

# DID YOU KNOW?

**1 Look at this photograph of Mount Teide. Where do you think it is?**



Now read the text.

**Mount Teide**

Mount Teide, on Tenerife in the Canary Islands, is the highest mountain in Spain and the third largest volcano on Earth. It is 3,717 metres above sea level. The volcano is inactive, or dormant, at the moment, but many scientists think that it might erupt again in the future. The last big eruption was in 1909, but the most important eruption probably happened in pre-historic times, in about 150,000 BC. The massive explosion formed an enormous opening, called a crater, around the volcano. The crater, named Las Cañadas, is 48km in circumference and rises 2,000 metres above sea level. The peak, or top, of Mount Teide rises up from the centre of Las Cañadas.

The government created a national park, the *Parque Nacional de las Cañadas del Teide*, in 1954, to protect Mount Teide. This park contains Mount Teide, Las Cañadas, and the area around them.



Around the edges of the National Park, the countryside is green and there are forests of Canary pine. Then, at about 2,000 metres, the green forests stop and there are just volcanic rocks. This is the beginning of Las Cañadas. Here, temperatures can be 40°C in the summer months. This incredible scenery is the setting for many films, including *Planet of the Apes*, *Star Wars* and *The Ten Commandments*.

It is possible to walk up Mount Teide, although most people take the cable car. This stops 150 metres before the top of the mountain. To protect the fragile peak, visitors must have a special permit to make the short journey from the cable car station to the top.

On a clear day, it is possible to see Gran Canaria, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro from the peak. Not surprisingly, Mount Teide is the Canary Islands' most popular tourist attraction. It attracts more than 3,500,000 visitors a year.

**2 Find numbers in the text to complete these sentences about Mount Teide.**

- 1 The most important eruption of Mount Teide probably happened in about \_\_\_\_\_ BC.
- 2 Over \_\_\_\_\_ people visit Mount Teide every year.
- 3 In the summer, the temperature is sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ °C.
- 4 The *Parque Nacional de las Cañadas del Teide* was created in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 5 The journey from the cable car station to the top of the mountain is \_\_\_\_\_ metres.
- 6 Mount Teide is \_\_\_\_\_ metres above sea level.

**3 Is there a beautiful park or mountain near you? Which places are most popular with visitors in your area?**