

# Georgian Countries

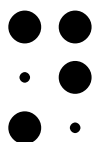
There are names of some countries in South America, written in the Georgian language, together with their translations to English:

ბრაზილია	Brazil
პერუ	Peru
ურუგვაი	Uruguay

არგენტინა  
კოლუმბია

What are the names, in English, of the two untranslated countries?

# Japanese Braille



**Braille** is a tactile writing system, based on a series of raised dots, that is widely used by the blind. It was invented in 1821 by Louis Braille to write French, but has since been adapted to many other languages. English, which uses the Roman alphabet just as French does, required very little adaptation, but languages that do not use the Roman alphabet, such as Japanese, Korean, or Chinese, are often organized in a very different manner!

To the right is a Japanese word written in the **tenji** (“dot characters”) writing system. The large dots represent the raised bumps; the tiny dots represent empty positions.

karaoke



1. The following **tenji** words represent **atari**, **haiku**, **katana**, **kimono**, **koi**, and **sake**. Which is which? You don’t need to know either Japanese or Braille to figure it out; you’ll find that the system is highly logical.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

f. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the following words?

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write the following words in **tenji** characters:

i. samurai \_\_\_\_\_

j. miso \_\_\_\_\_

# Inuktitut Numbers

Inuktitut is one of the main languages of the Inuit people, which lives in several areas in the northern Canada and Alaska. Few years ago, students from a school in the small town of Kaktovik invented a new way of writing numbers, more appropriate for the way numbers are expressed in the Inuktitut language.

Imagine that you are travelling through northern Canada and find some Inuit students that know nothing about English, Latin script or Indo-Arabic numerals. Then, in order to start communication, one of the students offer you a list of mathematical operations, shown below (in the left column). This version of the table uses the Indo-Arabic symbols for the operations.

$$\backslash + \backslash = \vee$$

$$\vee + \vee = \text{—}$$

$$\overline{W} + \nabla = \overline{\text{—}}$$

$$\overline{\vee} - \vee = \overline{=}$$

$$\vee \times \text{—} = \overline{=}$$

$$\overline{W} \times \nabla = \vee \vee$$

$$W\delta + \overline{\text{—}} = W\overline{\text{—}}$$

$$\vee + \vee =$$

$$\delta \times >>> =$$

$$\backslash \delta - \vee =$$

$$\text{—} \times \text{—} =$$

$$\overline{\vee} - \vee =$$

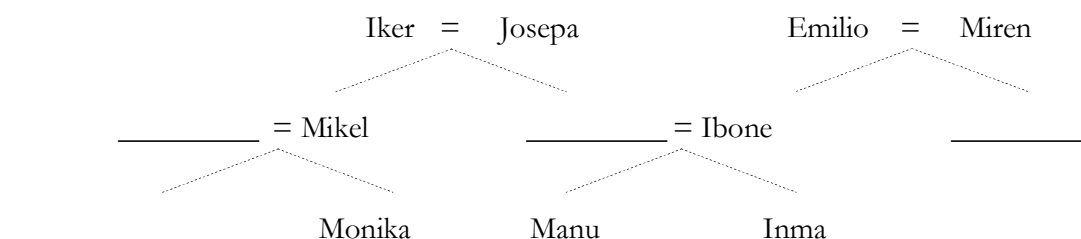
$$\backslash \nabla + \backslash \overline{W} =$$

$$\nabla \div \vee =$$

1. Seeing that you understood the table, the student challenges you to write down the answers of another series of operations, shown in the right column. Give the answers in Inuktitut numerals.
2. To assure the student that you understood the system, you decided to write down the date of today (day, month and year) in Inuktitut numerals, assuming they used Gregorian calendar. What did you write down?

# Basque Kinship

This is the genealogical tree of a Basque family. The blank spaces in the diagram stand for the names Ines, Kontxi, Felix, and Andres (listed here in no particular order).



Some of the relationships between the members of this family are described below in Basque:

Ines Mikelen emaztea da.

Andres Iboneren neba da.

Monika Kontxiren ahizpa da.

Ibone eta Felix senar-emazteak dira.

Inma Manuren arreba da.

Andres eta Ibone Emilioren seme-alabak dira.

Iker Joseparen senarra da.

Manu Iboneren semea da.

Mikel Felixen anaia da.

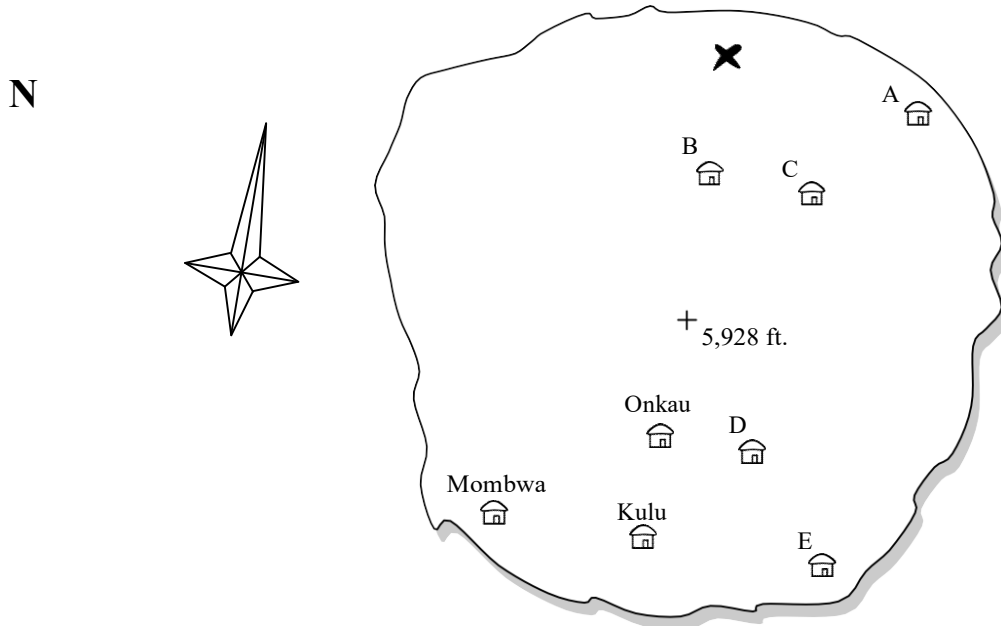
1. Identify the names that belong in the blank spaces in the diagram.
2. Is Kontxi male or female? Explain, using the data from the problem.
3. Fill in the gaps in the following Basque sentences (referring to the same family):

