

Facts About Italy

Where in the world is Italy?

Italy is a country in the south-east of Europe. It has borders with four other countries: France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia.

Italy is easy to spot on a map because it is shaped like a high-heeled boot. The boot looks like it is kicking a ball which is actually one of Italy's 350 islands, Sicily. Italy has a very long coastline (4722 miles long) and sits within the Mediterranean Sea. The Italian Alps are in the north of the country and, believe it or not, there are three volcanoes in the south: Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli. Vesuvius famously erupted in AD 79 causing devastating death and destruction to nearby cities.



Did You Know...?

The colours of the Italian flag represent three different virtues:

green = hope

white = faith

red = charity

What Is the Weather Like in Italy?

Most people consider Italy to be a hot summer holiday destination, although there are also popular ski resorts in the mountainous regions in the north. Central Italy has a milder climate with similar temperatures all year round. Southern Italy has very hot summers and mild winters and as a result, more than 52 million tourists visit Italy each year.



What Is the Capital City of Italy?

The capital city of Italy is Rome. Rome is known as the 'Eternal City' and has a population of 2.9 million people. It was founded in 753 BC by Romulus and is famous for the Roman Colosseum and other ancient buildings.



Facts about Italy

- Italy's nickname is 'bel paese' which means 'beautiful country' in Italian.
- Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Italy, measuring 4807m high.
- The majority of Italians are Christians and 90% of the population are Roman Catholic.
- Italy's longest river is the River Po and is 405 miles long.

Questions

1. Where is Italy? Tick **one**.

- ☐ south-west Europe
- ☐ north-east Europe
- ☐ south-east Europe
- ☐ north-west Europe

2. What is Italy shaped like?

3. How long is the Italian coastline? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 350 miles
- ☐ 4722 miles
- ☐ 4807 miles
- ☐ 79 miles

4. Why is Vesuvius a famous volcano? Explain your answer fully.

5. **Find and copy** a word that shows that there are **lots of hills and mountains in the north of Italy**.

6. Draw lines to match the facts about Italy.

Bel paese means...	Mont Blanc.
Rome was founded by...	Rome.
The highest peak in Italy is...	beautiful country.
'Eternal City' is another name for...	Romulus.

7. How long is the River Po? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 753 miles
- ☐ 405 feet
- ☐ 4807 miles
- ☐ 405 miles

Answers

1. Where is Italy? Tick **one**.

- ☐ south-west Europe
- ☐ north-east Europe
- ☒ **south-east Europe**
- ☐ north-west Europe

2. What is Italy shaped like?

Italy is shaped like a high-heeled boot.

3. How long is the Italian coastline? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 350 miles
- ☒ **4722 miles**
- ☐ 4807 miles
- ☐ 79 miles

4. Why is Vesuvius a famous volcano? Explain your answer fully.

Pupil's own response, such as: Vesuvius is a famous volcano because it erupted in AD 79 and destroyed many cities and killed lots of people.

5. **Find and copy** a word that shows that there are **lots of hills and mountains in the north of Italy**.

mountainous

6. Draw lines to match the facts about Italy.

Bel paese means...	Mont Blanc.
Rome was founded by...	Rome.
The highest peak in Italy is...	beautiful country.
'Eternal City' is another name for...	Romulus.

7. How long is the River Po? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 753 miles
- ☐ 405 feet
- ☐ 4807 miles
- ☒ **405 miles**

Facts About Italy

Where Is Italy?

Italy lies in the south-east of Europe and is known as 'bel paese' in Italian meaning 'beautiful country'. It has borders with four other countries: France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia which are separated in the north by the Alps.

With its distinctive boot shape, Italy is easy to spot on a world map. The peninsula sits in the Mediterranean Sea and as a result, it has a very long coastline (4722 miles). Italy has over 450 islands, the largest three of which are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba. These are popular holiday destinations due to the Mediterranean climate and stunning landscape.



