5F Reading

Unusual cities

I can understand a text about unusual cities.

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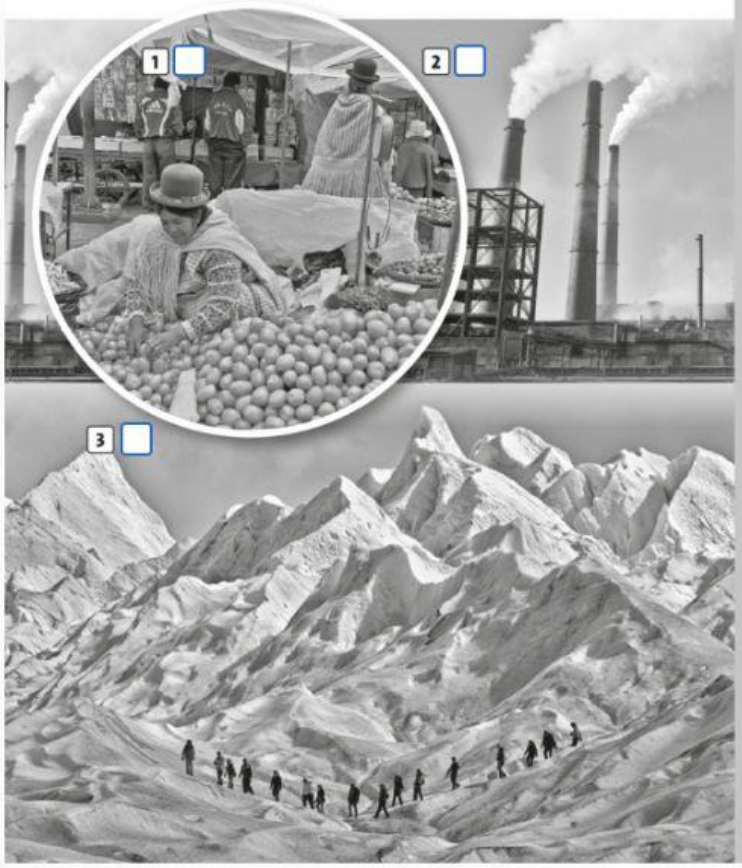
1 Match the continents with 1–7 on the map and the compass points with a–d on the diagram.

east ☐	Africa ☐	Europe ☐
north ☐	Antarctica ☐	North America ☐
south ☐	Asia ☐	South America ☐
west ☐	Australia ☐	

2 Read the texts opposite (A–C). Which two cities are in the same continent? Which continent are they in?

☐ and ☐ are in ☐.

3 Match the texts (A–C) with the pictures (1–3) below.



Reading Strategy

When you do a matching task, read all the texts first to get a sense of the overall meaning. Then, go through the questions one by one. Decide which text you think contains the answer and look for it carefully. If you can't find it, look in the other texts.

4 Read the Reading Strategy. Then match each question (1–7) with one of the texts (A–C).

Which text is about a city which ...

1 has around a million inhabitants? ☐
2 does not have clean air? ☐
3 does not have cold winters? ☐
4 is not very safe for visitors? ☐
5 is not good for the health of its inhabitants? ☐
6 is near to some very beautiful scenery? ☐
7 is very, very cold in winter? ☐

EXTREME CITIES

A Norilsk

Norilsk is in Russia and is further north than any other large city in the world. It is a very cold place, often –30°C in winter. You can't get to Norilsk by car or bus because there aren't any roads. You have to fly or, in summer, arrive by boat. (In winter, the sea turns to ice.) The city has a population of around 180,000. A lot of these people work for Norilsk Nickel, one of the biggest metal companies in the world. The factories there cause a lot of pollution. In fact, the average life of an inhabitant of Norilsk is ten years shorter than other Russians.

B Punta Arenas

Punta Arenas is in the south of Chile, in South America. It is the furthest south of any large city in the world. It is near the Antarctic circle, but because of the ocean, the winters are not very cold (usually above 0°C). The population of Punta Arenas is around 110,000. The city has a main square with large, attractive buildings. There are also interesting museums. And Punta Arenas is a good place to start a walking holiday, because it is on the edge of Patagonia, a region with amazing scenery. You can explore mountains and beaches – and see penguins too!

C El Alto

El Alto is the second largest city in Bolivia, a country in South America. It is also the highest large city in the world, with an altitude of 4,150 metres above sea level. It is near the capital, La Paz, but is bigger than the capital, with a population of about a million people. El Alto is not an easy place to live. There is a lot of traffic and the climate is cold: around –3°C in winter and only around 7°C in summer. And there are often problems with the water supply. The city's main attraction is a large open-air market. Tourists sometimes come to El Alto to visit the market, but they have to be careful – there is a lot of crime in this region.

LIVEWORKSHEETS