Name: _____ Class: _____ No.: _____ Date: _____

ICELAND

A Land of Clean Air and a High Quality of Life

Reading Passage

Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean. It is between Greenland and Norway. It is part of Europe. This country has a population of about a quarter of a million people. Most of the people live in towns. Reykjavik is the capital and the largest city.

Iceland is not as cold as its name sounds. The temperature in January in Reykjavik is the same as in New York City. Icelanders speak Icelandic, which is similar to German, but 99 percent of Icelanders also speak English.

Icelanders are the hardest workers in Europe. They work the longest hours. Many people have two or three jobs, and children work during school vacations. Icelanders work hard because life is very expensive, and they want a high quality of life. Iceland is the most expensive country in Europe. Iceland doesn't make cars or machines. Many of these things come from other countries. That is why they are expensive. However, Iceland has a lot of fish, so fish is not expensive.

Icelanders have a great system for health and education. Health care and education are free. All children must go to school from age 6 to age 16. Every person in Iceland can read and write. Icelanders read a lot. They read more books than any other people in the world. Icelanders are healthy, too. The air is clean there because people get natural hot water from the ground to heat their homes. With clean air and a good health care system, Icelanders live long lives. Men in Iceland live the longest lives of any men in the world.

Iceland is a great country. The air is clean. People live long. There's almost no crime. Icelanders have a high quality of life, but they work hard!

Reykjavik

Blue Lagoon

Northern Lights

Part 1: Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings.

1. an island ____
2. a quarter of ____
3. a capital ____
4. a temperature ____
5. similar to ____
6. a high quality of life ____
7. to heat ____
8. a crime ____

a. a city where the government works
b. like or almost the same as
c. a very good standard of living
d. an illegal activity
e. the amount of heat or cold
f. to make something warm
g. one out of four parts
h. a piece of land surrounded by water

Part 2: Complete the Sentences

Complete these sentences with the words from Part 1.

1. Iceland is _____ in the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. The population of Iceland is about _____ a million people.
3. Reykjavik is the _____ of Iceland.
4. The _____ in January in Reykjavik is similar to New York City.
5. Icelandic is _____ German.
6. Icelanders want _____ because life is very expensive.
7. People get natural hot water from the ground to _____ their homes.
8. In Iceland, there's almost no _____.

Part 3: Short Answer

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. Where is Iceland located?
_____
2. How many languages do 99 percent of Icelanders speak?
_____
3. Why are many things in Iceland expensive?
_____
4. What is free for everyone in Iceland?
_____
5. Why do men in Iceland live the longest lives in the world?
_____

Part 4: True or False

Write T (True) or F (False) for each statement.

1. _____ Iceland is not as cold as its name sounds.
2. _____ Most Icelanders do not speak English.
3. _____ Icelanders work the shortest hours in Europe.
4. _____ Cars and machines are made in Iceland.
5. _____ Health care and education are free in Iceland.
6. _____ Every person in Iceland can read and write.
7. _____ People in Iceland use natural hot water to heat their homes.
8. _____ There is a lot of crime in Iceland.

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Part 5: Main Idea and Supporting Details

Write the main idea and three supporting details from the passage.

Main Idea: _____
_____
Supporting Detail 1: _____
Supporting Detail 2: _____
Supporting Detail 3: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS