

Geography special

We think you are sick of oxygen, hydrogen and helium, so we won't mention them today.

What is a 'country'?

Well, you could say it's a piece of land [maybe more than one piece of land] along with the people who say, "this is our country".

We live in Tasmania.



[From Wikimedia Commons. Many thanks.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Relief_Map_of_Tasmania.png]

Now, Tasmania has three sides, like a triangle. So, it could be called 'Trianglia'.

But, 'Trianglia', sorry, Tasmania, is not a country. It is a state or part of a country.

Our country is Australia.

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Chapter 22.



[Free map. Many thanks
<http://mapsofopen.com/australia-map.html>]

So, on this map of Australia, you can see ‘Trianglia’, sorry, Tasmania, down the bottom. So, this country is made of two separate pieces of land [the big piece which is called the ‘mainland’ and the smaller (best) piece called Tasmania].

If you go out to the right of Australia, there is another country made of two main pieces.



[Australasia Map by Google with additions by Bugbog
<https://www.bugbog.com/maps/australasia/>]

This country is called New Zealand. It looks like 2 sausages. [The Australian people and the New Zealand people enjoy teasing each other, but we are not allowed to do that anymore.]

But, if this is ‘New Zealand’, where is ‘Old Zealand’?



[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Region_Zealand]

‘Zealand’ is a small part [shown in red on this map] of the tiny country of Denmark, which is in Europe.

[By the way, this part of Denmark is not called ‘Old’ Zealand, just Zealand – as you already worked out].

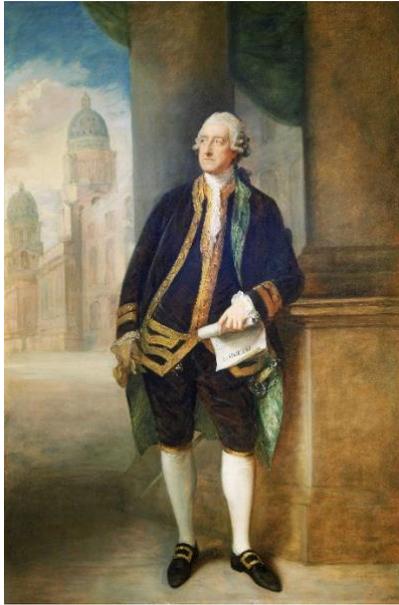
The point is, when European sailors stumbled on those islands, it reminded them of Zealand [not sausages] – that’s how it got the name.

Speaking of sausages, Hawaii used to be called the Sandwich Islands. The English sailor who found Hawaii liked a fellow called Lord Sandwich [who was the man who invented sandwiches] and so called the place the Sandwich Islands. But, the name didn’t stick.



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[Just so you know, this is Lord Sandwich, after whom your sandwiches are named.]



[Public domain.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Montagu,_4th_Earl_of_Sandwich.jpg]

As you know, Hawaii is now part of the country called the United States of America or the USA or the US. When they say US, they don't mean us, like you and me, but, I guess you knew that.



[<https://www.dw.com/en/fighting-for-a-forgotten-cause-in-west-papua/a-16701714>]

Just to finish off, if you go straight up from Australia, the first island you will bump into looks like a dinosaur. We don't think it has a name, anymore. It should be called Dinosaur Island.

It doesn't have a name [as far as we know] because it has been divided into halves. Another country [Indonesia] has taken the left half of Dinosaur Island.

The right-hand side is called Papua New Guinea [or PNG] – which is a separate country [but half an island, if you know what we mean].



Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Guinea!

Guinea who?

Guinea a break!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Iran!

Iran who?

Iran over here to tell you this!