

The world's best countries

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Deciding on three important factors when ranking the 'best' countries to live in

Guessing the top five 'best countries in the world'

Reading an article about a recent list of best countries

Completing a word formation grid

Discussing questions arising from the article

How to use the lesson

1 Tell students about a recent list in *Newsweek* ranking the best countries in the world. Issue the worksheet and let students read question one, and decide their top three factors. Students compare their answers. Elicit some answers from the students and see which other factors they may have added.

2 Students read the list of countries and write in their guesses / predictions for the 'top five'. Students then scan the article and check their answers.

Answers:

1. Finland 2. Switzerland 3. Sweden 4. Australia 5. Luxemburg

3 Students read the complete article. Ask them to tell you which factors were used in the survey. Ask them about the tone of the article, which is rather personal and informal. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary at this point: e.g. *rankings / prosperous / diversification / ethnic / endeavour*.

4 Ask students to study the word formation grid and complete the missing words.

Answers:

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
competitiveness	<i>compete</i>	<i>competitive</i>
<i>improvement</i>	improve	<i>improved / improving</i>
<i>diversification</i>	<i>diversify</i>	diversified

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
<i>innovation</i>	innovate	<i>innovative</i>
stability	<i>stabilize</i>	<i>stable</i>
<i>corruption</i>	<i>corrupt</i>	corrupt

5 Divide students into small groups to discuss the questions. Monitor and support as necessary. Students report back on their findings to the whole class. Encourage questions and discussion. Finally, give language feedback on any major language errors you notice.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.newsweek.com/feature/2010/the-world-s-best-countries.html>

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/08/15/interactive-infographic-of-the-worlds-best-countries.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World's_most_livable_cities#Quality_of_living_survey