
Vocabulary: geography 词汇: 地理

Think of the UK and you'll probably think of London. Picture France and you'll no doubt conjure up images of Paris and its **iconic** Eiffel Tower. To many, capital cities define a country. They're often the **seat of power**, the economic and political **hub** and sometimes the home to royalty - along with millions of **city dwellers**. For a place with so much **influence**, it's important to get its location right.

Sometimes we have to look into history to find the reasons why a capital city ended up where it did. The **site** of what is now London was by the river: easy to **settle**, easy for **trading** and easy to **defend**. However, it's not located in the country's centre and there's often criticism from **far-flung** corners of the nation that they are forgotten by the decision makers in the capital. Other countries have taken a different approach by establishing their capitals in the **geographical** centre so they can exert control and project unity, like Madrid in Spain for example.

Occasionally, there have been reasons to **relocate** a capital. St Petersburg, founded by Peter the Great in 1703, was Russia's capital from 1712-1918, before the government changed it to Moscow. This was partly because Moscow was more **central**, and the government decided it was less likely to be invaded by another country.

And now in Indonesia there are plans to move its capital, Jakarta. Its new location is yet to be decided, but the reason for the move is that this **megacity** is sinking at one of the fastest rates in the world. It's been built on very **swampy** land and isn't helped by lots of **groundwater** being extracted to use for drinking water and washing. The city is overcrowded too and roads are often **gridlocked**.

Of course, if you can't move your capital city, why not **construct** a brand new one? Brazil moved its capital from coastal, crowded Rio de Janeiro to inland Brasilia in 1961 - the idea being to build a brand new capital "to bring progress to the interior of Brazil", as architect Oscar Niemeyer described it. And more recently, Nay Pyi Taw was built in 2005 as Myanmar's new capital. This **remote** city is four times the size of London and has huge roads, golf courses and a zoo - but few people.

词汇表

iconic	标志性的, 非常出名的
seat of power	政府所在地
hub	中心
city dwellers	城市居民
influence	影响力
site	地点, 位置
settle	定居
trading	贸易
defend	保护, 防卫
far-flung	遥远的
geographical	地理上的
relocate	迁移, 搬迁
central	中心的
megacity	(人口超过 1000 万的) 大城市
swampy	(地面) 湿软的
groundwater	地下水
gridlocked	交通拥堵不堪的
construct	修建
remote	遥远的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Where is the capital of Spain located?
2. What is sinking at one of the fastest rates in the world?
3. How crowded is Myanmar's new capital city?
4. True or false? *Russia's old capital city, St Petersburg, was renamed Moscow in 1918.*
5. Which word used in the article means 'situated not near a coast or sea'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Sorry I'm late. There's been an accident and the roads are _____.

gridlocked	gridlocks	gridlocked	gridlock
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2. My company has decided to _____ to Manchester so I'm going to have to look for another job.

settle	relocate	construct	remote
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3. My parents haven't called me for a while, probably because they're on holiday in some _____ corner of the world.

far-fling	flung-far	far-flunged	far-flung
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4. Heathrow airport is London's major _____ for flights to most parts of the world.

iconic	hub	central	construct
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5. Our new house has a great _____ location – it's near the coast so it's cool but we have a great view of the mountains.

geography	geography	geographical	geometry
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Where is the capital of Spain located?

It is located in the geographical centre of the country.

2. What is sinking at the one of the fastest rates in the world?

The capital city of Indonesia, Jakarta.

3. How crowded is Myanmar's new capital city?

Not very crowded. It has huge roads, golf courses and a zoo – but few people.

4. True or false? *Russia's old capital city, St Petersburg, was renamed Moscow in 1918.*

False. St Petersburg was Russia's capital from 1712-1918, before the government moved it to Moscow.

5. Which word used in the article means 'situated not near a coast or sea'?

Inland. "Brazil moved its capital from coastal, crowded Rio de Janeiro to inland Brasilia in 1961."

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Sorry I'm late. There's been an accident and the roads are **gridlocked**.

2. My company has decided to **relocate** to Manchester so I'm going to have to look for another job.

3. My parents haven't called me for a while, probably because they're on holiday in some **far-flung** corner of the world.

4. Heathrow airport is London's major **hub** for flights to most parts of the world.

5. Our new house has a great **geographical** location – it's near the coast so it's cool, but we have a great view of the mountains.