

# Six Islands of the World

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water. Continents are also surrounded by water, but because they are so big, they are not considered islands. Islands may occur in oceans, seas, lakes, or rivers. A group of islands is called an *archipelago*. An *islet* is a very small island. Most definitions are not precise, but some suggest that an islet has little or no vegetation, and cannot support human habitation. A *cay* is a small, low-elevation, sandy island on the surface of a coral reef.

Memory questions:

What is the difference between an island and a continent?

A continent is larger than an island.

What is an islet?

A very small island

Other questions:

Find a word in the passage that means “a group of islands”.

Archipelago

Some islands are countries. **New Zealand** is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It consists of two main landmasses: the North Island and the South Island. The capital city of New Zealand is Wellington, widely known for its award-winning restaurants and especially its great coffee. New Zealand’s sport teams are famous for performing the *haka*, a ceremonial dance of challenge, before international matches..

Memory questions:

In which ocean is New Zealand situated?

Southwestern Pacific Ocean

What is the capital of New Zealand?

Wellington

Name two things New Zealand’s capital is well-known for.

Award-winning restaurants; great coffee

What are New Zealand’s sport teams famous for?

For performing the haka, a ceremonial dance of challenge.

Other questions:

Find a synonym for *ritual* in the passage.

Ceremonial

Another well-known country situated on an island is the **United Kingdom**, with London as its capital. London attractions include the London Eye and the Big Ben clock tower. The weather in the United Kingdom is not as sunny as one would expect – it has a temperate oceanic climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round. Although it is separated by the ocean, this country is part of Europe.

Memory questions:

Which continent is the United Kingdom part of?

Europe

What is the capital of the United Kingdom?

London

Name two famous attractions in London.

London Eye; Big Ben clock tower

What is the weather like in the United Kingdom?

A temperate oceanic climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round.

Other questions:

Find a synonym for *located* in the passage.

Situated

Find an antonym for *scarce* in the passage.

Plentiful

Between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, and east of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, we find the world's biggest island: **Greenland**. Although it's the world's biggest island, Greenland has a population of roughly only 56,000, of which 17,000 are living in Nuuk, Greenland's capital.

Memory questions:

What island is the world's biggest?

Greenland

What is the population of Greenland?

56,000

What is the population of Greenland's capital Nuuk?

17,000

Between which two oceans is Greenland found?

The Arctic and Atlantic oceans

What neighboring archipelago is west of Greenland?

Canadian Arctic Archipelago

Other questions:

Find a synonym for *approximately* in the passage.

Roughly

The **Caribbean Islands** is a famous archipelago, comprising of around 700 islands, islets, reefs and cays, and bordered by the Gulf of Mexico. Also known as the West Indies, this group is made up of countries like Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. Although one of the world's largest archipelagos, only around two percent of the islands in the Caribbean are inhabited by people.

Memory questions:

How many islands, islets, reefs and caves are the Caribbean Islands made up of?

700

Which gulf borders the Caribbean Islands?

Gulf of Mexico

Name three of the countries that are part of the Caribbean Islands.

Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico

What percentage of the Caribbean Islands are inhabited by people?

Two percent.

Why do you think only two percent are inhabited by people?

Many of the small islands cannot support human habitation.

Other questions:

Find a synonym for *biggest* in the passage.

Largest

*Aloha!* The **Hawaiian Islands** are an archipelago of eight major islands. Hawaii is a state of the United States of America located in the Pacific Ocean, and very famous for its culture and people. Did you know that Hawaii was the first state to ban plastic bags? Even billboards are prohibited in Hawaii. Hawaiian say “Aloha” when greeting someone and also when saying goodbye. The greeting also means love, peace, compassion, and is a mutual understanding of respect.

Memory questions:

In which ocean is Hawaii found?

Pacific Ocean

Name two things that are illegal in Hawaii.

Plastic bags; billboards

Name four things that the greeting “Aloha” represents.

Love, peace, compassion, mutual understanding of respect.

Hawaii is a state of which country?

United States of America

Other questions:

Find an antonym for *indifference* in the passage.

Compassion

**Madagascar** is the world's fourth largest island and second-largest island country in the Indian Ocean. It is home to 70 species of lemurs found nowhere else on Earth, as well as over 10,000 different plant species. More than 50 percent of the world's chameleon population is situated here. Although one of the most beautiful places on our planet, more than three quarters of Madagascar's people live in extreme poverty due to decades of mismanagement and poor governance.

Memory questions:

How many lemur species are in Madagascar?

70

How many plant species are in Madagascar?

Over 10,000.

Other questions:

Find a synonym for *variation* in the passage.

Diversity