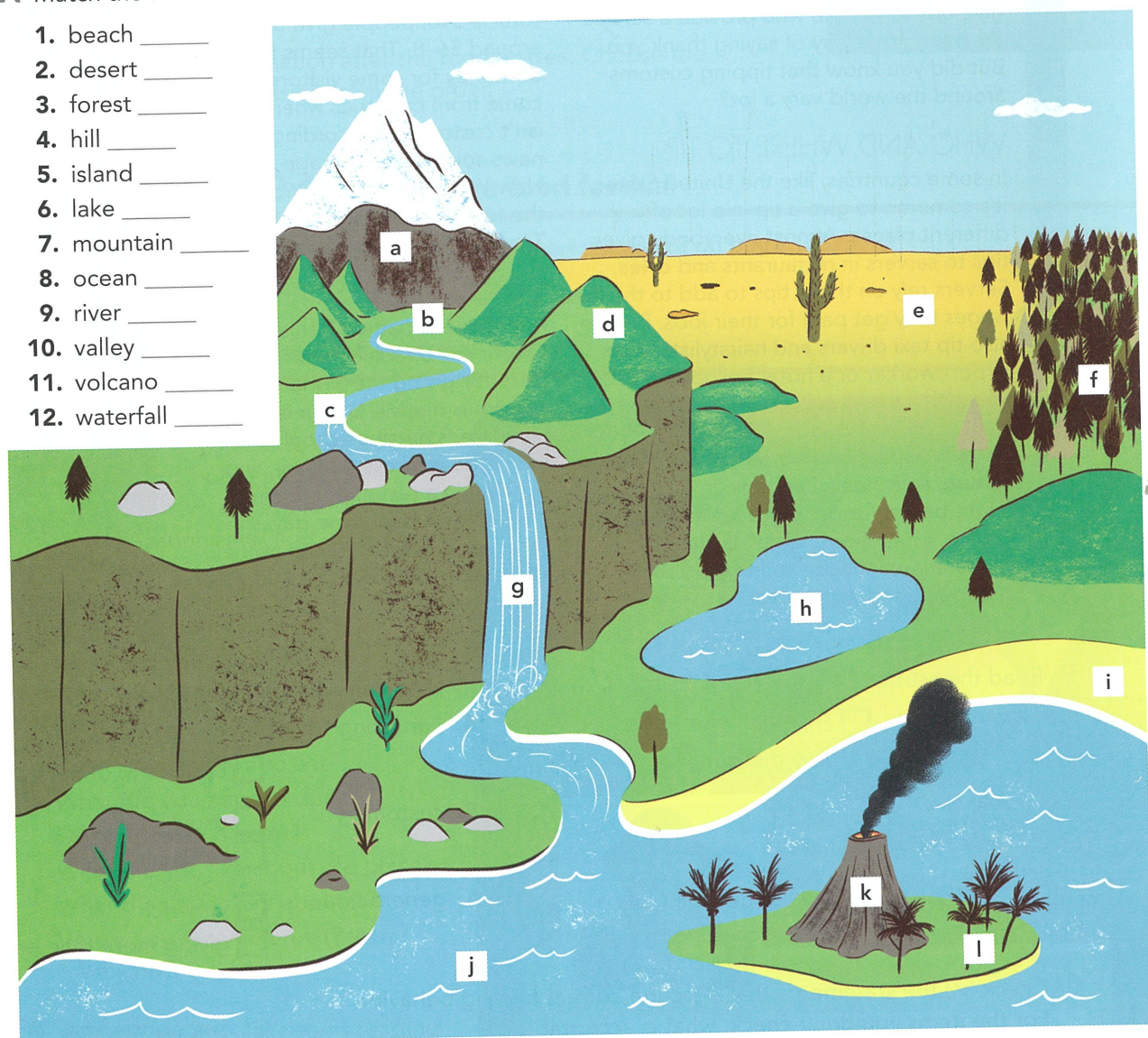# 14 It's the coldest city!

▸ Describe and compare different places in the world
▸ Describe temperatures, distances, and measurements

1 WORD POWER Places around the world

A Match the words from the list to the letters in the picture. Then compare with a partner.

