

Comparing Cornwall

Comparing a region of the UK, Cornwall, with a European region, Sicily, and an area in South America, Haiti.

Key Vocabulary

Location	The place or position that something is in.
Climate	The long term weather pattern in a region or country.
Population	The number of people in a area.
Natural resources	Materials that are found in nature that can be used by living things.
Coastline	The area where land meets the sea.
Natural hazards	Extreme natural events that can cause loss of life, damage to property and disruption. This includes: flooding, earthquake, hurricane, volcanic eruption.

Haiti

Physical and Human Features

Haiti is a country in the Caribbean Sea. It includes the western part of the island of Hispaniola and the smaller islands of Gonâve, Tortue (Tortuga), Grand Caye and Vache. Most of the landscape is mountainous, with small coastal plains. The highest peak is Pic la Selle, at a height of around 2700 metres (8800 feet). The ruins of Sans-Souci Palace are found in the mountains to the north of Haiti. The palace was once the home of the first king of Haiti, King Henri I.

Other Information

Card games and dominoes are common pastimes in Haiti. Football is a popular sport. In 1974, Haiti became the second Caribbean country to qualify for the World Cup Finals.

Staple foods include beans, rice, sweet potatoes and bananas. Griot (fried pork shoulder) is considered the national dish of Haiti.

Music

There are some music styles in Haiti that are not found elsewhere, including hip hop Creole and rara. Rara is Haitian festival music that is performed during holidays, especially during Easter week. Musicians play cylindrical bamboo trumpets, drums and maracas. Merengue is another local music style which dates back to the 19th century. People enjoy dancing to the rhythm of the music.

Wildlife and Vegetation

Much of Haiti's natural vegetation has been destroyed through deforestation. Small areas of forest remain, which include pine trees and ferns. As vegetation levels reduced, so did the variety of wildlife species. Flamingos still live on Gonâve island and caimans can be found in rivers. Goats and cows are common livestock.

North America



Quick Facts

Capital City: Port-au-Prince

Land Borders: Dominican Republic

Population: nearly 12 million (2023)

Official Languages: Haitian Creole and French

Climate: Tropical

Currency: Haitian gourde

Cornwall

Cornwall is the most westerly county in England and the southernmost point in the UK. It is a peninsula and has sea on both the north and south sides. Cornwall county also includes the Isles of Scilly. Cornwall has a border on land with the county of Devon.

History

Cornwall became part of England in the Middle Ages. Before that, it was its own kingdom, occupied at times by the Celts, the Romans and the Saxons.

Tin has been mined in Cornwall for an estimated 3000 years. Tin is quite a rare metal and the industry made a lot of money for Cornwall right up until the 20th century. There were several periods in history when Cornwall was the largest tin producer in the world.

St. Piran and the Cornish Flag

The official flag of Cornwall county is a black rectangle with a white cross. The colours come from the legend of St. Piran who supposedly floated across the sea from Ireland to Cornwall in the 5th century. St. Piran made a fire one day and a white liquid appeared from a black rock. Legend has it that this was the discovery of tin in Cornwall.



Fascinating Facts

Cornish is a regional language in the UK. It is an ancient Celtic language with similarities to Welsh and Breton.

Tourism in Cornwall

Today, after the end of tin mining, the county relies on a seasonal income from tourism. Millions of visitors come to Cornwall every summer to spend time at the beautiful beaches, walk the coastal paths or surf in the sea. Cornwall is one of the sunniest places in the UK and the Isles of Scilly are one of the warmest places year round.




Sicily

Sicily is a southern Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea. It is the largest and most densely populated island in the area.


Geographical Features

Sicily is recognisable due to its triangular shape and is positioned at the south part of the Italian peninsula. The terrain consists of mostly hills and mountains and there are also active volcanoes. It is separated from the mainland of Italy by the Strait of Messina.



Mount Etna

Mount Etna lies to the east of the island and at 3,357m (11,013ft) it is the largest active volcano in Europe. It has been active, on and off, for hundreds of thousands of years. It also features prominently in Greek mythology. It is believed that the volcano was once submerged underwater and due to its many eruptions, it has now emerged from the sea.



Landmarks


There are seven UNESCO landmarks in Sicily. These include:

Valle dei Templi An ancient site containing the remains of seven temples including the enormous Temple of Concordia.

Villa Romana del Casale A Roman villa housing some of the largest and most complex Roman mosaics in the world.

Aeolian Islands A famous summer tourist destination attracting up to 200,000 annual visitors.

Sicily is also home to hundreds of castles and major archaeological sites.



Language and Culture

Many poets, painters and philosophers are known to have roots on the island of Sicily. The Greek mathematician Archimedes was born here when the island was part of Greece. The languages of Italian and Sicilian are spoken on the island. Some aspects of Sicilian are similar to the Greek, Catalan, French and Arabic languages.