

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2024

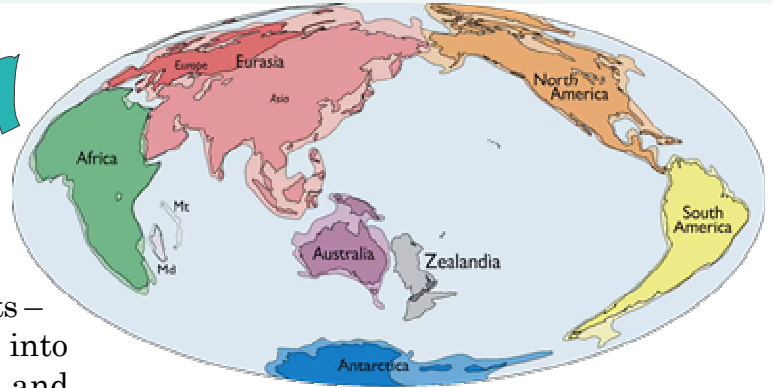
Zealandia

Our understanding of our earth's geology has been pretty much settled for hundreds of years, right? You know, for instance, that there are seven continents – or six if you don't want to split Eurasia into Asia and Europe. In addition to Asia and Europe (Eurasia), we have Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica and Australia. They all fit the criteria of what a continent should be: They possess a wide variety of rocks; A high elevation (compared to the seabed surrounding them); A thick crust (again, compared to the surrounding seabed crust); And they are massive in size.

That just about sums it up as far as high school geography goes. Or does it? Way back in the 4th century BCE, Aristotle theorized that there must be an unknown super-continent in the Southern hemisphere to counterbalance the landmass in the North. Ptolemy, in the 2nd century CE, followed this line of reasoning and included *Terra Australis Incognita* ("the unknown land of the south") in his maps of the world.

The notion that a large continent existed somewhere in the Southern hemisphere held sway in the minds of Europeans until the 15th century, when it was finally discovered, or was it?

The first European to reach what we now know of as Australia was a Dutchman, Willem Janszoon, in 1606. But, the land he had reached and partly surveyed was not the missing Southern continent.



The next character to appear in the search for the mysterious Southern continent was the infamous Abel Tasman, another Dutchman – the island state of modern-day Australia, Tasmania, is named after him. He reached the Southern island of New Zealand, had a very unpleasant encounter with the native Maori people, turned tail, never to return. But the record stands.

375 years later and Zealandia is officially recognized as the world's eighth (or is that 7th?) continent; perhaps not the great Southern continent that has tantalized European imaginations for centuries, but a continent it is, all-be-it 94% under water! You can see from the map above that it lies to the East of Australia, *under* New Zealand. In spite of this, it matches all the criteria of what a continent should be (see the earlier description in this article). The fact that it is under water matters little to the experts who decide these things. At 3,156,300 sq km, it is over half the size of the Australian continent and shelf, including New Guinea, also called "Sahul".



1570 map showing a huge Southern landmass, "*Terra Australis Incognita*."

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

For more on Zealandia, go here:

<https://www.gns.cri.nz/news/new-hidden-continent-mostly-underwater-scientists-say/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says “Beware of false knowledge, it’s more dangerous than ignorance.” This is a quote from about 100 years ago by George Bernard Shaw. I wonder what he would say about misquotes, innuendoes and other misleading “information”, even outright lies, that permeate the internet these days. If an alien civilization were to judge the human race based on the rubbish I receive daily in my email, I don’t think we would be granted the title of “civilized”.

Junko Says: What will make our students feel “happy” about becoming accomplished speakers of English? After all, this is the goal, isn’t it? Aristotle once said “Happiness depends upon ourselves”. He was not wrong! The point here is that if you make the right effort, you’ll succeed in achieving your goals, and that achievement will result in a feeling of accomplishment – happiness! So, no matter how difficult the journey might be, never give up, just work hard and succeed!!



Marek Says: The rainy season is over, after much rain fell in a short space of time, filling up all the local dams and saturating the ground, which caused an unexpected landslide on the northern slope of Matsuyama castle mountain. With increased rainfall and higher temperatures projected for upcoming years, the soil becomes less stable, and we will no doubt hear more about such incidents, even in areas thought relatively safe.

Danielle dit: Les Jeux Olympiques de Paris approchent ! Le Japon s’attend à ce que ses athlètes excellent en judo, à la lutte et en gymnastique. D’autres disciplines telles le skateboard, l’escalade et le breakdance sont à leur portée. Les équipes japonaises pourraient aussi remporter des médailles d’or en tennis de table, en badminton et au football. À vos marques !

