



LIFE·PAC®

# History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

**HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 408  
LIVING IN ISLAND COUNTRIES  
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# LIVING IN ISLAND COUNTRIES

In this LIFE PAC® you will learn regions of the world. You will see about the major archipelagos and how the ocean waters help them seas of the world. You will learn earn their living and how the ocean how people live in these island shaped their history.

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## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** They tell you what you should be able to do when you have completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have completed this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Name and describe the different kinds of islands.
2. Locate some of the major islands of the world on a map.
3. Locate Cuba on a map and name the waters around it.
4. Describe the geography, history, industries, people, and government of Cuba.
5. Tell a little about communism and how it affects Cuba.
6. Locate Iceland on a map and name the waters around it.
7. Describe the geography, history, industries, people, language, and literature of Iceland.
8. Locate Japan on the map and name the waters around it.
9. Describe the geography, history, industries, people, art, and customs of Japan.

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## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

**ally** (al' ī). A nation or group united with another for some special purpose.

**ash** (ash). What remains of a thing after it has been thoroughly burned.

**atomic bomb** (əu tom' ik bom). An extremely powerful bomb.

**blockade** (blo' kād). The blocking of a place by an army or navy to control who or what goes into or out of it.

**chieftain** (chēf' tan). The head of a clan or group; leader.

**clan** (klan). A group of related families that claim to be descended from a common ancestor.

**code** (kōd). A collection of laws or rules.

**coral reef** (kôr' əl rēf). A narrow ridge at or near the surface of the water made up of the skeletons of tiny sea animals.

**democratic** (dem ə krat' ik). Of a government that is run by the people who live under it, or through their elected representatives.

**diatomite** (dī at' ə mīt). A chalk-like rock used for filtering, as an abrasive, as a filler in explosives, and for insulation.

**erupt** (i rupt'). Burst out or explode.

**fiord** (fyôrd). A long, narrow bay bordered by steep cliffs.

**geyser** (gī' zer). A spring that sends up fountains or jets of hot water or steam.

**hydroelectric** (hī' drō i lek' trik). Producing electricity by using the power of moving water.

**independent** (in' di' pen' dənt). Thinking or acting for oneself; not influenced by others.

**landlord** (land' lord). A person who owns buildings or land rented to others.

**lava** (lä' və). The hot, melted rock flowing from a volcano.

**manuscript** (man' yu skript). A handwritten or typewritten book or article.

**meditate** (me d' ə tāt). To think quietly; reflect, especially about serious things.

**moderate** (mod' ə rāt). To make or become less extreme or violent.

**pagan** (pā' gun). One who worships many gods or no god; heathen.

**persecute** (pér sə kyüt). To treat badly, especially because of one's beliefs.

**pollution** (pə lü' shun). The dirtying of any part of an environment, especially with waste material.

**pottery** (pot' er ē). Pots, dishes, or vases made from clay and hardened by heat.

**ration** (rash' ən). To allow only a certain amount; to limit.

**rhythm** (ri TH' əm). Any movement with a regular repetition of a beat, accent, rise and fall, or the like.

**ruins** (rü' inz). That which is left after a building or wall has decayed or fallen to pieces.

**shrine** (shrīn). A place to worship and pray.

**slogan** (slō' gun). A word or phrase used by a group to advertise its purpose.

**treaty** (trē' tē). A formal agreement, especially one between nations, signed and approved by each nation.

**volcano** (vol kā' nō). A crack in the earth where lava comes out.

**Note:** These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFE PAC. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

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## I. CUBA

Islands are created in many different ways. In this section of the LIFE PAC you will learn about the different kinds of islands. You will also learn about islands all over the world. You will use some of the vocabulary you learned about oceans, seas, and islands.

South and east of North America is the island of Cuba in the West Indies. These islands are part of North America because they are so close to that continent. You will learn about the island of Cuba in this section. You will learn about its geography, history, and people.

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**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name and describe the different kinds of islands.
2. Locate some of the major islands of the world on a map.
3. Locate Cuba on a map and name the waters around it.
4. Describe the geography, history, industries, people, and government of Cuba.

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**Review these words.**

blockade  
moderate  
rhythm

coral reef  
persecute  
slogan

lava  
ration  
volcano



**Waves crashing against the shore**

## Islands of the Earth

All land on earth is surrounded by water. The seven largest pieces of land we call *continents*. The thousands of smaller bits of land are called *islands*. A group of these islands is called an *archipelago*. A very small island is called an *islet* (i' lit).

There are two main types of islands: those that are part of a continent and those that are out in the oceans, far away from any land. Islands of the continents often used to be part of the land. Something happened to separate the island from the continent. The British Isles in Europe are a good example. Long ago, the islands were a peninsula attached to Europe. Over time the land sank and the ocean opened a strait, the English Channel, between the island of Great Britain and Europe.

Islands which form in the oceans are often made by **volcanoes**. Volcanoes are mountains made when the super-hot, melted rock from the center of the earth escapes to the surface through a crack. The liquid rock squirts out, cools, becomes hard, piles up, and forms a mountain. Many of these mountains are made on the bottom of the ocean. If they get tall enough to stick out of the water, they become islands. The islands of Japan and Hawaii were made this way.

People have actually been able to watch an island being born from a volcano. In 1963 scientists noticed steam and **lava** coming out of the ocean near Iceland in Europe. By 1967 the volcano had built an island

that was over a square mile in size. It was named Surtsey.

There are a few other ways that islands can be created. One is by the build-up of a **coral reef**. Corals are small sea animals that live inside hard shell-like skeletons. Corals live in groups, and when they die their hard skeletons pile up, forming a reef. Sometimes the coral gets tall enough to come out of the water and make an island.

One very unusual and pretty type of coral island is called an *atoll* (a' tôl). An atoll is created when a coral reef forms around an island that sinks over many years. After the land is gone, the reef continues to grow until it becomes an atoll, an island shaped like a doughnut. The ocean in the middle of the circle of land is called a *lagoon*.

Another type of island is formed when the ocean or a river piles up dirt in one spot. *Barrier islands* are made by waves and currents piling up dirt in the ocean beside the coast. Assateague Island National Seashore is a barrier island off the coast of Maryland. It has beautiful beaches and is home to herds of wild ponies.

Islands are also sometimes created in river deltas. As the river goes into the ocean, it leaves dirt that piles up and makes islands that the river goes around on both sides. There are many islands like this in southern Louisiana. They are at the mouth of the Mississippi River where it flows into the Gulf of Mexico.