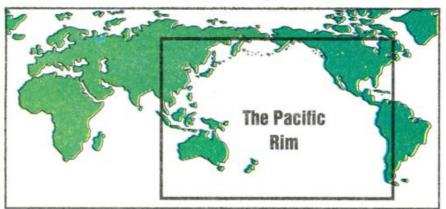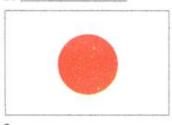# 15 The Pacific Rim

READING

Before You Read

a) Work in groups of four to explore the world map and identify the names of the continents on which lie the Pacific Rim countries.

The Pacific Rim

b) Work in pairs to write the names of the countries under the flags.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

c) What are the names of the capital cities of the four countries in part b)?

Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

The Pacific Rim region offers great diversity – with the economic dynamism of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore; the highly advanced technological development in Japan, Korea, and the western United States; the natural resources of Australia, Canada, the Philippines, and the Russian Far East; the human resources of China, Indonesia, and Viet Nam; and the agricultural productivity of Chile, New Zealand, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States, among others. Some theorists say that the center of the world economic activity may refocus on the Pacific Rim.

Japan, a country of over 3,000 islands, extends along the eastern or Pacific coast of Asia, covering 377,835 sq. km (including 3,091 sq. km of territorial waters). The capital and largest city is Tokyo and the population is 126,771,660. Japanese is the official language. Present-day Japan ranks among the world's leading industrialized countries. It is also the third largest exporter after the United States and Germany.

The Commonwealth of Australia is in the southeast of Asia between the Pacific and Indian oceans. The country comprises the continent of Australia, the world's smallest continent, and a number of islands. It has an area of 7,682,300 sq. km and a population of 19,357,594. Canberra is the capital and Sydney is the largest city. The official language is English. About 94 percent of the people are of European descent. Australia is the world's leading producer and exporter of wool. The country also ranks as a major exporter of wheat, meat, dairy products, and other foodstuffs.

The Republic of Singapore is an island city-state in Southeast Asia with a total area of 692.7 sq. km and a multiracial population of 4,425,720. The biggest city and capital is Singapore City. Official languages are Malay (National), English, Chinese, and Tamil. After Singapore became an independent republic in 1965, foreign investments have stimulated the country's rapid growth. Today, Singapore has one of the highest standards of living in Asia, with its economy centered on the production of electronic items, ship building, petroleum refining, tourism, international banking, and international trade.

Canada stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. Canada is the world's second largest country with an area of 9,970,610 sq. km. The capital is Ottawa, and the largest city is Toronto. The population of Canada is 31,592,805, and about one-third of the people are of British origin. One-fourth are of French origin, living mainly in Quebec and maintaining their language and culture. The official languages are English and French. About four-fifths of Canada's exports are to the United States, and over two-thirds of its imports are from this neighboring country.

a) *Complete the table below with information from the text.*

Country	Area	Capital City	Largest City	Population	Language(s)
Australia					
Canada					
Japan					
Singapore					

b) Find the words in the text with the following meanings.

1. authorized _____   3. chief   _____

2. top   _____   4. inhabitants _____

                                5. shoreline   _____

c) Answer the following questions.

1. Which countries are larger exporters than Japan?

2. Which country is the largest in area among the four mentioned?

3. Which of the four countries has the smallest area?

LISTENING

a) Work with a partner.

1. Find the names of the countries nearest to the North Pole.

2. Find the people who are fond of hamburgers and pumpkin pie.

3. Find the country whose national emblem has a merlion.

b) Listen to three speakers speaking about their countries and write down the names of the countries.

Speaker	Country
A	_____
B	_____
C	_____

c) Listen to the recordings again. The following statements can be true (T) or false (F). Check (✓) the appropriate boxes. Then correct the false statements.

	T	F
Speaker A		
1. The country has a lot of diamonds.	☐	☐
2. The country is in South Asia.	☐	☐
3. Four official languages are spoken in this country.	☐	☐

Speaker B

4. The country is the biggest in the world. □ □

5. The country has different climates nationwide. □ □

6. It is very cold in the north of the country. □ □

Speaker C

7. The population of this country is 300 million. □ □

8. Most people live in cosmopolitan cities. □ □

9. Two popular sports are football and basketball. □ □

SPEAKING

Asking for and Giving Information About Cities

a) *Work in pairs. Look at a world map and locate the countries in which these cities – Mexico City, Tokyo, Sydney, and Toronto – can be found. Then read the information concerning these cities.*

Mexico City and its surrounding area	Tokyo and its surrounding area
● Founded: 1325 ● Area: 1,547 sq. km ● Population: 9,815,795	● Founded: the 12th century ● Area: 2,180 sq. km ● Population: 7,966,195
Sydney and its surrounding area	**Toronto and its surrounding area**
● Founded: 1788 ● Area: 1,580 sq. km ● Population: 3,738,500	● Founded: 1793 ● Area: 5,868 sq. km ● Population: 4,263,757

b) *In groups of four, use the information above to prepare a talk about these cities, using a world map to identify the particular location of the country and city.*
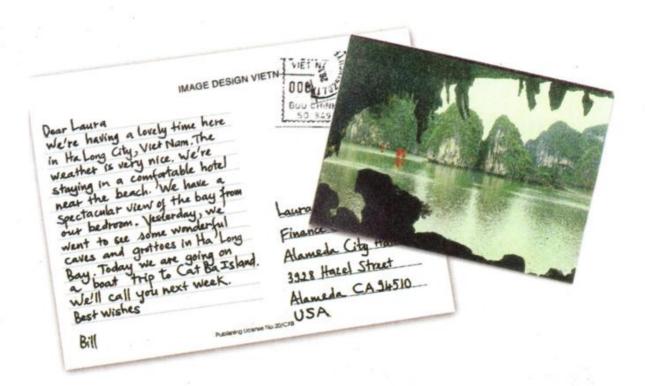
✎ Example