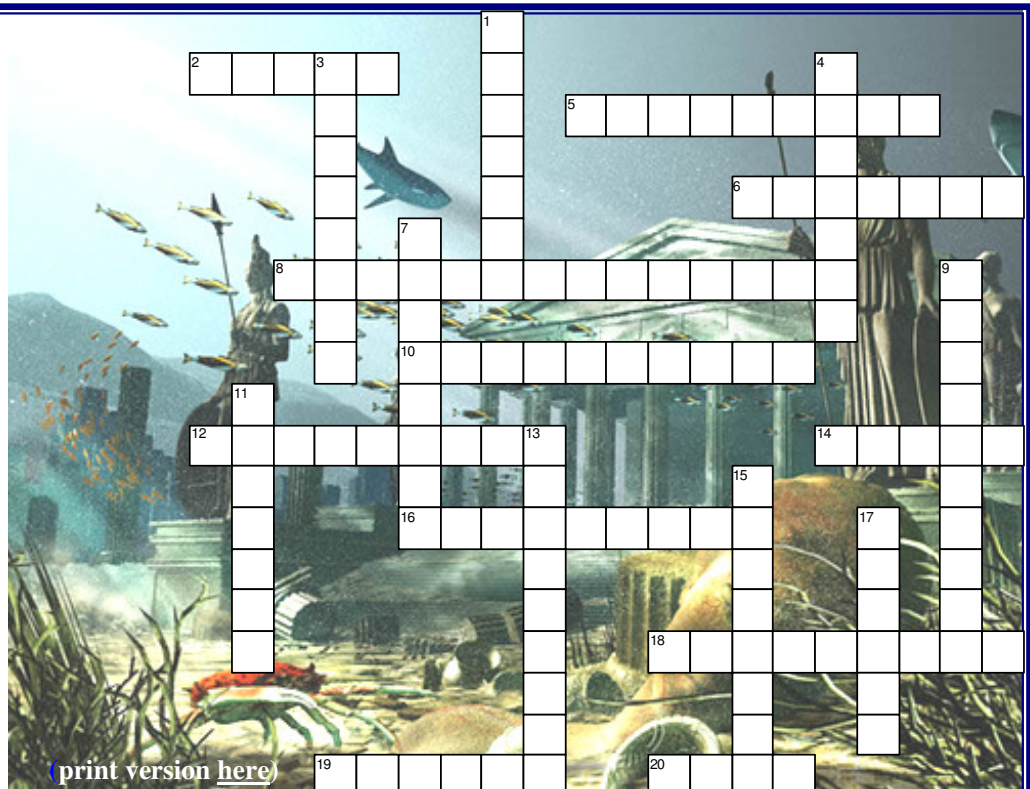


ACROSS

- 2 separate into parts
- 5 a large landmass
- 6 equivalent to
- 8 of equal weight or force
- 10 excite or tease
- 12 thinking logically
- 14 outer layer of the earth
- 16 meet, usually by chance
- 18 speculate without practical proof
- 19 not completely
- 20 controlling influence

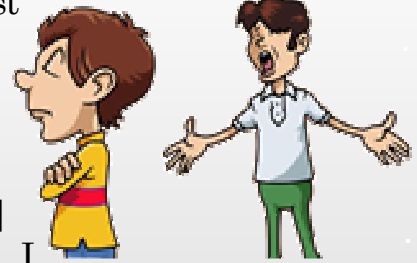
DOWN

- 1 very large
- 3 well known, usually unfavorably
- 4 decided with no doubt
- 7 clarify by example
- 9 half of the globe
- 11 the study of rocks
- 13 study of the earth’s surface
- 15 a standard for measuring
- 17 vague idea



When to use a “verb-ing” (called a gerund), a “to + verb” and a no “to” verb (called infinitives)? Getting this right can be tough! Here are a few examples for you to puzzle out:

1. I can't [lend / to lend / lending] you any money. Not [having / to have / have] [to go / going / go] to work every day for six months must have been very relaxing, but now you're [to have / having / have] financial problems. Perhaps you can [to borrow / borrowing / borrow] from your rich uncle. [Discuss / To discuss / Discussing] the matter with your bank Manager might also help, but [call / to call / calling] him after 3:00pm is not a good idea. In the meantime, I [to suggest / suggest / suggesting] you [check / to check / checking] out the wanted ads in the local newspaper [seeing / to see / see] if you can [getting / get / to get] a job.



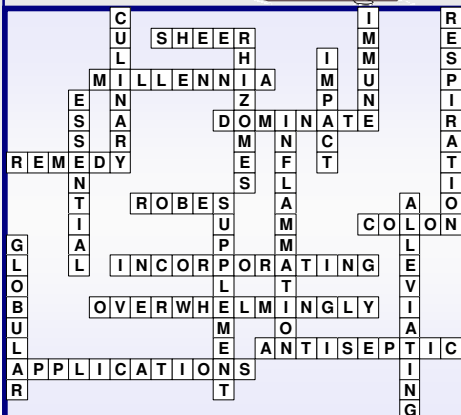
2. She wants [going / to go / go] to the museum [do / doing / to do] some [research / researching / to research] for her paper on the Jurassic, but the museum is [to close / closing / closed] today. She is now [searching / to search / search] for a good alternative source of information on the Internet, but it is [taking / take / to take] a long time and she is [getting / get / to get] frustrated and tired.



3. Her kids are [to spend / spending / spend] too much time [to watch / watching / watch] TV instead of [do / doing / to do] their homework. She's not [to think / think / thinking] seriously about their education and if she doesn't [do / doing / to do] something, they will [have / to have / having] difficulty [passing / to pass / pass] their exams.



Last Month's puzzle Solution



ACROSS

- 4 complete, without restriction
- 7 1,000 years
- 9 most important
- 11 provide relief from
- 12 loose flowing garments
- 15 part of the large intestine
- 17 adding, joining to
- 18 cannot be resisted
- 19 something that can destroy germs
- 20 usages

DOWN

- 1 relating to cooking
- 2 safe, protected against
- 3 breathing
- 5 a type of plant reproduction system
- 6 forceful, strong effect
- 8 absolutely necessary
- 10 body pain, swelling, redness, heat
- 13 something added to
- 14 giving relief, making easier
- 16 sphere or ball shaped



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