1. beach _____
2. desert _____
3. forest _____
4. hill _____
5. island _____
6. lake _____
7. mountain _____
8. ocean _____
9. river _____
10. valley _____
11. volcano _____
12. waterfall _____

B **PAIR WORK** What other geography words can you think of? Do you see any of these places in the picture above?

C **GROUP WORK** Try to think of famous examples for each item in part A.

A: A famous beach is Shirahama Beach in Japan.
B: And the Sahara is a famous . . .

2 CONVERSATION I love quizzes!

A Listen and practice.

Claire: This is one of the best airline magazines I've ever read. Oh, look! A quiz! "Our world – How much do you know?"
Steve: Oh, I love quizzes! Ask me the questions.
Claire: Sure. First question: Which country is larger, Mexico or Australia?
Steve: I know. Australia is larger than Mexico.
Claire: OK, next. What's the longest river in the world?
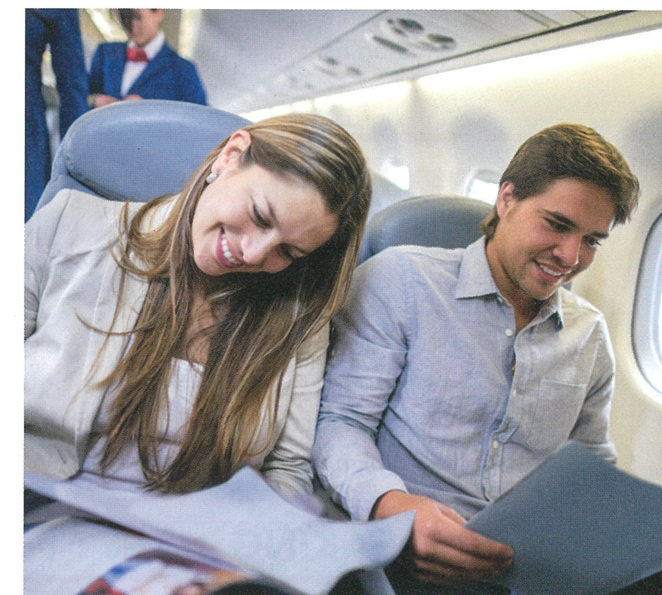**Steve:** That's easy. It's the Nile!
Claire: All right. Here's a hard one. Which country is more crowded, Malta or England?
Steve: I'm not sure. I think Malta is more crowded.
Claire: Really? OK, one more. Which city is the most expensive: Hong Kong, London, or Paris?
Steve: Oh, that's easy. Paris is the most expensive.

B Listen to the rest of the conversation. How many questions did Steve get right?

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Comparisons with adjectives

Which country is **larger**, Australia or Mexico?
  Australia is **larger than** Mexico.
Which country is **the largest** in the world?
  Russia is **the largest** country.
Which is **more crowded**? Malta or England?
  Malta is **more crowded than** England.
  Malta is **the most crowded** country in Europe.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
long	longer	the longest
large	larger	the largest
dry	drier	the driest
big	bigger	the biggest
beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
crowded	more crowded	the most crowded
expensive	more expensive	the most expensive
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst

A Complete questions 1 to 4 with comparatives and questions 5 to 8 with superlatives. Then ask and answer the questions.

1. Which country is _____, Monaco or Vatican City? (small)
2. Which waterfall is _____, Niagara Falls or Victoria Falls? (high)
3. Which city is _____, Hong Kong or Cairo? (crowded)
4. Which lake is _____, Lake Michigan or Lake Baikal? (large)
5. Which is _____: Mount Aconcagua, Mount Everest, or Mount Fuji? (high)
6. What is _____ river in the Americas, the Mississippi, the Colorado, or the Amazon? (long)
7. Which city is _____: London, Tokyo, or Moscow? (expensive)
8. What is _____ ocean in the world, the Pacific, the Atlantic, or the Arctic? (deep)

B **CLASS ACTIVITY** Write four questions like those in part A about your country or other countries. Then ask your classmates the questions.

4 PRONUNCIATION Questions of choice

A Listen and practice. Notice how the intonation in questions of choice drops, then rises, and then drops again.

Which city is more crowded, Hong Kong or Cairo?

Which city is the most expensive: London, Tokyo, or Moscow?

