

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

READING Three countries

1 Look at photos a–c and skim texts 1–3 on page 11. Match them with the titles below. **Read Study Skill**

- ☐ ☐ Cities, Deserts, Seas
☐ ☐ A World on an Island
☐ ☐ Your Dream Castle?

STUDY SKILL Skimming and scanning

Remember there are two ways of reading quickly:

- skimming for the general idea
- scanning for particular information

2 Scan the texts. Find information to complete the table.

	location	important date	economy	attractions	language(s)
Singapore			<i>strong economy, tourism</i>		Malay, English, Mandarin, Tamil
Morocco	North Africa			Fez, beaches, Sahara Desert	
Wales					

3 Scan the texts again to answer the questions.

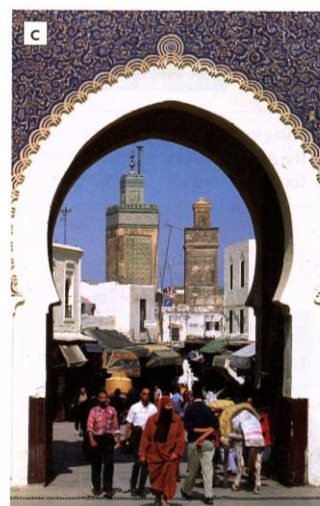
Which country ...

- has a border with England?
- has a desert?
- has a lot of ancient castles?
- is an island?
- has man-made beaches?
- is ruled by a king?
- has a wild coastline?
- is in South-East Asia?
- has an ocean to the west, and a sea to the north?

4 Scan the texts to match a word in A with a word in B, and a definition in C.

A	B	C
historic	1 _____ beaches	a ☐ beaches made by people, not by nature
natural	2 _____ city	b ☐ coal, gas, oil, and fresh water are all examples of these
tourist	3 _____ destination	c ☐ a popular place to go on holiday
national	4 _____ language	d ☐ a place with a long and important history
man-made	5 _____ resources	e ☐ the main language used in a country
official	6 _____ assembly	f ☐ the group of people chosen to govern a country

5 Read the texts again more slowly. In pairs, discuss similarities and differences between the three countries and your own country.



1

The Republic of Singapore is an island in South-East Asia, just 137km north of the Equator. It became an independent city-state in 1965. Singapore has few natural resources. However, it developed a strong economy and is a popular tourist destination. People come here for its fabulous shopping, the famous Singapore Zoo, and its beautiful man-made beaches. Singapore has a rich mixture of people and many languages are spoken here, including Malay, English, Mandarin, and Tamil.

2

The Kingdom of Morocco is a country in North Africa. It has the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, Algeria to the east, and Western Sahara to the south. It became an independent kingdom in 1956. Its economy depends on mining and tourism. Morocco's attractions include the historic city of Fez, the wonderful beaches on the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and the Sahara Desert. Arabic is the official language, although French is often used for business.

3

Wales is in northern Europe. It is part of the United Kingdom. It borders England to the east, and has the Irish Sea on the west. Wales was ruled by England for many centuries, but in 1999 its own National Assembly was created. Farming and tourism are important parts of its economy. Tourists come to Wales to see its many ancient castles, to walk and climb in its beautiful mountains, or to walk along its wild coastline. Although most people speak English, both Welsh and English are the official languages.

WRITING My country

- 1 Complete the diagram about France using the topic areas and examples in the box. **Read Study Skill**

skiing in the Alps	economy	coal
the Atlantic Ocean	Spain	1789
tourism	French	Euro Disney