In the south, Italy has three volcanoes: Vesuvius, near Naples; Etna on the island of Sicily and Stromboli off the coast of Italy. Vesuvius is one of the only European volcanoes to have erupted in the last 100 years and is considered to be one of the world's most dangerous.



Did You Know...?

The Italian flag (il Tricolore) has three equally-sized vertical stripes which each represent a different virtue:

- the green stripe represents hope,
- the white stripe represents faith,
- and the red stripe represents charity.

Weather in Italy

Italy has a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild winters in the majority of the country. More than 52 million tourists flock to Italy each year and it is a popular summer holiday destination. However, Italy also has popular ski resorts in the mountainous regions to the north which also attracts tourists and holidaymakers. Mont Blanc is the highest peak in the north of Italy and measures 4807m high.

Capital City

Rome, also known as the 'Eternal City', is the capital city of Italy and has a population of 2.9 million residents. Founded by Romulus in 753 BC, it is one of Europe's oldest cities. It is also Italy's biggest city and is famous for its historical architecture including the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps and fifty monumental fountains; the Trevi Fountain being one of the most famous. Rome attracts millions of tourists each year and ranked 12th place on the 2017 Top 100 City Destinations survey.

Vatican City



Vatican City is an independent city-state within Rome and is the world's smallest country. The Pope, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church, lives here for some of the year. It is an important place for most Italians because 90% of the population is Roman Catholic.

Questions

1. What is the Italian for 'beautiful country'? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ bel piece
 - ☐ bal paese
 - ☐ bel paese
 - ☐ bol pease
2. Which of the following countries does NOT share a border with Italy? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ Switzerland
 - ☐ Austria
 - ☐ Slovenia
 - ☐ Germany
3. What are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba?

4. Why do people like to visit Italian **islands**? Give at least **two** reasons.

5. Explain in your own words, what the word **virtue** means. Explain your answer fully.

6. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **interesting buildings**.

7. Say if the following statements are **true** or **false**. Write T for true and F for false.
 - ☐ The south of Italy is colder than the north.
 - ☐ Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Europe.
 - ☐ Rome was founded in 753 BC.
 - ☐ 'Eternal City' is another name for Rome.
 - ☐ The Pope lives in the Colosseum.
8. What is the main religion of Italy? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ Roman Catholic
 - ☐ Judaism
 - ☐ Islam
 - ☐ Hinduism

Answers

1. What is the Italian for 'beautiful country'? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ bel piece
 - ☐ bal paese
 - ☒ **bel paese**
 - ☐ bol pease
2. Which of the following countries does NOT share a border with Italy? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ Switzerland
 - ☐ Austria
 - ☐ Slovenia
 - ☒ **Germany**
3. What are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba?
Sicily, Sardinia and Elba are islands.
4. Why do people like to visit Italian **islands**? Give at least **two** reasons.
Because of the Mediterranean climate and the stunning landscape.
5. Explain in your own words, what the word **virtue** means. Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the word virtue means good qualities that people should have. For example, hope, faith and charity are all good things that make someone a better, happier person.
6. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **interesting buildings**.
architecture
7. Say if the following statements are **true** or **false**. Write T for true and F for false.
 - ☐ **F** The south of Italy is colder than the north.
 - ☐ **F** Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Europe.
 - ☐ **T** Rome was founded in 753 BC.
 - ☐ **T** 'Eternal City' is another name for Rome.
 - ☐ **F** The Pope lives in the Colosseum.
8. What is the main religion of Italy? Tick **one**.
 - ☒ **Roman Catholic**
 - ☐ Judaism
 - ☐ Islam
 - ☐ Hinduism

Facts About Italy

'Bel paese', otherwise known as Italy, lies in the south-east of Europe and borders four other countries: France, Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland. These countries are separated from Italy by the Alps in the north. The distinctive peninsula (the boot) of Italy protrudes into the Mediterranean Sea giving it its 4722 miles stretch of coastline. Off this coastline, Italy boasts over 450 islands including the three largest: Sicily, Sardinia and Elba. These Italian islands are popular summer holiday destinations due to their geographical location and idyllic scenery.



