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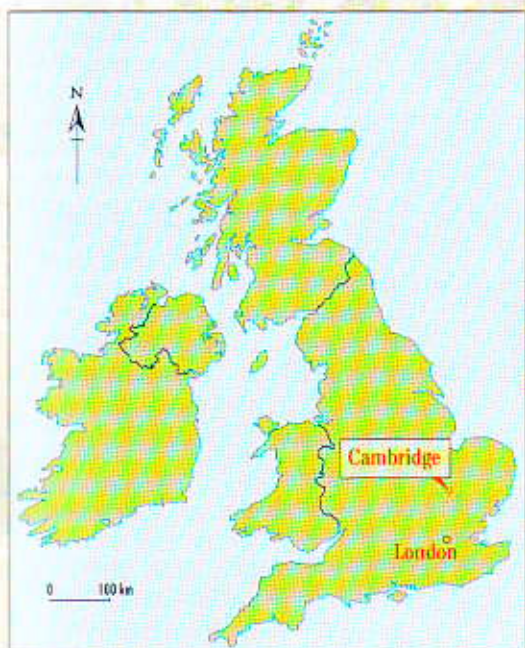


## Case Study A

# The Cambridge Phenomenon

Cambridge is a city with two faces. It has a fascinating history dating back to Anglo-Saxon times and is home to a world-famous university. It is also at the forefront of a late 20th-century industrial initiative – the establishment of science parks. But what *are* science parks? Why is Cambridge such a good location for this new type of industrial activity?

You are the Economic Development Officer of a city in northern England. Your city is interested in setting up a science park. You have been asked to find out as much as you can about science parks, so that you can report back to your city council about these new industrial areas.



The position of Cambridge in the UK.



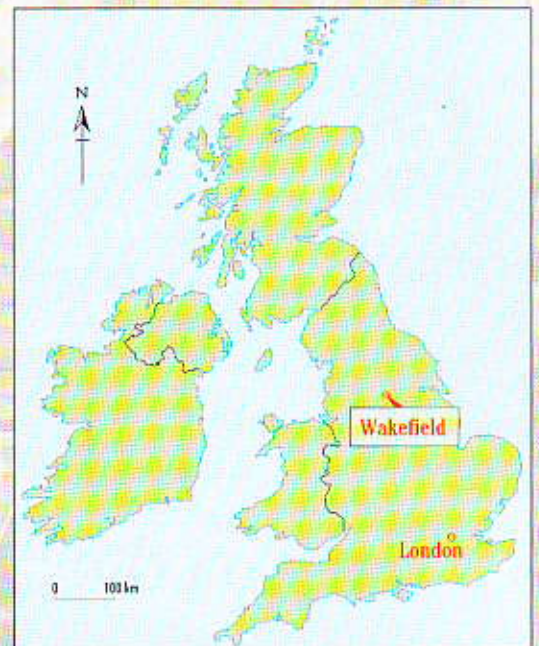
## Case Study B

# King Coal is Dead - New Jobs for Wakefield

As part of your school's work experience programme, you are offered a one-week placement in the offices of the Wakefield Post, a Yorkshire newspaper. Your task is to investigate how the employment situation in Wakefield is changing, and in doing so to learn some of the skills of a journalist.

Wakefield is a city in West Yorkshire. It has a population of 75,600 and is located midway between Leeds and Sheffield. The city and the area around it has for decades relied on coal and wool to provide jobs. Gradually, though, both these industries have declined. Like many other towns and cities, Wakefield is trying to attract new industries to provide jobs for local people.

Why has the city's employment structure changed, and what is being done to provide new jobs?



The position of Wakefield in the UK.

