

Name That Country

Every country in the world has a different shape, but some country shapes are easier to identify than are others. Can you guess the names of these three countries by their shapes? Here are some clues.

The country that **looks like a high-heeled boot** starts with the letter “I” and has five letters. Its capital is Rome, and about 60 million people live there.

This country is the **home of pizza and pasta** and the floating city of Venice.

Do you why Venice is called a floating city? It’s actually built on more than 100 little islands, linked by bridges and canals.

The country with a southern **half that looks like a triangle** also starts with an “I” and has five letters. About a billion people live there, which makes the population of this country second only to China. This country became independent in 1947, at the same time that Pakistan became independent.

It happened at the same time because both this “I” country and Pakistan were part of the same British empire that was split up after World War II. A man named Mohandas Gandhi played a very big part in bringing independence to these countries. Do you recognize that name? To many people, he is **better known as Mahatma Gandhi**. Mahatma means “great soul” in the Hindi language, and it is a name of honor given to this important leader of the first half of the 20th century.

The third country is an **island country** that we talked about earlier in this book (page 8). It’s a country with a name that doesn’t really describe it very well. Sure, there’s some ice there, but there are lots of hot things, too—like volcanoes and hot springs. That is why this country is sometimes nicknamed the **“Land of Fire and Ice.”**

Did you guess all three countries? They are Italy, India and Iceland.

60 million = 60,000,000

1 billion = 1,000,000,000