B **PAIR WORK** Take turns asking these questions. Pay attention to your intonation. Do you know the answers?

Which desert is bigger, the Gobi or the Atacama?
Which city is higher, Bogotá or La Paz?
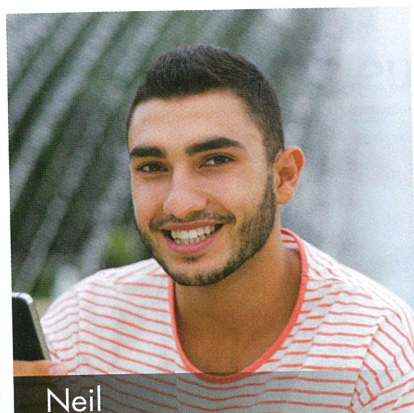Which ocean is the smallest: the Arctic, the Indian, or the Atlantic?
Which mountains are the highest: the Andes, the Rockies, or the Himalayas?

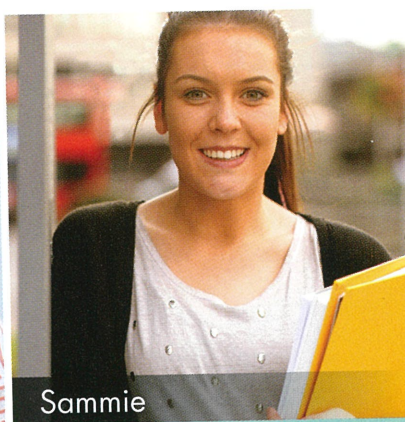## 5 SPEAKING Travelers' tips

GROUP WORK Imagine these people are planning to visit your country. What would they enjoy doing? Agree on a recommendation for each person.

Jana
"I like all kinds of outdoor activities, especially hiking and bike riding. I can't stand crowded and polluted cities."

Neil
"I enjoy visiting museums, trying local food, and shopping at small stores. I don't like boring tourist places."

Sammie
"I love nightlife. My favorite activity is going dancing and meeting new people! I really don't like small towns."

6 LISTENING Quiz Show!

Listen to three people on a TV quiz show. Check (✓) the correct answers.

1.	☐ the Eiffel Tower	☐ the Statue of Liberty	☐ the Panama Canal
2.	☐ Victoria Falls	☐ Niagara Falls	☐ Angel Falls
3.	☐ gold	☐ butter	☐ all
4.	☐ the Arctic Ocean	☐ the Southern Ocean	☐ the Indian Ocean
5.	☐ São Paulo	☐ Mexico City	☐ Seoul
6.	☐ Africa	☐ Antarctica	☐ Australia

7 INTERCHANGE 14 How much do you know?

You probably know more than you think! Take a quiz.

8 SNAPSHOT

8 Surprising Facts

1 The hottest place in the world is Death Valley, California. The temperature there has reached 134°F (56.7°C).

2 Antarctica is the largest desert on Earth. It is 5.4 million square miles (14 million square kilometers). It's also the coldest, windiest continent.

3 *NCIS* is the world's most watched TV show. Over 55 million people across the world have watched it.

4 The largest cat in the world is the Siberian tiger. At 700 pounds (320 kilos), it is bigger than a lion.

5 France is the most popular country to visit. It gets over 80 million visitors a year.

6 The highest price for a car at an auction was just over $38 million for a 1962 Ferrari. The auction happened in 2014.

7 The best-selling music album of all time is Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. The 1982 album has sold around 65 million copies.

8 The planet in our Solar System with the most moons, 67 total, is Jupiter. The largest one, Ganymede, is the ninth largest object in the Solar System.

Which facts do you find surprising? Why?
What are some facts about your country? What's the tallest building? the busiest airport? the most popular city to visit?

9 CONVERSATION That's freezing!

A Listen and practice.

Alberto: Hi, Lily. You're from Canada, right? I'm going to Toronto in January.

Lily: Actually, I'm from the U.S., but I went to school in Toronto. Winter there can be pretty cold.

Alberto: How cold is it on average?

Lily: Um, I think the average in January is around 20° or maybe 25°.

Alberto: Twenty-five degrees? But that's warm!

Lily: Twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit. That's about . . . minus 3 or 4 Celsius.

