1 Our lives

What you will do

This unit is about life in different countries. These are the skills you will practise. Which are the most useful to you? Tick the boxes.

- Do you know which countries these people come from?
- What do you know about these countries?
- Do you know anything about life there?
- Are these countries similar to the UK?
Listening and speaking

Skill
☐ Listen for information in a radio programme
☐ Listen for information about people’s lives
☐ Describe places
☐ Talk about events in the past
☐ Express feelings, likes and dislikes

Skill code
Lr/E3.1a, 2a, 6b
Lr/E3.2d, 2e, 5b
Sc/E3.1a, 1b, 4a, 4c, 4f
Sc/E3.3b, 3d, 4b, 4c
Sd/E3.1c

Reading and writing

Skill
☐ Read factual information
☐ Punctuate a text
☐ Write in short paragraphs
☐ Write using complex sentences
☐ Practise spelling

Skill code
Rt/E3.1a, 1b, 4a, 7a
Rw/E3.1a
Wt/E3.1a, 1b, 2a, 4a
Ws/E3.1a, 2a
Ww/E3.1a, 1b

Project work

At the end of this unit you will write a travel information guide for a country of your choice.
Describing a country

Activity A ● Reading about a country

Inés Ferrer is writing a project on her country, Colombia. You are going to read the information she found on the Internet.
1 Before you read, think about the different types of information you could find on the web page. Then read to see if you were right.

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

A Colombia is the fourth largest country in South America and the only one with coasts on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It shares borders with Panama (to the north-west), Venezuela (to the east), Brazil (to the south-east), Peru (to the south) and Ecuador (to the south-west). Colombian territory also includes the San Andrés and Providencia island groups.

B The population of Colombia is 39,685,000. The people are of Indian, European and African descent. The official language of Colombia is Spanish, but there are also 75 Indian languages still used in the country. The main religion is Catholicism, although three million people have joined other churches such as the Anglican and Lutheran churches.

C Colombian art and music come from a mixture of Indian, Spanish and African traditions. Pre-Colombian (pre-European) art consists primarily of stone sculpture, pottery and gold work. Indian crafts such as basket making, weaving and pottery also go back to pre-Colombian times but now mix modern techniques with traditional designs. Colombian music uses the African rhythms of the Caribbean, Cuban salsa and Spanish-influenced music from the Andes.

D Typical Colombian food consists largely of chicken, pork, potato, rice, beans and soup. Ajiaco is an example of a regional dish from Bogotá. It is a soup made with chicken and potato. There is an amazing variety of fruit to be found in Colombia. The coffee and beer are very good, and every region has its own wine.
2 Are the statements true or false?  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
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</table>

3 Match the paragraphs A–D to the headings.

Art ☐  Food ☐  Geography ☐  People ☐

4 Find words or phrases which mean the same as the following:

a  land belonging to a country (paragraph A)  ____________ territory ____________

b  the number of people in a country/region (paragraph B)  ______________

c  largest, most important (paragraph B)  ______________

d  mostly (paragraph C)  ______________

e  surprising (paragraph D)  ______________
Activity B  Writing about a country

1  Look at the map of Turkey and the information in the table.
   ● Which continent is it situated in?
   ● Which countries does it share borders with?
   ● Does it have any coastline?
   ● What is the official language?
   ● What is the size of the population?
   ● What is the dominant religion?
   ● What food is typical?

2  Use the information to write about Turkey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information about Turkey</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominant religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typical food</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Describing a city

*Activity A • Listening to information about a place*

Inés recorded a radio programme about Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia, for her project.

1 Before you listen, tick the topics that you think will be mentioned in the programme. Then listen and check if you were right.

   shopping □  banks □  housing □
   education □  entertainment □  places of interest □

2 Listen again and match the adjectives and nouns.

   **Adjectives**               **Nouns**
   futuristic                   cultural life
   lively and diverse           architecture
   busy and bustling            streets
   expensive                    churches and museums
   chaotic                      shops
   calm and relaxing            cities
Activity B ● Listening: describing places

Listen to Mehmet and Leila discussing Dhaka and Istanbul. Complete the conversations.

What’s Dhaka like?
– It’s ......................... largest cities in the world. It’s ..................... busy. There are ......................... rickshaws.
 ......................... ?
– Yes, they’re ..................... taxis. You sit in a carriage pulled by a man on a bicycle.

Can you tell me about Istanbul?
– It’s ......................... and ......................... but I think it’s really ......................... as well. It’s full of old buildings like mosques.
 There’s ......................... history.
 ......................... ?
– Well, it’s over ......................... years old, for example.
Really?

Activity C ● Talking about a place

Work in pairs. Talk about a place you know well. Ask each other questions.
Comparing places

Mehmet wrote a short text comparing life in Istanbul and in Bristol.

I like living in Bristol. It’s an interesting city but it’s so much smaller and quieter than my city. It’s really taking me time to get used to it. Istanbul is a much more chaotic place. There is always the noise of traffic, the sound of car horns and people calling to each other and the crowds in the bazaars.

Both cities are ports, but again, in Bristol the port is much smaller than in my city. I do like being near the water though. I often go down to the quayside and watch the boats. In both cities it’s easy to get out to the coast, but I think the coastline is much more beautiful near Istanbul.

People told me it was always cold and wet in England but in fact the winter here in Bristol is often warmer than in Istanbul. I like that. I’m not looking forward to the summer in England though. It is definitely much colder than in my country.

Activity A ● Reading: comparing places

Underline the sentences or phrases in the text where Mehmet compares two places.
Activity B ● Proof-reading
Here are some sentences Mehmet didn’t use in his letter. Find the mistakes and correct them. There is one in each sentence.

a Istanbul is bigger Bristol.
b I like the weather in winter.
c Bristol have more supermarkets than Istanbul.
d We sometimes go swimming.

Activity C ● Writing: comparing places
Choose two different places you have lived in or know something about.

1 Make a list of things which are similar and things which are different. Use these ideas to help you.

   history traffic buildings position weather noise

2 Write a short text. Give it to another person to check for mistakes.
Coming to Britain

**Activity A ● Reading a narrative**

As part of her project, Inés has written about coming to Britain.

1. Read the paragraphs below and put them in the correct order, 1–4.

A

This was a fantastic opportunity. I couldn’t believe it, to be honest. I spent about three weeks deciding what to do. On the one hand, I had the chance to travel to Britain and work in a new environment. On the other hand, I would have to leave my friends and family.

B

My name is Inés. I come from near Bogotá in Colombia. As you probably know, Colombia has its problems, but I love my country. I came to Bristol five years ago, but I still miss Colombia.
Finally, I decided to take the job offer and in 1998 I arrived in Bristol, nervous but excited. I’m having a great time, although I was really lonely at first. I don’t know what to do in the future, but at the moment I’m happy working and living in the UK.

I finished a degree in chemistry at university in 1994. Then I got a job with a large multinational company in the same year. I was working as a scientist in their factory in Bogotá when they offered me promotion and a job in the UK.

2 Read the text again. Write the time expressions and the connectives in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time expressions</th>
<th>Connectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>now</td>
<td>but</td>
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</table>
STREETS OF LONDON
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiWomXklfv8

STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z2DtNW79sQ

LEAVING OF LIVERPOOL
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXVnmL1Kvmg