

1 **Brainstorming:** What do you know about these countries? What do they have in common? Discuss in pairs or in small groups. Share your ideas with the class.



(A) Sydney, Australia

(C) Agra, India

(B) Toronto, Canada

(D) London, United Kingdom

2 **Vocabulary:** Match the sentences with their correct ending. After that, discuss the words in bold. Do you know what they mean?

1. The Commonwealth of Nations is an <b>association</b> ...	a) to get a good <b>education</b> .
2. The <b>head</b> of the Commonwealth ...	b) one of them wants to win!
3. Good schools are important for children ...	c) of countries across the world.
4. The <b>population</b> of the United Kingdom ...	d) is the King of Britain.
5. If people <b>compete</b> with each other ...	e) is over 67 million people.

3 **The Commonwealth Quiz:** Work in teams and discuss the answers with your partner or in small groups.

- Which countries are part of the Commonwealth of Nations?  
a) Australia      b) India      c) Iceland
- Who is currently the head of the Commonwealth?  
a) Prince William      b) Rishi Sunak      c) King Charles III
- How many countries are part of the Commonwealth?  
a) 24      b) 56      c) 62
- How often are the Commonwealth Games held?  
a) every four years      b) every second year      c) every year
- What percentage of the world population is in the Commonwealth?  
a) a quarter      b) 50%      c) one third of the world's population



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 D © Thinkstock/iStock/QQ7; Ü3 © RomanWhale studio - stock.adobe.com

**4 Reading. Read the text about the Commonwealth and check your answers in No 3.**

The Commonwealth is home to 56 countries across the world. These countries are like a big family which support each other to better the lives of the people through friendship, education, peace and democracy. The three biggest countries that are part of the association are Australia, Canada and India. About 2.5 billion citizens belong to the Commonwealth; that is one third of the world's population. 60% of the people who are part of the Commonwealth are under the age of 30.



In the past, the Commonwealth countries were ruled by Britain. Today, all countries are independent but they had to fight for it. Nevertheless, many countries decided to stay close to Britain and formed the "Commonwealth of Nations".

King Charles III is head of the Commonwealth and visits the countries regularly. The King also attends the *Commonwealth Games* – a sporting event which takes place every four years. Popular sports are cricket, rugby or netball. The sporting event is also called the "friendly games" because people compete with each other and not the countries. The games help to form a bond between the countries of the Commonwealth.

On *Commonwealth Day* in March the King broadcasts a message to all members of the Commonwealth and all their flags can be seen in London.

**5 True or false? Read the text again and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

	T	F
1. The Commonwealth countries want good lives for their people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There are more older than younger people in the Commonwealth countries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Countries can decide if they want to be part of the Commonwealth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Commonwealth Games are called the "friendly games" because countries compete with each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Commonwealth Day is in May.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6 Time to talk: Choose two questions and discuss them in small groups.**

1. Have you been to any of the Commonwealth countries?  
Talk about your experience.
2. What are the advantages of the Commonwealth?  
Are there any disadvantages?
3. Is it important to speak more than one language?
4. Do you enjoy team sports like rugby, netball or football?



## KEY

1

**Model answer:** What do the countries have in common?

- English is an official or commonly used language in all of these countries.
- In the United Kingdom, Australia and India cars drive on the left.
- All countries used to be part of the British Empire.
- All countries are part of the Commonwealth (of Nations).
- Students' own ideas.

2

(1. c) 2. d 3. a 4. e 5. b

3

1. a, b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c

5

1. T
2. F (more young than old people)
3. F
4. F (people compete with each other)
5. F (in March)

## Source and more information:

Commonwealth Class Education Pack:

[https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/commonwealth\\_class\\_education\\_pack\\_online\\_aw\\_0.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/commonwealth_class_education_pack_online_aw_0.pdf)

Facts about the Commonwealth: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43715079>

The role of the Commonwealth: <https://citizenshipresources.aqa.org.uk>