

10.2 Natural wonders

GOALS ■ Describe nature and geography ■ Use superlative adjectives

Vocabulary & Speaking nature and geography



1a Work with a partner. Look at photos a–f and match a natural wonder to a name in the box. Which countries are they in?

Lake Baikal Phuket Mount Kilimanjaro
the Gobi Desert Victoria Falls the Amazon

b 10.7))) Listen and check your answers.

2a Work with a partner. Complete sentences 1–6 from the listening in exercise 1a with the words in the box.

beaches coast desert islands lake mountain
rainforest river waterfall

- 1 It's the highest _____ in Africa, but it's not difficult to climb.
- 2 It's a very big _____ on the Zambezi _____.
- 3 It's the biggest and deepest _____ in the world.
- 4 The Amazon Jungle is the biggest area of _____ in the world.
- 5 The Andaman Sea has some very beautiful tropical _____, with white sandy _____, near the west _____ of Thailand.
- 6 It's a cold _____ because it's so far north and it sometimes snows there.

b 10.7))) Listen again and check your answers.

3 Work with a partner. Talk about any natural wonders in your country or other countries you know.

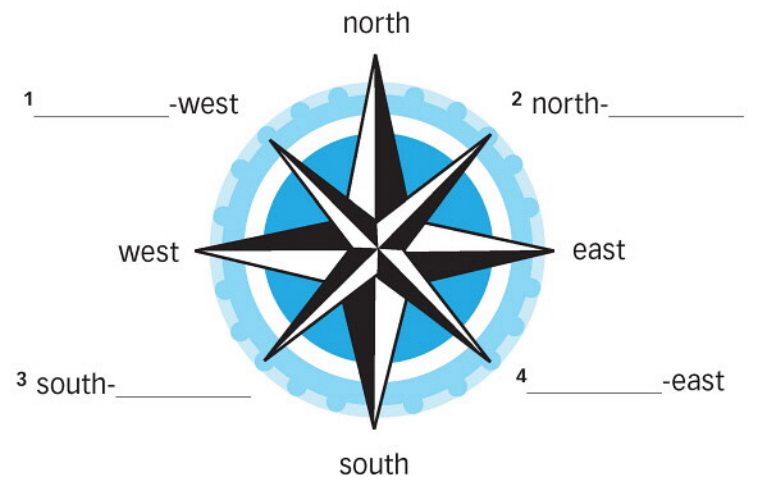
4a Work with a partner. Match beginnings 1–3 to endings a–c.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Lake Baikal is in | a the <u>west</u> coast of Thailand. |
| 2 The Gobi Desert is in | b the <u>south</u> of Siberia. |
| 3 Phuket island is near | c <u>north-west</u> China and Mongolia. |

b 10.8))) Listen and check your answers.

c Complete the points of the compass with the words in the box.

north west east south



d Turn to page 130 and check your answers.

5 Work with a partner. Take turns to describe and complete a map. Student A, turn to page 130. Student B, turn to page 135.

Grammar & Speaking superlatives

- 6a Work with a partner. Complete the three texts about natural wonders with the numbers in the box.

87 25 1,600 3 20 5,895 12

Travel tips

Lake Baikal

Lake Baikal in Siberia is the **biggest, deepest,** and **oldest** lake in the world. It's more than ¹ _____ metres deep and more than ² _____ million years old. It has almost ³ _____ per cent of the world's fresh water, and thousands of different kinds of plants and animals live there.

Kilimanjaro

Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, is one of the **largest** volcanoes in the world. It's ⁴ _____ metres tall – the **highest** mountain in Africa. It's sometimes called the 'Roof of Africa'. It's also one of the **easiest** mountains in the world to climb, even for tourists. The **oldest** person ever to climb to the top was a Frenchman, Valtee Daniel, who was ⁵ _____ years old.

Al Hasa

An oasis is an area of water in a desert, and Al-Hasa is the **largest** oasis in Saudi Arabia. It covers over ⁶ _____ km² and gives water to over ⁷ _____ million trees and a million people, even at the **hottest** times of the year. Many Saudis believe Al-Hasa is the **most beautiful** and **best** area to visit in the country.

- b 10.9))) Listen and check your answers.

- 7a Read the Grammar focus box about superlative adjectives.

GRAMMAR FOCUS superlative adjectives

- We use the superlative form to compare a person or thing to the whole group it belongs to. We usually use *the* before superlatives.
*Everest is the **tallest** mountain in the world.*
*The Empire State Building is one of the **most famous** sights in New York.*
- To make the superlative form of an adjective, we add:
 - est to the end of a one-syllable adjective, e.g. *tall* → **tallest**
 - iest to the end of a two-syllable adjective which ends in -y, e.g. *cloudy* → **cloudiest**
 - most* before longer adjectives, e.g. **most dangerous**.
 - Some superlatives are irregular
good → **best** *much, many* → **most**
bad → **worst** *little* → **least**

→ Grammar Reference page 155

- b Complete the table with the superlative form of the adjectives. Check your answers in the texts in exercise 6a.

	Adjective	Superlative form
short adjectives	big deep old large hot	<i>biggest</i>
adjectives ending in -y	easy	
longer adjectives	beautiful	
irregular adjectives	good	

PRONUNCIATION *the ... -est* in sentences

10.10))) We say *the* in superlatives with a weak sound /ðə/ when the following adjective starts with a consonant. We say the ending -est with a schwa sound /əst/.

- 8 10.11))) Listen to three people talking about the longest rivers in the world and repeat.

- A *Which river's the longest in the world?*
B *I think the Nile's the longest.*
C *Maybe, but I think the Amazon is longer than the Mississippi.*

- 9a Work with a partner. Have similar conversations to the one in exercise 8, using the adjective in (brackets).

- airports: Dubai, Los Angeles, Beijing (busy)
- islands: Sumatra, Madagascar, Greenland (big)
- monuments: the Colosseum (Rome), the Great Pyramid of Giza (Egypt), the Parthenon (Greece) (old)

- b 10.12))) Listen and check your answers.

- 10a **TASK** Work with a partner. Complete the phrases with the superlative form of the adjective in (brackets).

- (near) *The **nearest** bank is ...*
- (cheap) _____ place to eat is ...
- (good) _____ place to go shopping is ...
- (old) _____ part of the town is ...
- (interesting) _____ art gallery/ museum is ...
- (busy) _____ street is ...

- b Work in small groups. Finish the sentences about where you are now. Agree or disagree and give more information.

- A *The nearest bank is about ten minutes on foot from here.*
B *No, the bank on Palm Street is closer.*
A *Oh yes, I forgot about that one!*