

CELEBRATIONS

one stop english

Mystery island

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults

Level: Intermediate (B1) – Upper intermediate (B2)

Time: 30 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. read about an island
2. learn language for geographical features
3. do a true/false activity

Language focus: vocabulary for geographical locations; completing a personal fact file

Preparation: make a personal fact file before class about your country or hometown

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Play hangman using the word 'Meretricious'. Once the students have got the answer, ask them if anyone knows what it is. Hand out the worksheet and tell students to read the article and find out. Answer: It is three islands. (In fact, the islands don't exist. This worksheet is an April Fool's joke, but don't tell students until after they've completed it!)
2. Write the following fact file on the board. Ask students to complete it using the information in the article.

MERETRICIOUS FACT FILE

Names of other islands:

Capital:

Airport:

Name of first king:

Official languages:

Independence Day:

Local delicacy:

Address of official website:

Key:

Fact file

Names of other islands: Mendacious, La Profilo

Capital: Jamestown

Airport: Cook International

Name of king: Yuvbin Takenin IV

Official languages: Meretrician, English

Independence Day: April 1

Local delicacy: Fruit bats called 'flying foxes' stuffed with tropical fruits and roasted over an open fire

Address of official website: www.meretricious.com

3. Read out the following statements. Students note if they are true or false without looking back at the article.
 - a. Meretricious is a British colony.
 - b. Mount Folpa'oril is a dormant volcano.
 - c. All the beaches have black sand.
 - d. Nobody lives on La Profilo.
 - e. The original version of *Mutiny on the Bounty* was filmed on Mendacious.

Key:

True or false

- a. True, but only until April 1
 - b. False, it's semi-active.
 - c. False, the beaches in the south have black sand
 - d. True
 - e. False, it was filmed on La Profilo.
4. Ask students to work in small groups and write down three reasons for visiting Meretricious. Did anyone mention to learn English? Would they like to go there to study English?
 5. Get students to look in an atlas or on the Meretricious website to find out exactly where it is. As students won't have been able to, point out the date of its Independence Day. Why is this important? Answer: It's April Fool's Day and the island doesn't exist! How many of them were April Fools?
 6. Write up the name of the volcano Folpa'oril and the island La Profilo. See if students can unjumble the letters. They both spell April Fool. Look up the following words in a dictionary: meretricious, mendacious, swindler, bluff, con. Also check the name of the first king, Yuvbin Takenin; it sounds like 'You've been taken in'. Finally, ask the students if they recognize any of the places in the photos. They are in fact mostly photos of Antigua, part of the British Commonwealth, whose official language is English.

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Extension activity: Invent an Island

1. Students work in small groups and invent an island. They should draw a map of it and write a description of its geographical features, the language, rules and traditions, etc. Display these on the classroom walls for the other students to look at.
2. Students write a fact file about their own country, using some true facts and others made up. They can then share these with their classmates, who have to guess which facts are true and which facts are false.