- a) Kontxi \_\_\_\_\_ ahizpa da.
- b) Inma eta Manu Iboneren \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Ibone Andresen \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) Manu Inmaren \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Kontxi Mikelen \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) Emilio \_\_\_\_\_ senarra da.

Note: *Ibone*, *Ines*, *Inma*, *Josepa*, *Miren*, and *Monika* are women's names; *Andres*, *Emilio*, *Felix*, *Iker*, *Manu*, *Mikel* are men's names. The letters **s** and **x** stand for sounds similar to English *sh*; **z** has the sound of English *s*, **tx** of English *ch*, **j** is a sound intermediate between *g* and *y*; **h** is mute.

# Manam

Manam Pile (“Manam Talk”) is a Malayo-Polynesian language spoken on Manam Island off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Manam is one of the most active volcanoes in the world, and during violent eruptions the population must be evacuated to the mainland.



Below, a Manam islander describes the relative locations of the houses above.

1. Onkau pera kana auta ieno, Kulu pera kana ilau ieno.
2. Mombwa pera kana ata ieno, Kulu pera kana awa ieno.
3. Tola pera kana auta ieno, Sala pera kana ilau ieno.
4. Sulung pera kana awa ieno, Tola pera kana ata ieno.
5. Sala pera kana awa ieno, Mombwa pera kana ata ieno.
6. Pita pera kana ilau ieno, Sulung pera kana auta ieno.
7. Sala pera kana awa ilau ieno, Onkau pera kana ata auta ieno.
8. Butokang pera kana awa auta ieno, Pita pera kana ata ilau ieno.

1. Onkau’s, Mombwa’s, and Kulu’s houses have already been located on the map above. Who lives in the other five houses?

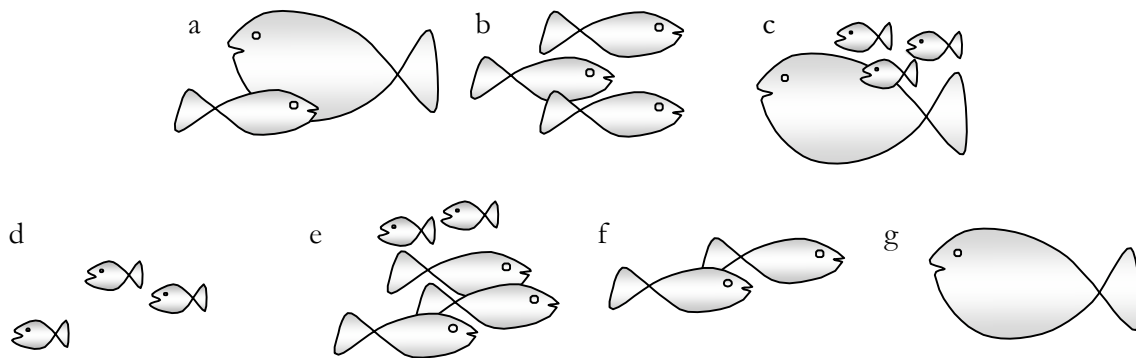
A: \_\_\_\_\_ B: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ D: \_\_\_\_\_ E: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Arongo is building his new house in the location marked with an X. In three Manam Pile sentences like the ones above, describe the location of Arongo’s house in relation to the three closest houses.

# Aymara

Aymara is a South American language spoken by more than 2 million people in the area around Lake Titicaca, which, at 12,507 feet above sea level, is the highest navigable lake in the world. Among the speakers of Aymara are the *Uros*, a fishing people who live on artificial islands, woven from reeds, that float on the surface of Lake Titicaca.

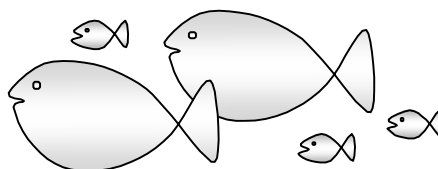
1. Below, seven fishermen describe their catch. Who caught what?



- \_\_\_ 1. “Mä hach’a challwawa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 2. “Kimsa hach’a challwawa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 3. “Mä challwa mä hach’a challwampiwa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 4. “Mä hach’a challwa kimsa challwallampiwa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 5. “Paya challwallawa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 6. “Mä challwalla paya challwampiwa challwataxa.”
- \_\_\_ 7. “Kimsa challwa paya challwallampiwa challwataxa.”

Also, watch out! *One of the fishermen is lying.*

2. Your daily catch is pictured below. Describe it in Aymara, and don’t lie!



Note: *ä* is a long *a*; *ll* is pronounced as *ly*; *x* as the *ch* in Scottish *loch*. Some vowels transcribed here are deleted in actual speech.