

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: information gap, asking and answering questions from prompts (pair work)

Focus

Country information

Aim

To ask and answer questions about countries in order to complete missing information in a chart.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this countries information gap activity, students ask and answer questions about countries in order to complete missing information in a chart.

Procedure

Begin the activity by writing the six headings from the worksheet on the board, e.g. size, capital city, etc.

Next, write the following information about Portugal under each heading:

Size: 92,212 sq km - quite small

Capital city: Lisbon

Population: 10.2 million

Climate: temperate climate with hot summers and wet winters

Natural resources: fish, cork, iron ore, copper, zinc

Interesting facts: oldest country in Europe, Portuguese is the official language

Elicit an example question and answer for each category.

Examples:

Q: How big is Portugal?

A: Portugal is quite small. It's 92,212 square kilometres.

Q: What is the capital city of Portugal?

A: The capital is Lisbon.

Next, divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Tell the students not to show their worksheet to their partner.

Students then take it in turns to ask and answer questions about each country on the worksheet and complete the missing information in their chart.

When the students have finished, they compare charts to check their answers.

Afterwards, review each country's information and any related vocabulary.

Student A

Ask Student B about the countries below. Write the missing information in the chart.

Country	Size	Capital city	Population	Climate	Natural resources	Interesting facts
Russia	17,098,242 sq km - very large		146.8 million		minerals, oil, gas, coal, timber	
Vatican City		Vatican City		Mediterranean climate, mild rainy winters and hot dry summers		smallest country in the world with the smallest population
Bhutan	38,394 sq km - small		822,000		timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium, carbonate	
Nigeria		Abuja		tropical climate with variable rainy and dry seasons		has more than 250 ethnic groups, most populous country in Africa
Thailand	513,120 sq km - big		69 million		coal, gold, lead, tin, tungsten	
Brazil		Brasília		hot and dry interior, humid and sticky in the Amazon jungle		largest country in South America, has 60% of the Amazon Rainforest

Student B

Ask Student A about the countries below. Write the missing information in the chart.

Country	Size	Capital city	Population	Climate	Natural resources	Interesting facts
Russia		Moscow		warm dry summers and very cold snowy winters		the world's largest country, spanning 11 time zones and two continents
Vatican City	44 hectares (110 acres) - very small		1,000		none	
Bhutan		Thimphu		hot and humid subtropical climate in the south, cold and snowy in the north		closed off from the world until the 1960s
Nigeria	923,763 sq km - very big		190.9 million		petroleum, natural gas, tin, iron ore, coal	
Thailand		Bangkok		tropical climate with high temperatures and humidity throughout the year		only country in Southeast Asia never colonized by a European country
Brazil	8,515,770 sq km - very big		209.3 million		iron ore, manganese, petroleum, timber	