______ in the country are _______ _______. The _______ is cold. The July _______ _______ is _______ only around 10 degrees Celsius, and in _______ about 3 or 4 degrees _______ _______.

Iceland is _______ _______ its many _______ glaciers – these are large _______ of ice _______ _______ that you _______ _______ in both summer _______ _______. _______ _______ _______ _______ many active _______, with _______ _______ major eruption of _______ and _______ and _______ in 2011. _______ _______ Iceland, _______ home!
ICELAND

Welcome to Iceland!

Writing Practice 2

Don’t look at the paragraph. In your own words, write what you can remember about Iceland. Use the back of this paper if you need more space.

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Make Your Own Country

- You and your classmates have discovered 4 small islands and you are going to make a new country. Discuss and answer the questions below.

1. Country name: ___________________  
2. Capital city: ___________________  
3. Population: ___________________  
4. Language(s): ___________________  
5. Where is your country located? Describe the climate and the economy.  
6. Draw the location of the cities, towns, airports, bridges and roads on the map.  
7. Draw the flag of your country. What special meaning does the flag have?  
8. How will your country be special or different from other countries?

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ICELAND

Welcome to ________________!

Writing Practice 3

- Write a descriptive paragraph about your country. What is the name of the country? Where is it located? What is the capital city? What is the population? What language(s) do the people there speak? Etc.

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**Language Focus**  Past Simple Tense / Present Simple Tense  
**Level**  Intermediate to Advanced  
**Time**  Approximately 120 – 180 minutes  

**ANSWER KEY:**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete the Paragraph</th>
<th>How Much Do You Understand?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. fascinating</td>
<td>1. T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. controlled</td>
<td>2. F (over a thousand years ago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. independence</td>
<td>3. F (It is now a rich country.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. economy</td>
<td>4. T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Icelandic</td>
<td>5. T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. capital city</td>
<td>6. T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. foreign</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. climate</td>
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<td>9. known for</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. glaciers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. mountains</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. volcanos</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. D</td>
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<td>4. G</td>
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<td>5. B</td>
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<td>6. E</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. C</td>
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<td>8. F</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. D</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Homework Idea**  

Write a short descriptive paragraph about the country you and your classmates made (see attached handout). In the next class, get into a small group and read aloud your paragraph.

**EXPLORE on-line:**  
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/topics/iceland/  
http://www.iceland.is/  

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