To the south of Italy, the landscape becomes less mountainous. However, three volcanoes lay here including the infamous Vesuvius, which erupted in AD 79 burying whole cities and settlements. Vesuvius is one of the only European volcanoes to have erupted in the last 100 years and is considered to be one of the world's most dangerous because of the millions of people who live nearby in Naples.



Did You Know...?

The Italian flag (il Tricolore) has three equally-sized vertical pales which are believed to each represent a different virtue. The religious interpretation is that green represents hope, white represents faith and red represents charity.

The weather in Italy differs in each of its three main areas – the north, central and southern regions. Northern Italy is generally colder and wetter and, in the winter months, proves to be a popular skiing destination. Central Italy has a much milder climate and temperatures do not change much from winter to summer. It is in the south of Italy that temperatures can soar, especially in summer months, and this makes it a very popular summer holiday destination.

Facts About Italy

to more than 52 million tourists each year.

Rome, Italy's capital, is one of Europe's oldest cities and is also known as the 'Eternal City'. It was founded by Romulus, the first king of Rome, in 753 BC and was built upon seven hills. Its historical architecture and ancient buildings attract more than 4 million tourists each year. Once in Rome, visitors can explore the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, the Sistine Chapel and over 200 fountains, including the famous Trevi Fountain.



Vatican City is an independent city-state that lies within Rome and is the world's smallest country. The Pope, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church, lives here for some of the year and because 90% of the population is Roman Catholic, it is a religiously significant place for most Italians.

Facts

- Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco in Italian) means 'White Mountain' and is the highest mountain in the Alps. It stands at 4807m tall and sits between France and Italy.
- In 1957, Italy became one of the founding members of the European Union in what was called 'The Treaty of Rome.'
- Italy is divided up into twenty different regions, which often speak in their own dialect of Italian and eat their own regional dishes.
- Italy is only 158 years old as it did not become a country until 1861.

Questions

1. Read the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **picturesque**.

2. Why do you think that Vesuvius is described as **infamous**? Explain your answer fully.

3. What colour is used to represent faith on the Italian flag? Tick **one**.

- ☐ red
- ☐ white
- ☐ green
- ☐ blue

4. In your own words, explain why Vatican City is important to many Italian people.

5. If you preferred cooler weather, which part of Italy would you choose to live in and why? Explain your answer fully.

6. What does **Monte Bianco** mean in English?

7. Where is Vatican City?

8. When was The Treaty of Rome signed? Tick one.

- ☐ 1861
- ☐ 1588
- ☐ 1957
- ☐ 1975

Answers

1. Read the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **picturesque**.
idyllic
2. Why do you think that Vesuvius is described as **infamous**? Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Vesuvius is described as infamous because infamous means being well-known for something bad and when Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, it buried whole cities and would have killed lots of people. It is also thought to be one of the world's most dangerous volcanoes.
3. What colour is used to represent faith on the Italian flag? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ red
 - ☒ **white**
 - ☐ green
 - ☐ blue
4. In your own words, explain why Vatican City is important to many Italian people.
Pupil's own response, such as: Vatican City is important to many Italian people because the Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church and he lives there. The majority (90%) of Italian people are Roman Catholic therefore the place where the Pope lives will be important to them.
5. If you preferred cooler weather, which part of Italy would you choose to live in and why? Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: If I preferred cooler weather, I would choose to live in north or central Italy because it says in the text that the north is colder and central Italy is milder whereas the temperatures in south Italy can soar which means to get really hot.
6. What does **Monte Bianco** mean in English?
Monte Bianco means 'white mountain' in English.
7. Where is Vatican City?
Vatican City is in Rome.
8. When was The Treaty of Rome signed? Tick one.
 - ☐ 1861
 - ☐ 1588
 - ☒ **1957**
 - ☐ 1975