

# **ICELAND**

Read the article below and then answer the questions.



Iceland is the second largest island in Europe and one of the most fascinating places in the world. Iceland has an interesting history. The very first people to live in Iceland arrived there from Northern Europe just 1,200 years ago. For hundreds of years, Iceland was a part of Norway and then Denmark until 1918, when it became an independent country. At one time it was one of the poorest countries in the world – however, now it is one of the richest and most modern countries in the world. Fishing is a very important part of its economy. Iceland is unusual for many reasons.

One of these is its very small population, which is only about 320,000. Most of the people there speak a language called Icelandic, but many people can also speak English quite well. Reykjavik, the capital city, is home to about two-thirds of the population of Iceland, while about 19,000 people in the country are foreigners – workers from other countries. The climate is very cold. The July high temperature is only around ten degrees Celsius, and in winter the high temperature is about three or four degrees below zero. Iceland is well-known for **its** many beautiful glaciers. **These** are large mountains of ice and snow that you can see in both summer and winter. In addition, there are nine large, active volcanoes located all over the island. Just a few years ago, in May 2011, one of these volcanoes exploded (in South-East Iceland) with enough fire, rocks and smoke to stop air travel in many European countries (countries such as Ireland, Scotland, Spain and northern Italy) for several weeks.

## Comprehension questions

**1. What is the second largest country in Europe?**

- (a) Norway
- (b) Iceland
- (c) It doesn't say.

**2. When did people first live in Iceland?**

- (a) 800 years ago
- (b) 1,200 years ago
- (c) a hundred years ago

**3. When did Norway become independent?**

- (a) 1918
- (b) hundreds of years ago
- (c) It doesn't say.

**4. According to the article, what makes Iceland different from other countries?**

- (a) Not many people live there.
- (b) Many people fish.
- (c) It is a rich country.

**5. Where do most of the people of Iceland live?**

- (a) Reykjavik
- (b) with foreign workers
- (c) in other countries

**6. Which word best describes the summer temperature in Iceland?**

- (a) warm
- (b) freezing
- (c) cool

**7. Near the bottom of the paragraph, what does the word 'its' refer to?**

- (a) glaciers
- (b) Iceland
- (c) mountains

**8. Near the bottom of the paragraph, what does the word 'These' refer to?**

- (a) degrees
- (b) glaciers
- (c) mountains

**9. Where are most of Iceland's volcanoes located?**

- (a) in many different places
- (b) South-East Iceland
- (c) Reykjavik

**10. What is true about the country of Spain?**

- (a) Spain is very close to Scotland.
- (b) Spain also has volcanoes that sometimes explode.
- (c) Spain stopped its airplane flights after a volcano exploded.

## Vocabulary Practice

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

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

## How Much Do You Understand?

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

T

1. 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?

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



- C** capital city *n.*
- climate** *n.*
- controlled** *v.*
- E** economy *n.*
- F** fascinating *adj.*
- G** glaciers *n.*
- I** independence *n.*
- K** known for *phr.*
- L** language *n.*
- M** mountains *n.*
- P** population *n.*
- V** volcanos *n.*

## 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!

## Gap-fill

Listen to your teacher and complete the paragraph.

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!

## Grammar

Complete the article by circling the correct words.

Iceland is the second largest island in Europe and one of the most fascinating places in the world. Iceland (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an interesting history. The very first people to live in Iceland (2) \_\_\_\_\_ there from Northern Europe just 1,200 years ago. For hundreds of years, Iceland (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a part of Norway and then Denmark until 1918, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it became an independent country. At one time it was one of the poorest countries in the world – (5) \_\_\_\_\_, now it is one of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and most modern countries in the world. Fishing is a very important part of its economy. Iceland is unusual for many reasons. One of these is its very small population, which (7) \_\_\_\_\_ only about 320,000. Most of the people there speak a language called Icelandic, but many people can also speak English quite well. Reykjavik, the capital city, is home to about two-thirds of the population of Iceland, while about 19,000 people in the country (8) \_\_\_\_\_ foreigners – workers from other countries. The climate is very cold. The July high temperature is only around ten degrees Celsius, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in winter the high temperature is about three or four degrees below zero. Iceland is well-known for its many beautiful glaciers. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ are large mountains of ice and snow that you can (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in both summer and winter. In addition, there are nine large, active volcanoes located throughout the island. Just a few years ago, in May 2011, one of these volcanoes (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with enough fire, rocks and smoke to stop air travel in many European countries (countries such as Ireland, Scotland, Spain and northern Italy) for several weeks.

1.

- (A) have
- (B) will have
- (C) has
- (D) had

5.

- (A) wherever
- (B) however
- (C) whatever
- (D) whenever

9.

- (A) and
- (B) or
- (C) because
- (D) so

2.

- (A) arrived
- (B) arriving
- (C) arrive
- (D) arrives

6.

- (A) richly
- (B) rich
- (C) richest
- (D) riches

10.

- (A) These
- (B) That
- (C) Them
- (D) This

3.

- (A) was
- (B) were
- (C) is
- (D) are

7.

- (A) are
- (B) has
- (C) is
- (D) have

11.

- (A) seeing
- (B) sees
- (C) saw
- (D) see

4.

- (A) where
- (B) when
- (C) how
- (D) what

8.

- (A) does
- (B) is
- (C) have
- (D) are

12.

- (A) explode
- (B) explodes
- (C) exploding
- (D) exploded

## Grammar

Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

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

5.

- (A) was
- (B) is
- (C) were
- (D) did

9.

- (A) very cold
- (B) has cold
- (C) cold
- (D) is cold

2.

- (A) years ago
- (B) before years
- (C) ago years
- (D) the years ago

6.

- (A) spoke
- (B) are speaking
- (C) speak
- (D) speaks

10.

- (A) because
- (B) so
- (C) for example
- (D) and

3.

- (A) hundred year
- (B) hundreds of year
- (C) hundreds years
- (D) hundreds of years

7.

- (A) better
- (B) best
- (C) good
- (D) well

11.

- (A) many
- (B) a few
- (C) much
- (D) a little

4.

- (A) at
- (B) on
- (C) in
- (D) by

8.

- (A) work
- (B) workers
- (C) works
- (D) working

12.

- (A) There has
- (B) There are
- (C) There
- (D) There is