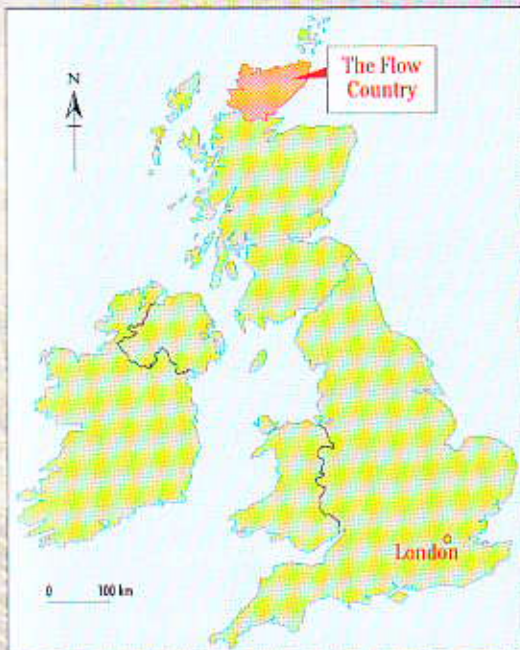


## Case Study C

# Changing Rural Land Use in the Flow Country

The term 'flow' is a northern expression for any flat, deep, wet peatland or bog. The largest area of peatland or blanket bog in Britain lies in Caithness and Sutherland in northern Scotland. The area, almost 4,000 square kilometres, has come to be known as the **Flow Country**, and although it is remote, it has become the focus of some controversy.

Your family has owned land in this area for many generations. About 30 years ago your father left the Flow Country and moved to where you now live. One day he surprises everyone by announcing suddenly that he wants to move the whole family back to the area when he retires. You find some information left on the table at home – the resources in this case study – and decide to investigate what is going on in the Flow Country for yourself.



The Flow Country in north-east Scotland.



## Case Study D

# Farming in the Yorkshire Dales: Issues and Conflicts

The Yorkshire Dales is an area in northern England where farming has gone on since ancient times. Recently agriculture has been in decline. Sheep and cattle are reared here as the conditions are largely unsuitable for arable farming. The land is difficult to farm or 'marginal' even for animal farming. The agricultural policies of the European Community (which changed its name to the European Union, or EU, in 1993) have provided **subsidies** for the farmers, but have also limited some of their activities by imposing **quotas**. The environment here has changed as a result of political factors, and today is still threatened.

You are a farmer from Vermont, a state in New England in the north-eastern USA. Vermont is best known for dairying. Agriculture in New England has been affected in recent years by international competition. The landscape is hilly, so the land is marginal for farming over wide areas. You have been chosen by the local farmers' union to visit the United Kingdom. You will be the guest of the Yorkshire National Farmers Union (NFU) and will examine all kinds of farming in the Dales, as well as learning about the European Community and its agricultural policies. At the end of your visit you are expected to provide a detailed report for your fellow farmers in New England. You are also asked to write a short note for the US government Department of Agriculture in Washington DC, explaining the benefits and disadvantages of the European agricultural policy for farmers and the environment in Europe.



Location of the Yorkshire Dales.



## Case Study E

# Car Production in Spain

You are to adopt the role of consumer. This may seem more straightforward than several of the other roles in this book, because almost certainly you are already a consumer, directly or indirectly, of motor vehicles. It is unlikely, though, that you have ever bought one. So to help you into the role we begin to look at the topic through the eyes of Sally. She has just got her first job as a surveyor with a large building company. The company asks her to choose a company car so that she can travel from one building site to another. She is able to choose one of the following three models:

- Seat Ibiza 1.2XL
- Vauxhall Nova 1.2L
- Ford Fiesta 1.1L

Which should Sally choose?

The motor vehicle industry is one of the most important manufacturing industries of the 20th century. Motor vehicles transport people and goods all over the world. Millions of families depend upon the industry directly for jobs. The economy of whole nations depends upon the health of the industry, yet its control is in the hands of just a few companies. These companies are so big and powerful that they can earn more money in a year than many whole countries.

Spain freed itself from Fascism in the 1970s, and soon after joining the European Community it became an alternative location for the expanding car industry.



Spain's position in Europe.



## Case Study F

# The Farmers of Languedoc-Roussillon, and the EC Wine Lake

The newspapers sometimes carry stories about 'butter mountains', 'beef mountains' and 'wine lakes'. All are a result of **surplus** production by farmers of particular products. The Languedoc region in southern France has been producing agricultural surpluses for decades – they even caused a minor war with Italy! Why do such surpluses occur, and what can be done about them?

