



ICELAND

Level: Intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B1)

Age: Teenagers / Adults

Time: 60 minutes

Summary: This infographic lesson looks at interesting facts and figures about Iceland.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; access to a projector or IWB to project the infographic from onestopenglish.

HOW TO USE THE LESSON

1 Write the following on the board: i _ _ c _ _ _ . Give students a clue, like: *it's something cold that you normally eat in summer*. Ask them to guess the word, or play a hangman game with them until they guess. Explain that *ice cream* is a compound word – two or more words used together as a single word (in this case, two nouns). Hand out the worksheet and ask students to do exercise 1 in pairs. Get feedback from the pair work and write the words they have produced on the board. Check pronunciation and drill if necessary. If students don't mention Iceland, add it to the list of compound nouns on the board. Ask them what they know about the country. Discuss as a whole group.

2 Allow students time to read through the information on the infographic (you could give it to them as a printed worksheet or display it on the board) and answer the questions in exercise 2. Ask them to compare their answers with a partner or in groups of three. Check answers with the whole group.

3 Ask students to now look at exercise 3. At this stage, focus on the individual words in the infographic. Do the first as an example, and then allow the students to complete the others.

4 Direct students to exercise 4. You may wish to do the first pair as an example on the board. Ask students to work with a partner or in a group of three and write sentences to explain the difference between each pair of words. Check answers as a whole class.

5 Now ask students to complete the sentences in exercise 5. This should be quite straightforward for them now that they know the differences in meaning.

6 For the final exercise, let students make a list of three pieces of information and make notes on their reasons individually. Then put them into pairs and ask them to talk together to compare the information and discuss their reasons. Encourage them to ask for more information on their partner's choices. If the students are from the same country, they could reduce their lists from six pieces of information to a definitive list of three, debated and chosen by the pair. If they are a multilingual group, you could set up a mingle activity in which the students speak to several different partners, each from a different country.

Key:

1 Possible words: *Ice Age, ice axe, iceberg, icebox, icebreaker, ice bucket, ice cap, ice(d) coffee, ice cube, ice hockey, ice(d) lolly, ice pack, ice pick, ice rink, ice skate, ice skater, ice(d) tea, ice water*

2

- 1 35
- 2 *It disrupted international air travel and affected economic, political and cultural activities worldwide.*
- 3 *from renewable energy (hydropower and geothermal power)*
- 4 *0°C in the lowlands and -10°C in the highlands*
- 5 *geothermal*
- 6 *40%*
- 7 *3 am*
- 8 *none (no army, navy or air force)*

3

- 1 *plateau*
- 2 *geyser*
- 3 *wasteland*
- 4 *forested*
- 5 *arable*



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- 6 hydropower
- 7 geothermal
- 8 highlands

- 4 1 **Mild** means warm and pleasant, especially for the time of year, whereas **bitter** refers to extremely cold weather.
- 2 An **Indian summer** is a period of warm weather in autumn. A **heatwave** is a continuous period of extremely hot weather.
- 3 **Frosty** means that there are thin layers of ice on the ground outside, whereas **chilly** is rather cold and unpleasant weather.
- 4 **Balmy** is warm and pleasant weather. **Scorching** means that it is extremely hot.
- 5 **Blustery** means very strong winds, and **fresh** refers to fairly cold, windy weather.

- 5 1 blustery
- 2 mild
- 3 Indian summer
- 4 frosty
- 5 balmy

- 6 students' own answers

RELATED WEBSITES

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

www.iceland.is

www.visiticeland.com

www.lonelyplanet.com/iceland

www.discovericeland.is



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1 Work in pairs. Make a list of compound words beginning with *ice*, for example *ice cream* or *ice-skating*.

2 Read the infographic about Iceland and answer the questions.

1. How many active volcanoes are there in Iceland? _____
2. What effect did the ash cloud have in 2010? _____
3. How does Iceland produce electricity? _____
4. What is the average temperature in winter? _____
5. What kind of heating do households have? _____
6. What percentage of the population does not live in the capital? _____
7. What time does the sun rise on the longest day? _____
8. What armed forces does Iceland have? _____

3 Read the infographic again and find words that mean the following.

1. a large flat area of land that is higher than the land around it _____
2. hot water and steam that shoot up out of the earth _____
3. an area of land that is empty or cannot be used _____
4. an area of land covered with trees _____
5. land that is suitable for growing crops _____
6. energy that is obtained from falling water _____
7. energy that is obtained from the heat in the ground _____
8. an area of land at a high level and consists of hills and mountains _____

4 The following words are connected to hot and cold weather. What are the differences between each pair?

1. mild / bitter _____

2. Indian summer / heatwave _____

3. frosty / chilly _____



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4. balmy / scorching _____

5. blustery / fresh _____

5 Complete each sentence with words from exercise 4.

- 1. It is really _____ up there. They could be blown off the mountain.
- 2. It has been a really _____ winter with the highest temperatures in Iceland since 1998.
- 3. The weather is unusually warm for this late in the year – it's almost winter. Can we call it a(n) _____?
- 4. Be careful not to slip and fall. Remember it is _____ this morning in Reykjavík.
- 5. He looked out onto the plateau and sat down to enjoy the beautiful _____ summer's evening.

6 What three pieces of information about your country would you include in an informative tourist brochure? Give reasons for your choice.

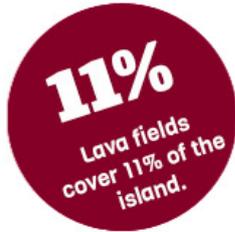
- _____
- _____
- _____



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Iceland

Land of ice and fire



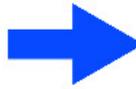
Volcanic island

Iceland is one of the most active volcanic regions in the world with 35 active volcanoes. On average there is one eruption every 3-5 years. The eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 produced a giant ash cloud, which caused the disruption of international air travel, affecting economic, political and cultural activities throughout the world.



1%

Iceland consists of a central plateau circled by mountains. However, only 1% of the land is arable.



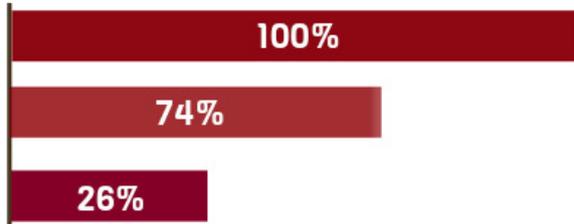
63%

63% of Iceland is wasteland, while 11% is snow fields and glaciers, but only 1% is forested.

Renewable energy

Electricity

100% of Iceland's electricity is produced by renewable energy. 74% is produced by hydropower, while 26% is produced by geothermal power.



Interesting facts:



0°C

Iceland has milder winters than most chilly and frosty European countries- the lowlands average 0°C and the highlands -10°C



40 metres

The most active geyser is Strokkur. It erupts every 4-8 minutes, throwing hot water 40 metres into the air.



60%

60% of the population live in the capital Reykjavik



21 hours

The longest day is in June. The sun rises at 3 am and sets at midnight.

Zero - Iceland has no army, navy or airforce.

Heating:

Geothermal heating meets the heating and hot water requirements of 87% of the nation's households.

