



## Unit 26 North and south

### Before you read

Think about these questions. Have you ever traveled to a wonderful and unusual place? What made it is so unusual?

### Read the article

#### Visiting the Galápagos

The Galápagos Islands are one of the most interesting and unusual places on Earth. They are located in the Pacific Ocean, just south of the equator, about 600 miles to the west of Ecuador (which is in the northwest part of South America). These volcanic islands are part of Ecuador's national park system.

Early explorers called the Galápagos "the enchanted islands." They found many different types of animals on the islands. Today thousands of visitors each year visit the Galápagos Islands to observe the animals. Some of the animals, for example the penguins, can be found living in other places in the world. But other animals, such as some of the big tortoises and rare birds, are unique because you can only find them there. Many believe the islands are magical because the animals are not afraid of people! Sea lions let visitors walk close to them on the beach or swim with them in the sea. Iguanas don't mind if people come to sit down next to them on the rocks.

The Galápagos are made up of 13 main islands and six smaller ones. Few people live on the islands because the government of Ecuador wants to keep them safe for the animals. The Galápagos are home to many endangered species, such as tortoises. There are strict limits on tourism and where the tourists are allowed to go. All visitors must move around the islands with a certified naturalist tour guide, who was trained by the national park service.

So if you are looking for a really special place to visit, think about the Galápagos and their friendly inhabitants!



### Build your reading skills: Summarizing

Read the article again. Some of the information in this summary of the reading is wrong. Find and correct six mistakes. The first one has been done for you.

*islands*

The Galápagos are ~~countries~~ to the west of South America. They are north of the equator. Early visitors to the Galápagos called the islands dangerous. They found one type of animal there. Some of the animals live in other places of the world also, but others are special. For example, there are huge tortoises and some rare birds that aren't found anywhere else in the world. The animals are afraid of people! The government of Ecuador protects the Galápagos and the animals. Animals can only move around the area, which is a national park, with a certified guide.

### Check your comprehension

Circle the letter of the answer that completes each sentence.

1. The Galápagos are islands in the Pacific to the \_\_\_\_\_ of South America.  
 a. west  
b. north  
c. south
2. Early visitors thought the islands were \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. typical  
b. common  
c. unusual
3. The Galápagos are different from other islands in the Pacific because they \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. have animals  
b. are protected  
c. are smaller
4. The tortoises of the Galápagos are \_\_\_\_\_ because they live only here.  
a. normal  
b. large  
c. unique
5. Tourists need to travel in the Galápagos with a \_\_\_\_\_ tour guide.  
a. safe  
b. trained  
c. young