You have just joined the Directorate-General for Agriculture (DGVI) at the Headquarters of the European Community in Brussels as a trainee. The Directorate is concerned about agricultural surpluses, and your first assignment is to find out what causes these surpluses. You must also suggest what can be done to reduce overproduction. The area you are asked to look at is Languedoc-Roussillon in the South of France.



Languedoc-Roussillon region in southern France.

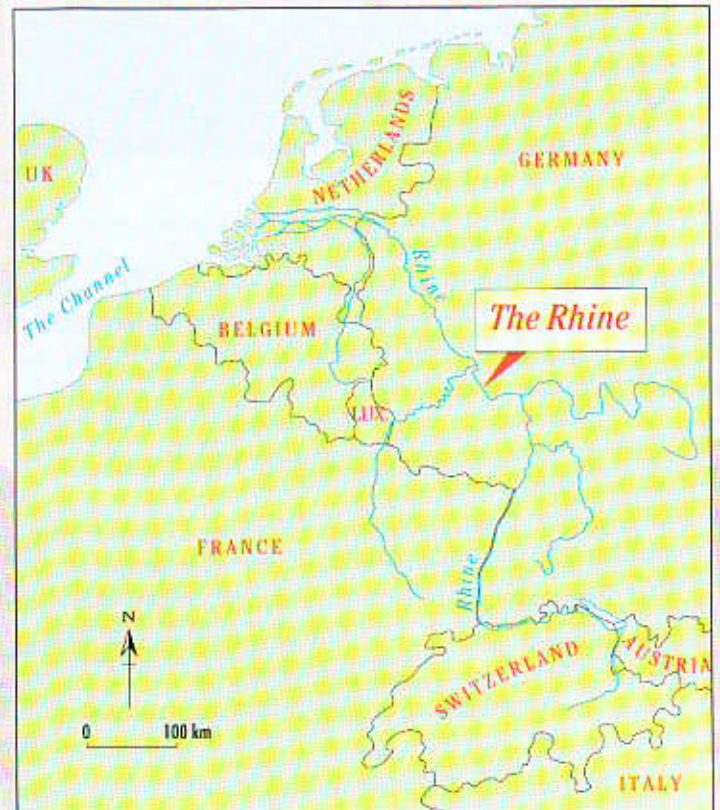


## Case Study G

# Cleaning-up the River Rhine

You work as a trainee at the Institute of Environmental Pollution Studies in London. You are asked to attend a conference about managing pollution of the Rhine delta. The Institute has asked you to write an article about this subject for an environmental magazine. Begin your research by investigating why the River Rhine is so polluted, using the resources on the next two pages.

The Rhine is one of the longest rivers in Europe. It runs for over 1,300 kilometres from its source in Switzerland. At Basel the river is 200 metres wide. The Rhine flows on through France, Germany and the Netherlands. By the time it reaches the German/Dutch border at Lobith, the **discharge** is 2 million litres a second, and the river carries a lethal cocktail of pollutants. Since 1980 efforts have been made to clean-up the river, but there have been a number of accidental spills and other incidents which have worsened the situation.



The Rhine's course through Europe.

