

Guess the Country – Reading and Writing

- 1 Get into small groups. How many countries can you name which have a Mediterranean shore?

Key: Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, (Palestine), Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Cyprus, Malta : 21 (22 including Palestine)

- 2 Read the texts. Match each text with a country with a Mediterranean shoreline. Use a dictionary to check the words at the top of the text and then use them to fill in the blanks.

A

resort like port base languages

This country has a population of less than 400,000, but the country is very small and so it is densely populated. The people are of mixed European and Arab descent, and they speak two _____. Many people speak three. The country is hot in the summer and is a tourist _____ because of its clear blue sea. On summer evenings people _____ having barbecues on the beaches. The winter months can be cool and damp. This country used to be a foreign military _____, but today its _____ is used for shipbuilding and ship repair and is becoming an important transit centre for Mediterranean shipping.

Name of country: _____

B

successful controversial ruled industry

This country has a population of about 40 million. Its climate is hot in summer and quite cold in winter. In the Middle Ages, the country was _____ by Muslims. In the twentieth century it had a Civil War and a Fascist Dictator. Its King is very popular and the country has become a modern country over the last forty years. Tourism is an important _____. The country is crazy about football, and one of its football teams is probably the most _____ football club in the world. The other national sport in this country is very _____ in other countries.

Name of country: _____

C

invented agricultural conflict ancestor

This country has a population of about 13 million. It has a seacoast, river valleys, high plateaux, mountains and a desert. It is mainly _____, but it also has oil and natural gas. A thousand years ago this country _____ the alphabet which was the _____ of all western alphabets. From the sixteenth until the early twentieth century it was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire and in recent years has played an important part in the Middle East _____.

Name of country: _____

Key A Malta B Spain C Syria

- 3 Use the models above. Write a description of your country, or one of the countries in Exercise 1 or any other country you would like to visit or live in. Don't write the name of the country. Write your name on the description and give the description to other students to read. See if they can guess the country.

Variation.

- 1 Your teacher will give you a number. Write the number at the top of the page.
- 2 Write a description of your country, or one of the countries in Exercise 1 or any other country you would like to visit or live in. Don't write the name of the country.
- 3 Stick your description up on the wall.
- 4 Read the other descriptions on the wall. Guess which country is being described in each text, and on a piece of paper write the number and country of each description.
- 5 When everyone has finished reading the texts on the walls, check with the whole class and see if you were right.