

Can you tell me if . . . ?

Aims

Practice using embedded questions.

Language focus

Function

Use embedded questions

Set-up

Class activity

Lesson link

For use after Unit 9, Lesson C

Time

20 minutes

Preparation

Duplicate enough worksheets for each student to have one question and answer.

- Have students walk around the class and talk to as many classmates as they can. They should ask their question in the embedded format and note how many students can answer it correctly. To vary, they can use different phrases, such as: *Do you know . . . ? Can you tell me . . . ?* or *Do you have any idea . . . ?* to introduce the question. Students should tally the number of students they talk to and how many correct answers they get. If two students have the same question, they should move on and ask another student.
- As students are working, walk around to monitor the activity and help as needed. Make sure students are using embedded questions as they talk to their classmates. Make note of any errors or problems to review later.
- As a follow-up, have a few students read their question and say how many people knew the correct answer.

Answer Key

The correct answer to each question is printed under the question.

Procedure

- Tell students that they are going to practice asking and answering “embedded” trivia questions about different kinds of information.
- Distribute the questions, one for each student. The answer to each question is written under the question, upside-down. Tell students not to show their questions to their classmates.
- Model the activity by writing different questions, which are not on the worksheet, on the board, for example: *What is the driest place in the world?* Elicit the embedded question: *Do you know what the driest place on in the world is?* (*It's the Atacama Desert in Chile. In some places there, it hasn't rained for 400 years.*) Then write a *yes / no* question on the board, for example: *Did Christopher Columbus land in the New World in 1494?* Elicit the embedded question: *Can you tell me if Christopher Columbus landed in the New World in 1494?* (*No, he didn't. He arrived in 1492.*)

Can you tell me if . . . ?

What is the tallest mountain in the world?

Answer: Mount Everest.

Is Seoul the capital of North Korea?

Answer: No. Seoul is the capital of South Korea. Pyongyang is the capital of North Korea.

How many *Star Wars* movies did director George Lucas make?

Answer: He made six *Star Wars* movies between 1977 and 2005.

Is the singer Shakira Mexican?

Answer: No. She's Colombian.

How many stars are there on the American flag?

Answer: 50.

Are whales mammals or fish?

Answer: They are mammals.

When did John F. Kennedy die?

Answer: In 1963.

Are Russia's Saint Petersburg and Leningrad the same city?

Answer: Yes. Saint Petersburg was named Leningrad for many years, but is now called Saint Petersburg again.

What does VCR stand for?

Answer: "Videocassette recorder."

Was the actor Charlie Chaplin an American?

Answer: No. He was British.

When did the *Titanic* sink?

Answer: In 1912.

Did Elvis Presley have any brothers or sisters?

Answer: Yes. He had a twin brother who died at birth.

What nationality was Marco Polo?

Answer: He was Italian.

Does *a.m.* stand for "all morning"?

Answer: No. It stands for "ante meridiem" ("before noon" in Latin).

What is the largest ocean in the world?

Answer: The Pacific Ocean.