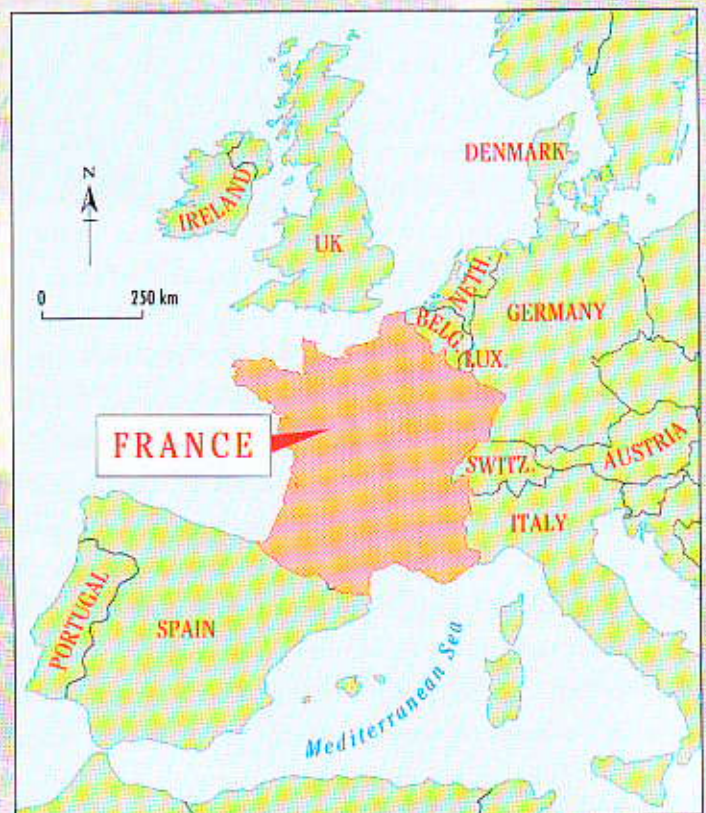


## Case Study H

# The French Energy Dilemma

France is a major industrial nation. It needs energy on a large scale for its factories, farms and homes. Like other Western countries, France faces important choices in how to meet its energy needs.

You are an adviser to the French government on energy issues over the period between 1974 and 1989, a time when France urgently needed to develop a clear energy policy. You must keep the President and government ministers informed about all the issues involved in developing such a policy.



France's position in Western Europe.



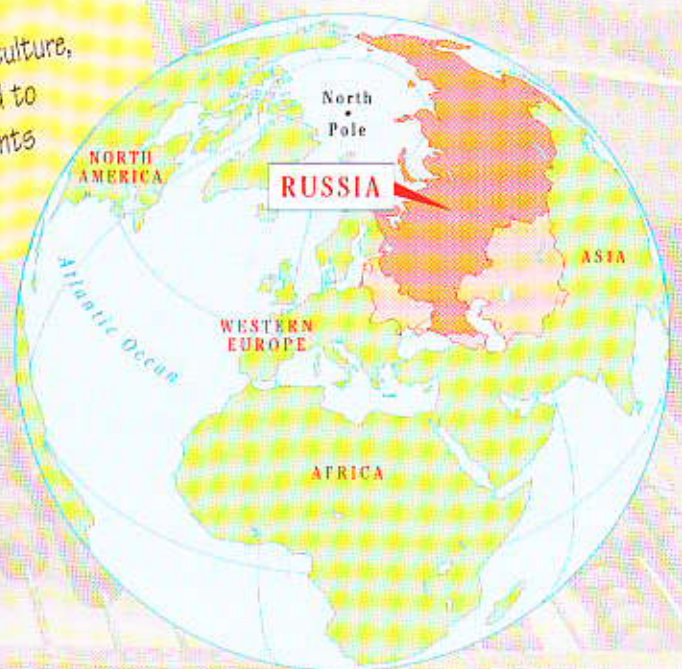
## Case Study I

# All Change for Farmers of the Former Soviet Union

A group of British farmers will visit several farms in Russia next year. They have been invited for an exchange of views with their counterparts. The Moscow government is keen to encourage Russian farmers to adopt Western practices. British farmers will examine farming methods and look at the problems facing their Russian colleagues. In addition the group will be interested to see how farming in Russia today is different from that in 1985, when the country was still governed by state communism.

As a junior civil servant working for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in London, you have been asked to brief the delegation before they leave the UK. The documents in this case study should help you.

The last few years have seen major changes in the former Soviet Union. Many of these were initiated in 1985, when Mikhail Gorbachev became the country's leader. In 1991, the Soviet Union broke up and the former **communist state** was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This included Russia and 10 new nations. Throughout this period, there were major changes in agriculture. However, improving farming in these countries is not an easy task, with farmers facing so many difficulties. What are the new reforms and will they make any difference?



Russia and the former Soviet Union.

