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Canada - second largest country in the world!

a During the Annual Calgary Stampede in January, breakfasts of more than five tons of pancake batter*, two tons of bacon and sausage, 5,000 bottles of syrup and 85,000 containers of juice are enjoyed by guests for ten days - all free of charge*.

b Montreal is the largest French-speaking city in North America.

c Ice skaters can skate for 7.8 kilometres through the heart of Ottawa on the Rideau Canal, which becomes the world's longest skating rink each winter.

d The Capilano Suspension Bridge, Vancouver, is the longest and highest footbridge in the world.

e There is a lake in Saskatchewan where it is impossible to sink. Lake Manitou near Watrous is so salty that people float*.

f Nunavut became Canada's 13th territory*, in April 1999.



g The Haskell Free Library and Opera House is on the border between the USA and Canada. The entrance to the library is in the USA, but the books are in Canada! The stage of the opera house is in Canada but most of the seats are in America.

i There are 800 shops and restaurants in the West Edmonton Mall, in Alberta, Canada. It is the largest shopping centre in the world.

h Residents of Toronto believe that Yonge Street is the longest street in the world. And they have the tallest free-standing structure* in the world, too - the CN Tower.

j Magnetic Hill, Moncton, in New Brunswick, is an example of an optical illusion*: a downhill slope that actually looks like an uphill slope.

Did you know?

- 1 Read the texts and find the answers to these questions.
 - 1 Where can you find the longest and highest footbridge in the world? Vancouver
 - 2 Where can you have free breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages and pancakes, for ten days in July?
 - 3 Where is the world's longest ice rink?
 - 4 Where can you park at the bottom of a hill, and find your car moving back up the hill by itself?
 - 5 Which city has the largest shopping centre (mall*) in the world?
 - 6 Where can you watch a play, where the stage is in Canada, and the audience* sits in the USA?
 - 7 Which city has the longest street and the tallest tower in the world?
 - 8 Where can you find the largest French-speaking city in North America?
 - 9 Which lake would you find it almost impossible to sink in?
 - 10 Imagine you are looking at a map of Canada dated before April 1999. Which territory won't be there?

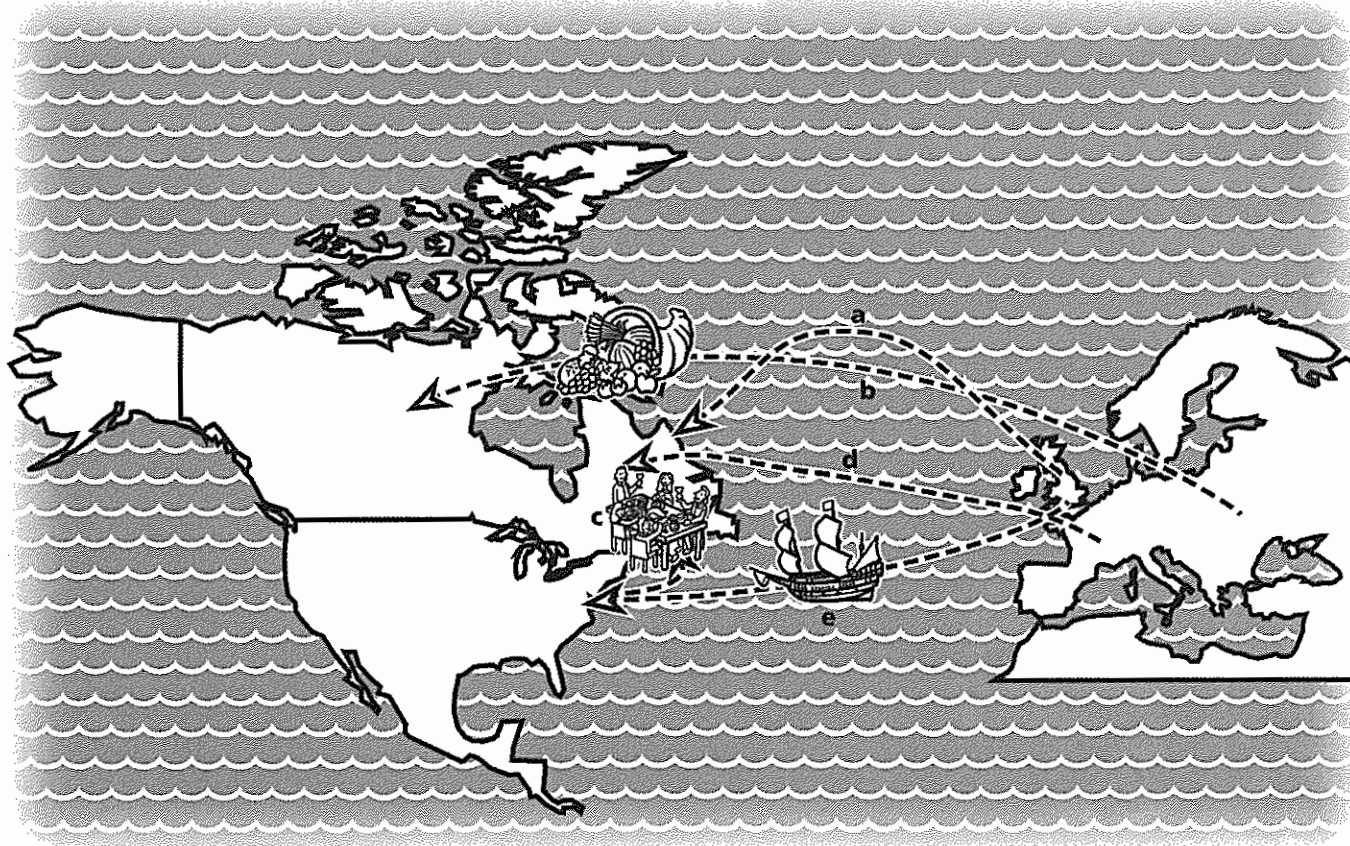
- 2 Match the places 1-10 on the map with the texts a-i.
- 3 Write the words for the pictures in the crossword. Guess what the objects have in common.

