

Please complete the comprehension we were working on. Re-read the text and complete the Vipers questions.



Cornwall

Cornwall is the most southwesterly county of England. It is a peninsula surrounded by the sea on the north, south and west coasts and joining with Devon in the east. It is famous for its sandy beaches, some of which are world-famous for their surfing.

All of this coastline means that Cornwall has the longest coastline in the United Kingdom. When Ordnance Survey (the national mapping agency for Great Britain) mapped it out, they calculated it to be 1,086 km long! That's a lot of sandcastles!

If having all of that beautiful coastline isn't enough, Cornwall is also home to the largest collection of plant species in Britain. Granted, not all of them are native to Cornwall – in fact, many of them are from the other side of the world – but many of them are all gathered together under the bubbled domes of the Eden Project.

This eco-project is split over two enormous plastic bubble-domes, which are designed to keep the temperature and atmosphere inside them stable. The largest dome is home to a rainforest and is filled with thousands of tropical plants from tropical rainforests around the world. There are also nearly 20 species of butterflies fluttering freely about, along with lizards and frogs hidden away in the foliage.

In the smaller dome, the Eden Project boasts an accurate Mediterranean climate. The air in here is a lot drier and the temperature cooler. There are thousands of species of plant, many of which fill the dome with the familiar scents of Mediterranean cooking.

If you fancy getting even closer to Cornwall's history, you could try to learn the local language, called Kernewek. This is a Celtic language, but it has declined in use over the last few centuries. Allegedly, the last native speaker passed away in 1914, but many people still speak it as a second language. It is taught in Cornish schools, and many grandparents and parents make sure their children learn at least a little bit of it.

For many years, some people have argued that Cornwall should be treated as a separate country within the United Kingdom, much like Wales and



Scotland. This is because Cornwall is a duchy. This means that it is ruled over by the Duke of Cornwall (the Prince of Wales). Some people believe that this should mean that they can form their own parliament, independent from the United Kingdom. Many people in Cornwall fly the Cornish flag, called Saint Piran's Flag (or Baner Peran in Kernewek). This is a symbol of their identity; most Cornish people are incredibly proud of their heritage.

Not only is Cornwall home to many species of plants, thanks to the Eden Project, but its coastal waters are teeming with life. If you take a boat trip off the coast of Cornwall, you have the chance to see bottlenose dolphins, grey seals, basking sharks and whale sharks. Whale sharks only eat plankton, but basking sharks are definitely worth giving a wide berth!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Where in England is Cornwall?
2. How long is the Cornish coast?
3. Where in Cornwall could you see tropical butterflies?
4. What is the Cornish name for their flag?
5. Which type of shark, mentioned in the text, eat plankton?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which word or phrase means that the Eden Project is helping with conservation?

S

Why is Kernewek important to Cornish people?

V

What does the phrase "teeming with life" tell you about the sea off Cornwall's coast?

I

Why do you think Cornish schools are now teaching Kernewek?

S

What is the difference between the two Eden Project domes?