



Level: B1, B2

Focus: Extended listening

Theme: Geography

Activity: General Knowledge Quiz

WATERY WORLD QUIZ

This is a class general knowledge quiz. Most of the questions relate to world geography relating to water: rivers, oceans and seas. It contains a lot of examples of the superlative and geographical words and names, so you could use it to accompany your course when you are teaching these things. You shouldn't try to pre-teach all of the vocabulary in the quiz. This is extended listening and there is plenty of redundancy - they don't need to understand everything in order to get to the answer.

Note: This is a listening activity, but the questions test general knowledge rather than comprehension. The quiz is a game, not a test! You may want to use the audio, or parts of it, for more focussed listening work afterwards.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask students to name any TV quiz shows they know and say if they ever watch these.
2. Explain that they are going to do a quiz in the class. They could do it individually, or divide the class into teams. Explain that each question begins with quite a long introduction, and they will only hear the actual question at the end. Then they will hear four options, a-d.
3. Play the audio (or read the questions from the script) and get students or teams to choose the correct option after each of the ten questions. At the end, check who has the most correct answers.
4. To make the game more exciting and competitive, you could add the following rule: 'As soon as you think you know the correct answer, write it down and raise your hand. DO NO SHOUT IT OUT! Once you have raised your hand, you cannot change your answer! The first person to get the right answer wins the point.'

Key

- 1 = a. Southampton
- 2 = b. Easter Island
- 3 = a. Greenland
- 4 = d. The Niagara Falls
- 5 = a. Singapore
- 6 = b. The Baltic
- 7 = c. The Blue Nile
- 8 = c. Rio de Janeiro
- 9 = a. Belgrade
- 10 = c. Haiti

1. One of the world's worst disasters at sea was the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The Titanic was, at the time, the largest ship in the world. It was on its first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, heading for New York, when it hit a massive iceberg and sank. 1,500 people were killed in the accident. The Titanic was built in the port of Belfast, in Northern Ireland. But it began its voyage across the Atlantic from a port in England. What was the name of the port?
a. Southampton b. Liverpool c. Plymouth d. Dover

2. The world's biggest ocean is the Pacific. It lies to the west of the Americas and to the east of Australia and Asia. The Pacific is also the world's deepest water, at a place called the Marianas Trench near the Philippine Islands. There are many thousands of islands in the Pacific, and most of them are together in groups. But there is one island which is completely alone. It is the most isolated place in the world. Today, it belongs to the South American country, Chile. In the past it was home to a people who made hundreds of strange statues. What's the name of this island in English?
a. Christmas Island b. Easter Island c. Birthday Island d. New Year Island

3. Most of the world's fresh water is in the form of ice. The biggest area of ice is around the South Pole, in Antarctica. There is also a lot of ice around the North Pole. But there is no continent at the North Pole – it's sea ice. The nearest continents are North America, Europe and Asia. There are also a lot of islands, including the world's biggest island. There is a massive ice cap covering most of the middle of this island, so the only towns are around the edge, on the coast. The nearest country to this island is Canada, but it is part of a European country, Denmark. What is the name of this island?
a. Greenland b. Scandinavia c. Alaska d. Iceland

4. North America's biggest lakes lie on the border between the United States and Canada. They are known as The Great Lakes. There are many important cities on the shores of these lakes, including Chicago on Lake Michigan and Toronto on Lake Ontario. The Great Lakes are joined to each other by straits or by short rivers. For example, there is a short river between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Halfway along this river, there is a waterfall - perhaps the world's most famous waterfall. What is it called?
a. The Victoria Falls b. The Angel Falls c. The Buffalo Falls d. The Niagara Falls

5. There is only one place north of the equator where a ship can pass from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This place is the furthest south point of the continent of Asia. North of here, the oceans are separated by a long thin strip of land called the Malaysian Peninsula. At the southern tip of the peninsula is one of the world's busiest and most important shipping lanes. There is a city right at the southern tip of the Malaysian Peninsula. What is its name?
a. Singapore b. Hong Kong c. Aden d. Kuala Lumpur

6. Russia is the world's largest country, but it has very limited access to the sea. It has a very long coast to the north, but there are few important ports there because of the ice. The main port in the Russian arctic is Murmansk. In the far east, it has access to the Pacific at Vladivostok, and it has access to the Black Sea to the south. Russia also has access to the sea in the west at Saint Petersburg. What is the name of this sea?
a. The North Sea b. The Baltic c. The Caspian d. The White Sea

7. The longest river in the world begins in East Africa and passes through Uganda, Sudan and Egypt to reach the Mediterranean Sea. It begins in Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria. It passes through the biggest city in Sudan, Khartoum, and the biggest city in Egypt, Cairo. In Khartoum, the river gets much bigger because another river joins it. This second river comes from Ethiopia. The two rivers which come together in Khartoum are both called The Nile. One is called the White Nile. What is the other called?
a. The Green Nile b. The Brown Nile c. The Blue Niles d. The Red Nile

8. The highest place in the world where you can catch a ferry is Lake Titicaca in South America. This lake lies at 3,800 metres above sea level on the border of Bolivia and Peru. By volume of water, it is the largest lake in South America. The towns on the shores of Lake Titicaca include Puno, in Peru, and Copacabana, in Bolivia. Copacabana is also the name of a famous beach district in another city on this continent. What is the name of the city?
a. Acapulco b. Honolulu c. Rio de Janeiro d. Salvador de Bahia

9. The Danube is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga. It flows from Germany through central and eastern Europe to the Black sea. It flows through many countries, including Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. It is an important route for river transport and there are many important cities on its banks. Four of these cities are capital cities - Vienna in Austria, Bratislava in Slovakia, Budapest in Hungary and one more. What is the name of this fourth capital city on the Danube?
a. Belgrade b. Bucharest c. Zagreb d. Sofia

10. Christopher Columbus sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean looking for a new route to India and China. He finally reached land on one of the islands in the Caribbean - first, the Bahamas, then the largest Caribbean island, Cuba and finally the island of Hispaniola. Columbus left some men behind on this island to form a colony - Spain's first colony in the new world. Today, the island of Hispaniola is divided between two countries. The eastern end of the island is the Dominican Republic. What country is the western end of the island?
a. Trinidad b. Bermuda c. Haiti d. Barbados