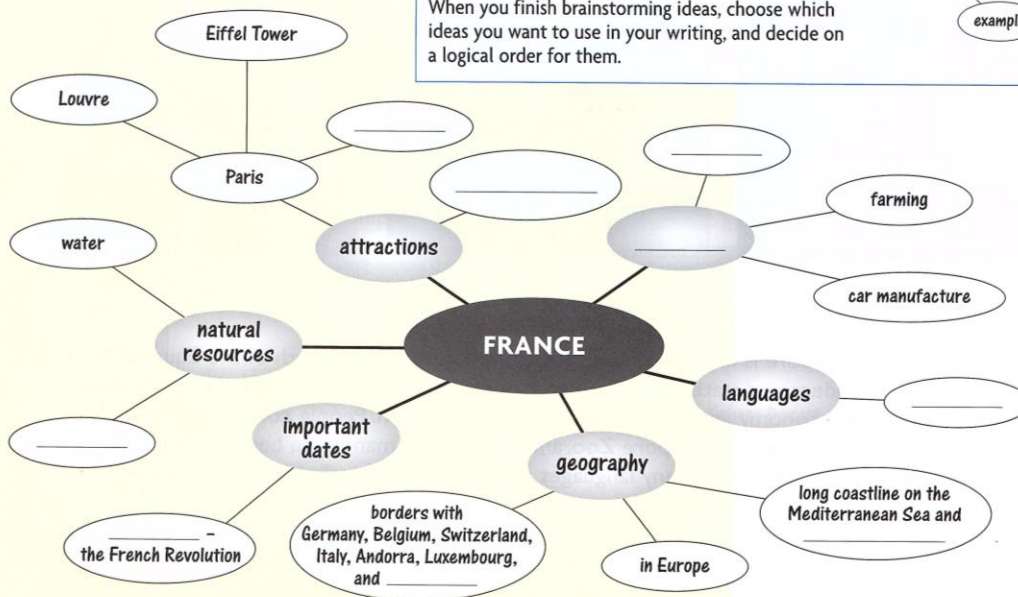
STUDY SKILL Brainstorming ideas

Before you write, think about the topic. Work with a partner or in a group.

- Use a diagram to help you organize your thoughts.
- Decide on topic areas, and think of examples.
- Write notes and single words on the diagram.
- Don't discard any ideas or thoughts at this stage.
- Don't worry about what is more or less important at this stage.



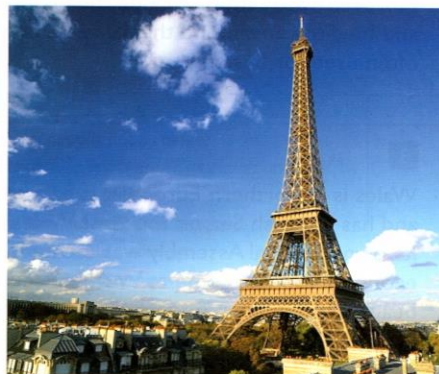
When you finish brainstorming ideas, choose which ideas you want to use in your writing, and decide on a logical order for them.



- 2 Complete the paragraph about France. Use information from the diagram in exercise 1.

FRANCE – SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

France is a large country in ¹ _____. It has ² _____ with many countries, including Germany, Italy, and Spain. It was ruled by a king. However, after the revolution in ³ _____, it became a republic. France has good natural resources, such as water and ⁴ _____. Farming, car manufacturing, and ⁵ _____ are other important parts of its economy. The capital of France is Paris, which lies on the River Seine. Many tourists stay in the city to see the ⁶ _____ Tower, or to visit the world-famous Louvre Museum and the many other attractions. There are also lots of other things to do outside Paris. You can go skiing in the ⁷ _____, visit ⁸ _____, or go swimming in the Mediterranean. Although the official language is French, many people speak a little English. So, whatever your interests and wherever you come from, France has something for you.



- 3 Look back at the text on page 12. Write the topic areas from the box next to numbers 1–5 in the order they appear in the text.

languages attractions geography important date(s) economy

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

- 4 With a partner, quickly brainstorm ideas about your country. Write your ideas on a diagram. Use the topic areas from exercise 3.
- 5 **Read Study Skill** Underline other examples of *but*, *however*, and *although* in the three texts on page 11.

STUDY SKILL Linking ideas (1)

Linking ideas in a clear and logical way is part of good writing. Use *but*, *however*, and *although* to contrast two ideas.

Look at sentences **a** and **b**. Compare the way *but*, *however*, and *although* are used to link them. What differences are there?

a *The official language is French.*

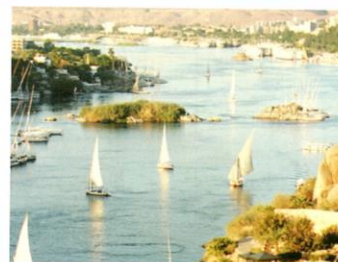
b *Many people speak a little English.*

*The official language is French, **but** many people speak a little English.*

*The official language is French. **However**, many people speak a little English.*

***Although** the official language is French, many people speak a little English.*

*The official language is French, **although** many people speak a little English.*



- 6 Link the pairs of sentences using the word in brackets.

1 Many people think that Sydney is the capital of Australia. Canberra is really the capital. (but)

2 The Amazon is the longest river in South America. The Nile is the longest river in the world. (however)

3 Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It is not the most difficult to climb. (although)

4 It is very hot in the Sahara during the day. It can be very cold at night. (although)

Writing a description of my country

- 7 Write a paragraph of about 150 words describing your country. Use your ideas from exercise 4. Link them using *but*, *however*, and *although*.