Personal project
How many different regions or territories is your country divided into? What are their names and what are they famous for?

*What is it in your language? Find out!

Thanksgiving in Canada

Both Canadians and Americans celebrate Thanksgiving with parades, family parties, pumpkin pie and turkey. There is one important difference, however: in Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October, and in the USA, it is celebrated on the last Thursday in November.



1 **(12)** Thanksgiving in Canada was influenced by several traditions. Read about them and match the texts 1 – 5 to the routes and places on the map.

1 **(b)** Long ago, farmers in Europe used to celebrate after the harvest*. They used to fill a goat's horn with fruit and grain. This was called a 'horn of plenty' or cornucopia. It was a symbol of having lots to eat. People were very grateful* that the harvest was a good one. When the Europeans came to Canada, they brought the custom of a 'harvest festival' with them.

2 **(c)** In 1578, an English explorer called Martin Frobisher made a long and difficult journey to the most far away part of northern Canada, called Newfoundland. He celebrated his safe arrival there with a thanksgiving ceremony*. When other settlers later arrived, they continued these "thankful" ceremonies.

3 **(a)** In 1621, English settlers* sailed to America, and built a village on the north-east coast, which they called Plymouth. Life was hard there, but the native* Americans helped the settlers by teaching them how to grow food, hunt and build houses. The settlers held the first Thanksgiving dinner in November that year, and shared their food with their native American neighbours. When people moved to Nova Scotia, Canada, at the time of the American Revolution, they brought this tradition with them.

4 **(e)** At the same time, French settlers came to Canada with explorer Samuel de Champlain. They also held big feasts* of food and drink, to give thanks for their safe journey.

5 **(d)** After the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, the people of Halifax held a special day of Thanksgiving.

In Canada, Thanksgiving is usually a three-day weekend because the Thanksgiving holiday is on a Monday. Canadians eat their Thanksgiving meal on any day of the holiday weekend. This often means several Thanksgiving dinners, with different groups of friends or relatives! Most people like to celebrate Thanksgiving with their families, but it is also a popular time to go away into the countryside, and enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, fishing and hunting.

