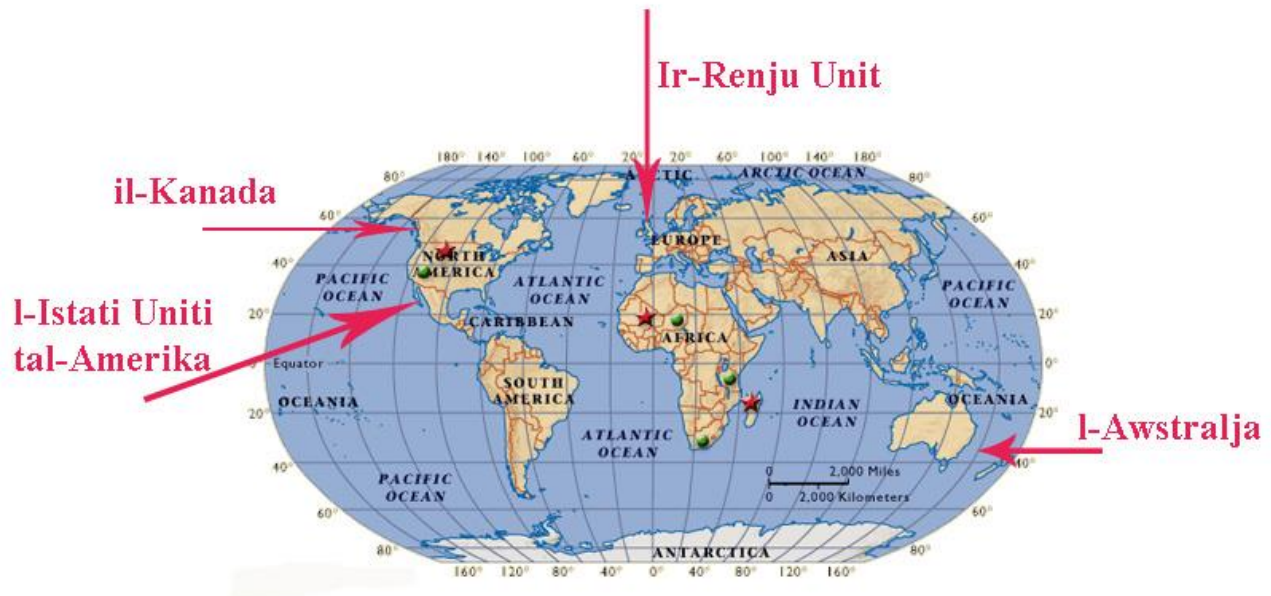


Worksheet G6.2.3

Let us see which countries the Maltese know most about and understand why.

Read, then reply.

Every day on the television many foreign countries are mentioned; some are mentioned for a reason and some for another. Certain countries are well known to us and others not. For sure most of the Maltese are familiar with the countries which in the past had accepted many Maltese in them.



The Maltese emigrated to many countries to find work and a better future, but mostly they went to the countries which are shown on the map above. The largest number went to Australia and today the Maltese communities in Australia are quite large. Many of these Maltese Australians often come to visit their relatives in Malta and Gozo. Many of these Maltese and Gozitans, even though they have been in Australia for many years, still talk in Maltese, however few are the children of these emigrants who today either speak or write our language.



In the news we often hear that a group of illegal immigrants entered Malta. These normally are coming from African countries where there is a lot of unrest and war such as in Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Sudan. Many of these would have to go through Egypt, through Libya or through Tunisia in order to catch a boat and at great risk to their lives hoping to make it to Europe. Some of them find themselves in tremendous difficulties and end up as refugees in Malta. Their stories are very heart-breaking stories. Malta does its best to help them however our resources are very limited.



Another subject which is often mentioned in the news is the amount of Maltese volunteers who go to carry out missionary work. Many priests, monks, nuns and lay people go to many countries far from Malta to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It is estimated that the Maltese have carried out missionary work in more than 70 foreign countries.

Father Ġwann Caruana, a Maltese priest who lived for many years in the missions in Brazil, published a book by the name of: “The Maltese Missionary Experience”. The book is a documentary about the

missions which the Maltese took part in. We can say that the Maltese carried out missionary work in the main five continents:

- In Australia a lot of work was done with the Maltese emigrants.
- In Asia missions were set up in India, the Philippines and in Pakistan.
- In Europe itself work was carried out in not less than 17 countries
- In South America missions were set up in Brazil and in Peru.
- In Africa, the Maltese gave their share in the missions in around 20 African countries, amongst which in Kenya, the Sudan and in Libya.

In Mosta there is a monument dedicated to the Maltese missionaries.

Many Maltese nowadays started to visit many foreign countries both for holidays as well as for work. The Maltese travel both by air as well as by sea. Popular travel destinations with the Maltese definitely are Italy and the United Kingdom. Lately cruises also are becoming very popular where one can spend a beautiful holiday on some luxury liner making stops in some interesting countries or islands.



This we see that although we live on a small island surrounded by sea, our contacts with the rest of the world are quite numerous.

Underline the right answer or fill in the blanks.

1. The Maltese are very familiar with the countries to which thousands of Maltese emigrated in the past to (look for work, play football, go swimming).
2. The country which took in the largest number of Maltese emigrants is (the United States of America, India, Australia).
3. Write the names of the three other countries to which many Maltese emigrated.
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____

4. When the Maltese emigrants come to Malta to visit their relatives, it is probable that we find that they still speak well in Maltese whilst their children hardly know how to speak in Maltese. Why do you think this happens?

5. Many illegal immigrants who end up in Malta would have been on their way to (Europe, Asia, the Sudan).

6. Give one reason why these people would be escaping from their country.

7. From the passage find and mention two African countries from which very often illegal immigrants would have left.

(a) _____

(b) _____

8. From the passage find and mention two North African countries through which illegal immigrants would need to travel in order to catch a boat to Europe.

(a) _____

(b) _____

9. Through the years the Maltese missionaries carried out work in around (70, 100, 200) foreign countries.

10. Where did the Maltese missionaries work the most? From the passage find and name two countries:

(a) Asian - _____ and _____

(b) South American - _____ and _____

(c) African - _____ and _____

11. In which Maltese village can we find a monument dedicated to Maltese missionaries?

12. Which two means of transport do the Maltese use most to travel for their holidays?

(a) _____

(b) _____

13. In the contacts we have with foreign countries, we mostly need (the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the languages we learn).

14. From the passage find and write four reasons which explain why certain countries are well known to the Maltese more than other countries.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____