Alberto: Minus 3 or 4? That's freezing!

Lily: Oh, come on, that's not *so* cold, at least not where I'm from.

Alberto: Really? Where are you from?

Lily: Well, I live in Fairbanks, Alaska, around 3,000 miles from Toronto. That's . . . let me check on my phone . . . Yes, that's about 4,800 kilometers.

Alberto: Wow. . . . So, is it colder than Toronto?

Lily: It's much colder than Toronto. It's the coldest city in the United States!

B Listen to the rest of the conversation. Is Fairbanks a small town? What else does Lily say about it?

10 GRAMMAR FOCUS

▶ **Questions with *how***

How cold is Toronto in the winter?	It gets down to minus 25° Celsius.	(-13° Fahrenheit)
How hot is Fairbanks in the summer?	It gets up to about 20° Celsius.	(68° Fahrenheit)
How far is Toronto from Fairbanks?	It's about 4,800 kilometers.	(3,000 miles)
How big is Seoul?	It's 605 square kilometers.	(233.6 square miles)
How high is Mount Everest?	It's 8,848 meters **high**.	(29,028 feet)
How long is the Mississippi River?	It's about 3,700 kilometers **long**.	(2,300 miles)
How deep is the Grand Canyon?	It's about 1,828 meters **deep**.	(6,000 feet)

GRAMMAR PLUS *see page 145*

A Write the questions to these answers. Then practice with a partner.

1. **A:** _____?
   B: Niagara Falls is 52 meters (170 feet) high.
2. **A:** _____?
   B: California is about 423,970 square kilometers (163,670 square miles).
3. **A:** _____?
   B: The Nile is 6,670 kilometers (4,145 miles) long.
4. **A:** _____?
   B: Osaka is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Tokyo.
5. **A:** _____?
   B: Mexico City gets up to about 28° Celsius (82° Fahrenheit) in the summer.

B **GROUP WORK** Think of five questions with *how* about places in your country or other countries you know. Ask and answer your questions.
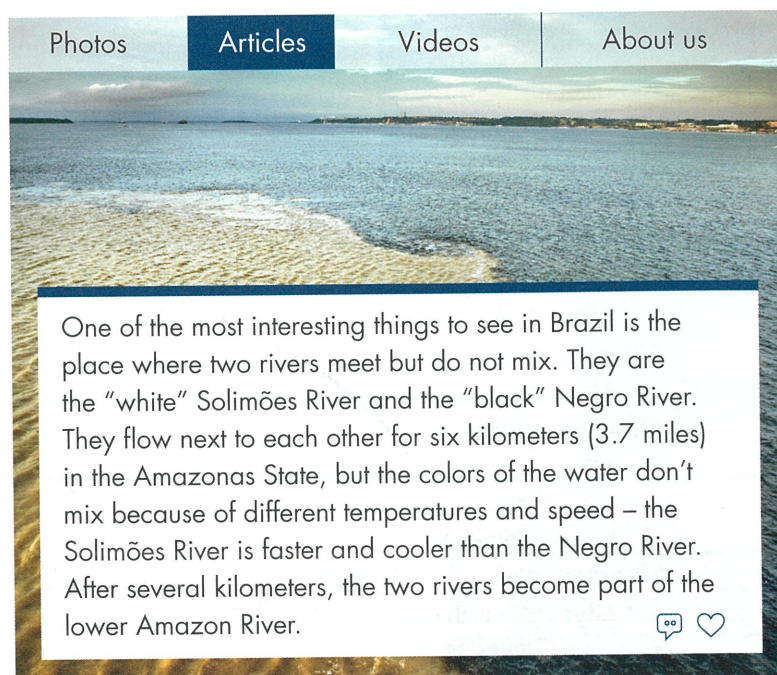
11 WRITING An article about a place

A Write an article about a place in your country or in another country that you think tourists would like to visit. Describe a place from the list.

