

## Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION 1  Read the texts, then close the book and explain the ...

## LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

- **Regional identity:** Formed by landscape, historical, religious, economic or political factors; regional identity can also be determined by culture and traditions, customs or cuisine.
- **Celtic fringe:** Countries or part of countries in Europe in which the Celtic languages are preserved: Wales (Welsh), Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (Scottish and Irish Gaelic), Cornwall (Cornish), the Isle of Man (Manx) and Brittany in northwest France (Breton).
- **England's North and South:** The North of England has predominantly been shaped by heavy coal mining and industries such as shipbuilding and the textile industry and is characterised by a rather rough climate. In contrast, the South of England has a rather mild climate and consists of fertile fields. The South is quite popular with tourists because of its picturesque towns as well as attractive seaside resorts.
- **Blue/red states:** The colour code indicates varying political affiliations in different parts of the US. The so-called blue states, which have rather high population densities and include the states on the East Coast, the Great Lakes region and California, tend to be more progressive; the majority of voters in these states support the Democrats. In contrast, the red states are located in the rural American South as well as the Midwest of the US. They are considered to be rather conservative; the voters there are more likely to vote for the Republicans.

SPEAKING 2 Look at the maps of the UK and the US. What do you associate with ...?

## LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

## UK:

1. **Greater London:** the capital of the UK, The Royal Family, Buckingham Palace, banking & finance, the tube, The Tower, Tower Bridge, Houses of Parliament, London Eye, The Shard, the River Thames, Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus, Madame Tussauds, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, arts & culture, Covent Garden, Heathrow Airport, Notting Hill Carnival, Camden Market, Sherlock Holmes, the London Dungeon, Wimbledon etc.
2. **South:** beaches, Brighton, mild climate, the English Channel, Hastings
3. **East Anglia:** east of London, University of Cambridge, flatland
4. **Midlands:** central England, the 'heart' of England, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester
5. **Wales:** the very southwest of the UK, rugby, Cardiff, Swansea, Snowdonia National Park, Celtic tradition, Welsh language, mining
6. **North:** borders with Scotland, Hadrian's Wall, coal mining and heavy industry
7. **Lowland Scotland:** coal mining and heavy industry, Edinburgh, Glasgow
8. **Highland Scotland:** Highlands, Highland Games, whiskey, Loch Ness, Gaelic
9. **Northern Ireland:** partition of Ireland into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland in 1921, political unrest: the Troubles, conflicts between unionists and loyalists and between Protestants and Catholics, Belfast, IRA, Good Friday Agreement

## US:

1. **Pacific:** the westernmost states of the US, the US states that border the Pacific Ocean (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington), San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Seattle
2. **West:** lands west of the Mississippi River, Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada
3. **Southwest:** Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Denver, Salt Lake City, mostly arid desert climate, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, various other national parks
4. **Midwest:** Great Lakes, Great Plains, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Lewis and Clark expedition, agriculture, wheat & corn (the 'breadbasket' of the nation)
5. **South:** Civil War, slavery, the Bible Belt, Florida, The Everglades, Florida Keys, Miami
6. **Northeast:** New England, Pilgrims, Plymouth Plantation, Indian summer, Boston

Have you ever been to any of them? Individual answers expected.