Hi, everyone. I would like to give you some information about *(name of the country)* and particularly, the biggest city (/one of the biggest cities) of this country *(name of the city)*. Well, the city and its surrounding area were founded in *(year)* with a total area of *(number)*. At present, the city's population is about *(number)* . . . Thank you for your attention.

c) *Work in groups to collect information relating to your city/ province/ town for your group's presentation next week.*

WRITING

Writing a Postcard

Dear Laura
We're having a lovely time here in Ha Long City, Viet Nam. The weather is very nice. We're staying in a comfortable hotel near the beach. We have a spectacular view of the bay from our bedroom. Yesterday, we went to see some wonderful caves and grottoes in Ha Long Bay. Today we are going on a boat trip to Cat Ba Island. We'll call you next week.
Best Wishes
Bill

IMAGE DESIGN VIETN

Laura
Finance
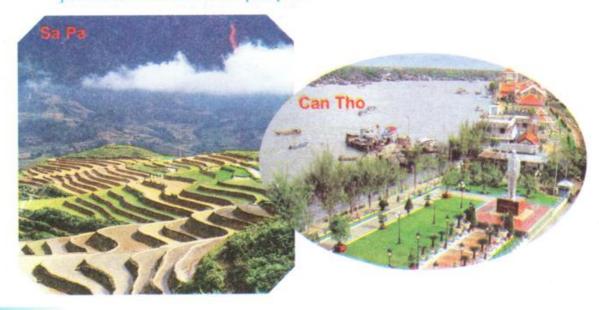Alameda City Ha
3928 Hazel Street
Alameda CA 94510
USA

a) *Put the sentences on the right in the appropriate order so that it fits the model given on the left.*

1. Salutation
2. Body
   - Your feeling
   - The weather
   - The place
   - Things you have done
   - Future plans
3. Closing
4. Signature

a. See you soon.

b. Dear Mary

c. We are having a wonderful time here in Viet Nam.

d. Our hotel is very near the beach.

e. Yesterday we took a boat trip to a small island and spent the day lying on the beach and exploring the island.

f. The weather is wonderful.

g. We are visiting a coastal village and enjoying seafood today.

h. John

b) *Imagine you are on vacation in one of the cities below. Write a postcard to an American pen pal.*

Sa Pa

Can Tho

Hue

Ho Chi Minh City

Da Lat

Ha Noi

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Countries, Nationalities, and Languages

a) Work in pairs to complete the table below.

Country	Capital City	People	Language(s)
Australia	Canberra	_____	_____
Canada	Ottawa	_____	_____
Chile	_____	Chilean	_____
Indonesia	Jakarta	_____	_____
New Zealand	_____	New Zealander	_____

Peru	Lima	Peruvian	_____
The Philippines	_____	_____	English
Singapore	Singapore City	Singaporean	_____
Thailand	_____	Thai	_____
The United States	Washington, D.C.	_____	_____
Viet Nam	_____	Vietnamese	_____

b) Complete the following sentences with the appropriate words from the table above.

1. This expert comes from Japan. He is a _____ and he can speak three languages besides _____.

2. Although she was born in _____, she is not an Australian. She can speak _____ and Vietnamese.

3. *A:* Is he _____?

   B: No, he isn't. He's living in Kuala Lumpur now with his family but he cannot speak _____. He uses English in his work.

4. *A:* Where does he come from?

   B: From _____, I guess, because he said he was born in Montreal and speaks _____.

5. _____ used to be occupied by many countries before it became independent. _____ speak Tagalog and English.

6. *A:* What are the official languages of _____ ?

   B: Well, Malay, English, Chinese, and Tamil.

7. *A:* You travel to Bangkok several times a year. Can you speak _____?

   B: Well, not very well, because I'm not a native. I often use English in my work.

8. The capital city of _____ is Washington, D.C. Although the country is multiracial, _____ is the first language of most people.

9. He is a New Zealander. Nevertheless, he was not born in _____ but in Spain. So he can speak both languages, _____ and Spanish.

Grammar

a) **Comparisons** (Revision)

A tourist has just been home from his world tour. Here are some of his opinions about the cities he has visited. Complete his sentences, using correct degrees of comparison of adjectives.

1. In my opinion, Melbourne is interesting, but Beijing is (1)_____ because of its spectacular sights and ancient architecture.

2. In some ways Ha Noi is the (2)_____ interesting of all the cities I visited in Viet Nam. The natural features of the city's environment together with its historic sites arouse a sense of nostalgia.

3. It is hot in Melbourne, but not as hot (3)_____ in Ho Chi Minh City. For me, Ho Chi Minh City is the (4)_____ during the dry season.

b) Reread the information about Tokyo, Mexico City, Sydney, and Toronto. Then write sentences comparing their history, area, and population.

✎ Examples

TOKYO

– Tokyo has a *longer* history *than* Mexico City. It was founded in the twelfth century while the latter was founded in 1325.

– Tokyo is *larger than* Mexico City. Its area is 2,180 sq. km while the latter's is 1,547 sq. km.

– Tokyo is *not so densely populated as* Mexico City. Its population is 7,966,195 while the latter's is 9,815,795.

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