2 Match the pictures and the food on the Thanksgiving dinner menu.

Thanksgiving

Dinner

Menu

★

Salad

★

Roast turkey with corn bread stuffing

Cranberry relish

Green bean casserole

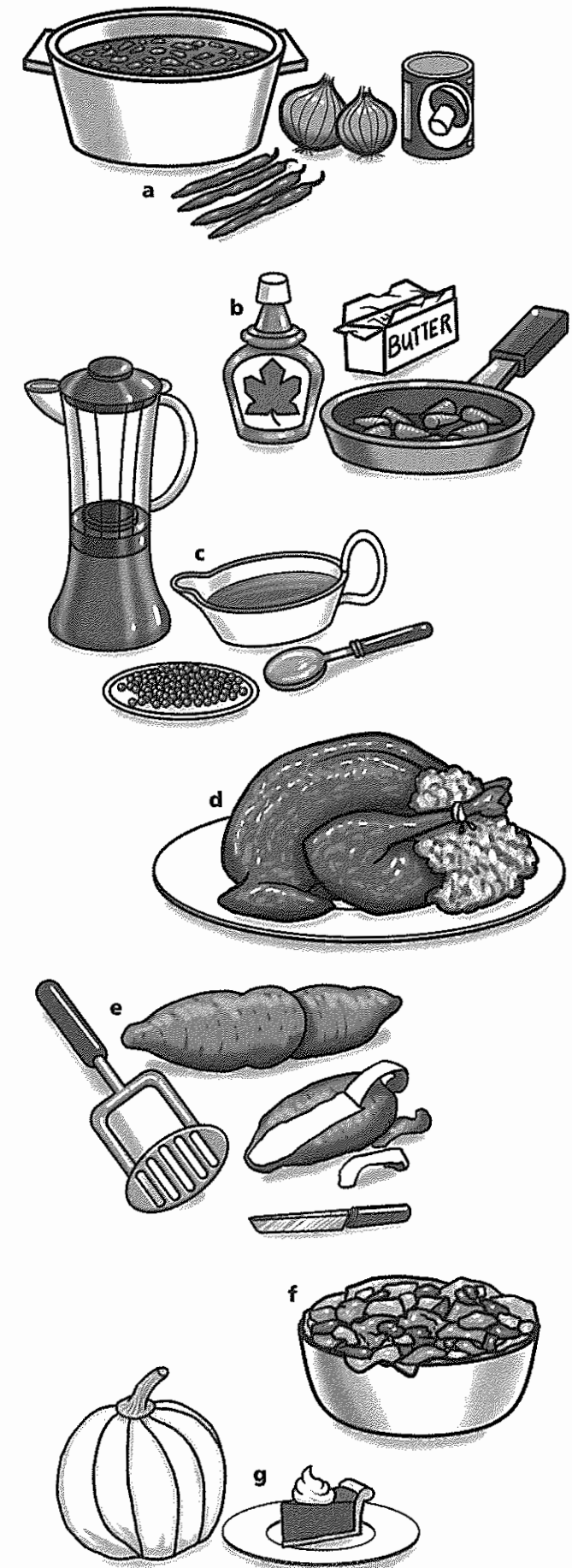
Mashed sweet potatoes

Baby carrots with maple syrup

★

Pumpkin pie

★



Personal project
What is a typical menu at a special occasion in your family?

* What is it in your language? Find out!

South Africa - 'the Rainbow Nation'

1 How much do you know about South Africa? Try this quiz!

1 Why is South Africa called 'the Rainbow Nation'?

- a Because there are always rainbows.
- b Because it has so many different races, cultures and languages.
- c Because the flag has a picture of a rainbow on it.

2 How many official languages are there in South Africa?

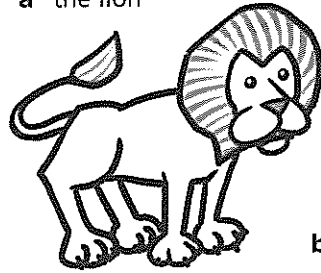
- a 2 b 11 c 26

3 Which big event will be held in South Africa in 2010?

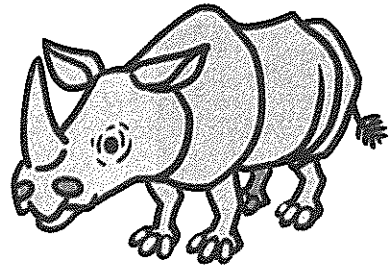
- a The Tour de France
- b Winter Olympics
- c FIFA (Football) World Cup

4 Which of these is South Africa's national symbol?

a the lion



b the rhino



c the springbok



5 What should you do when you see a 'red robot' in the street in South Africa?

- a Stop! b Get away fast. c Call the police.

2 Read about places in South Africa. Find the places on the map and write the numbers of the paragraphs.

1 'The Mother city', Cape Town, has beautiful beaches, mountains and forests ... take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain and look at the views.

2 Visit the Indian market in Durban for wonderful curries, spices and silk. Or swim in the warm Indian ocean. But be careful of sharks*!

3 Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, spent 18 years in a prison* on Robben island near Cape Town.