a beach
a desert
an island
a lake
a mountain
a river
a volcano
a waterfall

Photos	Articles	Videos	About us

One of the most interesting things to see in Brazil is the place where two rivers meet but do not mix. They are the "white" Solimões River and the "black" Negro River. They flow next to each other for six kilometers (3.7 miles) in the Amazonas State, but the colors of the water don't mix because of different temperatures and speed – the Solimões River is faster and cooler than the Negro River. After several kilometers, the two rivers become part of the lower Amazon River.
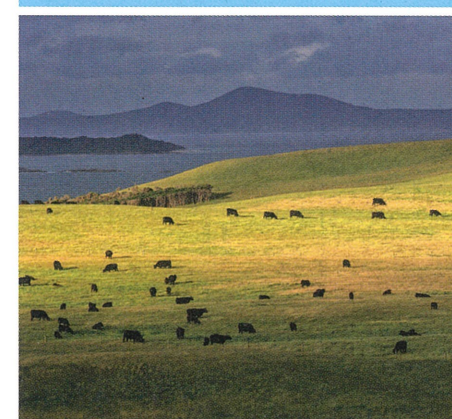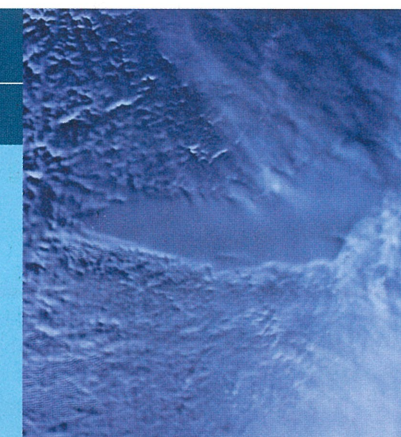
B **PAIR WORK** Read your partner's article. Ask questions to get more information.

12 READING

A Look at the title of the article and the pictures. Why do you think these places are so clean?

Earth's Cleanest Places

Lake Vostok, Antarctica

About four kilometers (2.5 miles) under a large area of ice in Antarctica, there's a lake named Lake Vostok. It covers 15,690 square kilometers (6,058 square miles) and is 800 meters (2,625 feet) deep in some places. Lake Vostok is prehistoric – millions of years old – but until 1956, no one even knew it existed. It's a fresh water lake, and it has been hidden from sunlight for 15 million years. What this means is that the water is some of the cleanest, purest water on Earth.
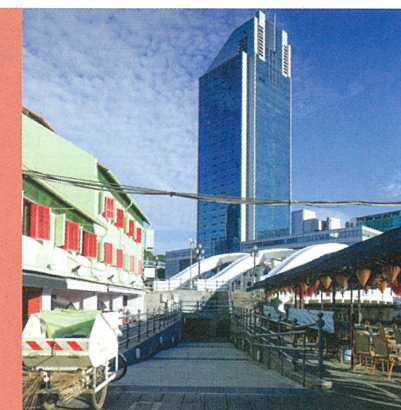
Cape Grim, Australia

We all know that air pollution is a problem all around the world, so where do you go if you want really clean air? Well, Cape Grim in Tasmania, Australia is probably the best idea. Cape Grim has some of the cleanest air on Earth. Cape Grim also has beautiful, clean water. Why is this? Wind! Special winds called "The Roaring Forties" cross the Southern Ocean, bringing with them wonderfully clean water and air. In fact, in Cape Grim, people are allowed to put rain water into bottles and sell it. That's how clean it is!

Singapore

The tiny island of Singapore has a population of about 5.7 million people. It also has very strict rules about the way its people behave. Singapore is one of the cleanest cities on the planet because of these rules. People are not allowed to chew gum unless it's from a doctor, and all used chewing gum has to go in a trash can. That means that you don't find gum on the sidewalks. In fact, no one drops trash in the street. There are big fines for people who don't respect the rules, but most people are happy to keep their city clean and healthy.

B Read the article. What is the main goal of the article? Check (✓) the correct answer.

☐ to entertain people　☐ to inform people　☐ to persuade people to do something

C Read the article and answer the questions.

1. When did people discover Lake Vostok? _____
2. How long has Lake Vostok been hidden? _____
3. What two things is Cape Grim famous for? _____
4. What's the main reason that Cape Grim is so clean? _____
5. About how many people live in Singapore? _____
6. What happens when people break the rules in Singapore? _____

D **GROUP WORK** What do you think is the cleanest place in your country? Why is it so clean? How would you describe it to a friend?