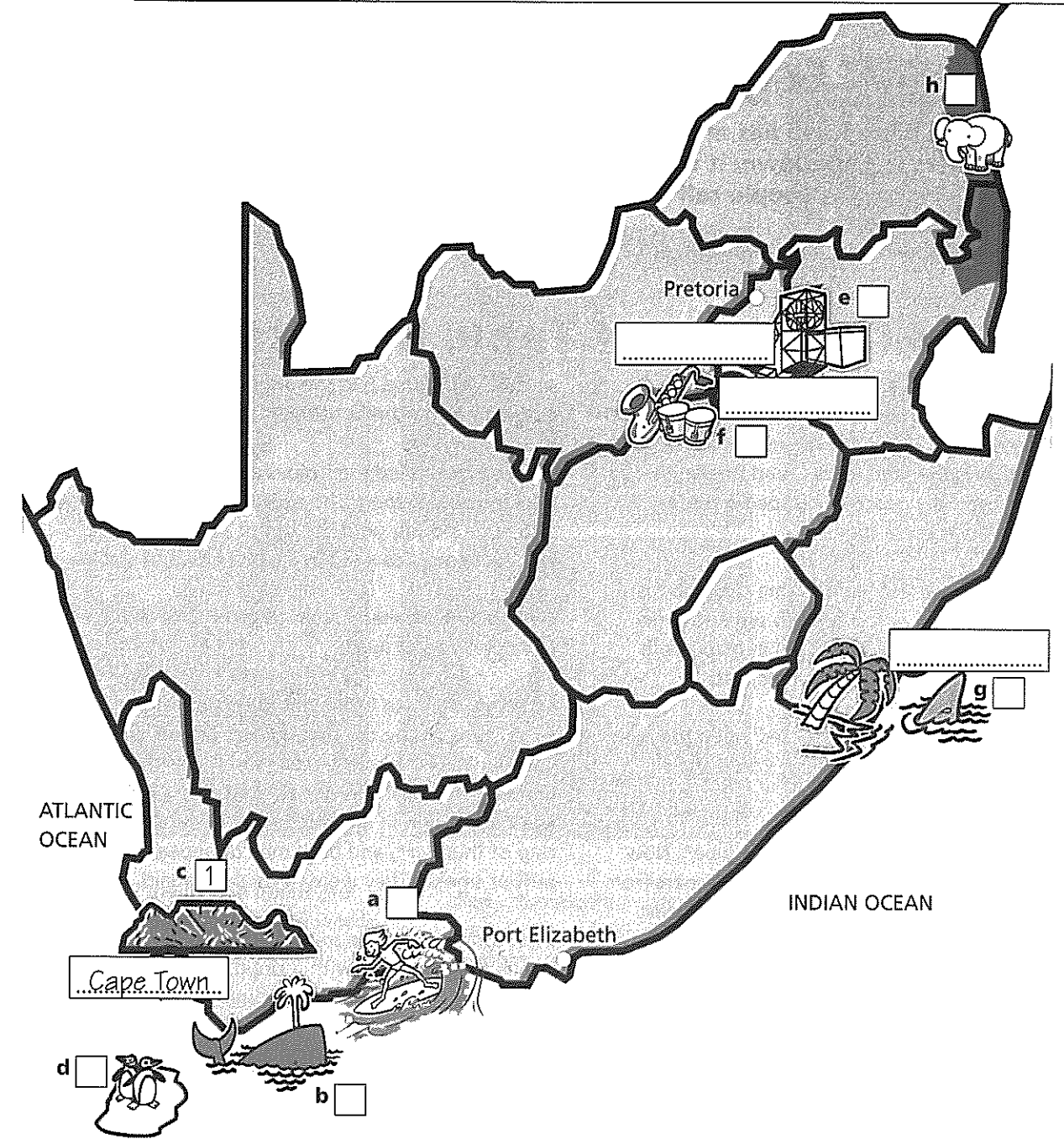
4 The city of Johannesburg is called Egoli in Zulu - 'city of gold'. Here, 226m under the ground in one of the old gold mines, you can visit the deepest pub in the world!

5 Soweto may sound like an African name, but the name actually means "South Western Townships". 20 km to the south-west of Jo'burg, over 2 million people live here, in the heart of African jazz and kwaito music.

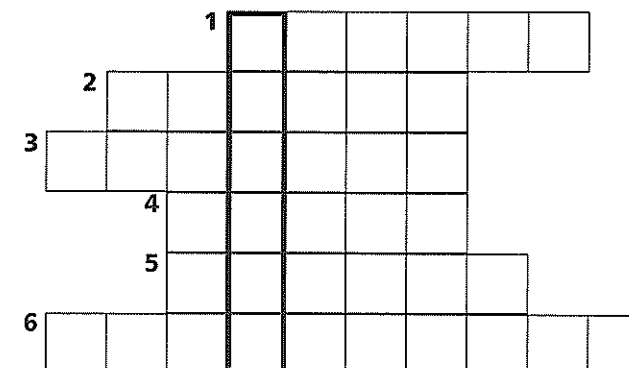
6 The best place for surfing*! International surfers come to Jeffrey's Bay, looking for the perfect wave.

7 Fancy a safari*? Kruger National Park is home to the 'big five' - elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo.

8 Here, in September and October every year, you can watch whales as they come close to the beach at Hermanus.



3 Write the words for these definitions in the word square. Look at the black squares to find something South Africa is famous for. All the words are on these pages.



- 1 These creatures make swimming in some parts of the sea a bit scary*!
- 2 Watching these huge animals has become a very popular activity.
- 3 The giant waves around the coast make this one of South Africa's best sports.
- 4 This famous mountain got its name because of its wide, flat top.
- 5 This building, on Robben Island, is now a museum.
- 6 The national rugby team is named after these fast, athletic* animals!

Personal project
Write short descriptions of some of the famous places in your country.

*What is it in your language? Find out!