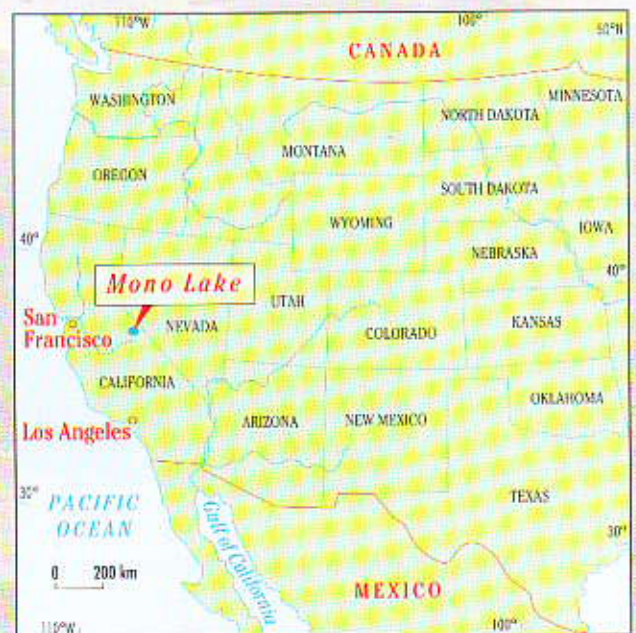


## Case Study J

# Western USA's Water Crisis: The Case of Mono Lake

Mono Lake in northern California is an important bird sanctuary and tourist attraction. However, its level has been considerably reduced since the streams which feed it were diverted to supply water to cities in southern California. Senator Beverley Wallach is a local politician who is keen to protect the lake for the future. As a student of geography, and someone with a keen interest in the environment, the Senator asks you to investigate what is happening to Mono Lake.

The western part of the USA covers 60% of the nation's land area, yet receives just 25% of the annual precipitation. Despite very low rainfall totals, the region supports a growing population and a large agricultural sector. To allow such growth to occur, aquifers have been pumped dry, huge reservoirs constructed and extensive canal systems built to transfer water to where it is most needed. Water shortages still occur, however, and some aspects of the region's environment show signs of stress. Water provision has become a highly controversial political issue.



Mono Lake in the western USA.

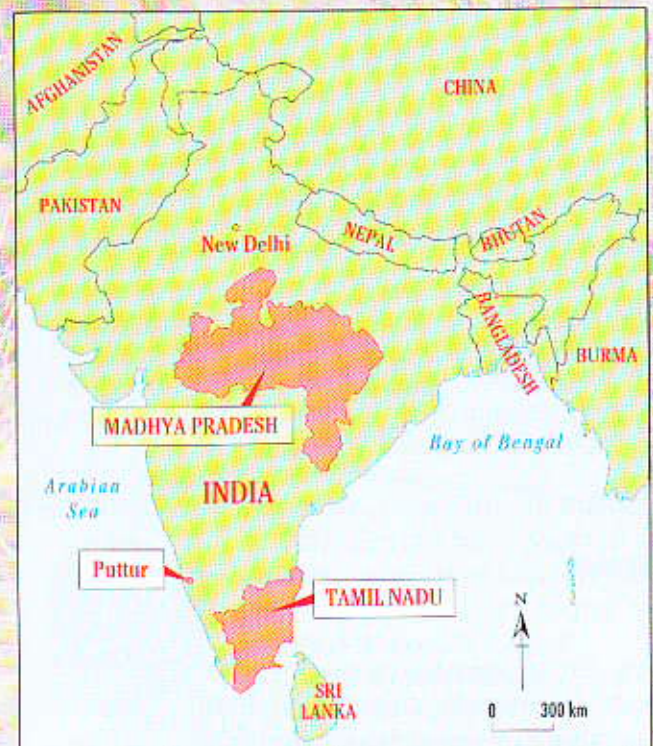


## Case Study K

# Irrigating India

You are a Project Officer for Oxfam. Your job is to help farmers in India to improve their quality of life. You have to examine different kinds of evidence – government reports, newspaper articles, scientific journals – to see whether it is worth spending more money on irrigation. Using the resources provided, you will have to decide whether or not to put Oxfam money into extending irrigation, and write a report explaining your decisions.

India is a huge country with a rapidly growing population. Tamil Nadu, one of its 22 states, is home for nearly 50 million people, almost the same number as live in the United Kingdom, and food must be provided for these people. All farmers need to ensure an adequate water supply for their crops. This is even more necessary in a country like India where resources are scarce, and where the provision of basic food is essential. In Tamil Nadu and other parts of India, new crop varieties require larger amounts of water, and a more regular supply. The question of whether more water should be provided through irrigation is therefore a very important one.



The states of India.

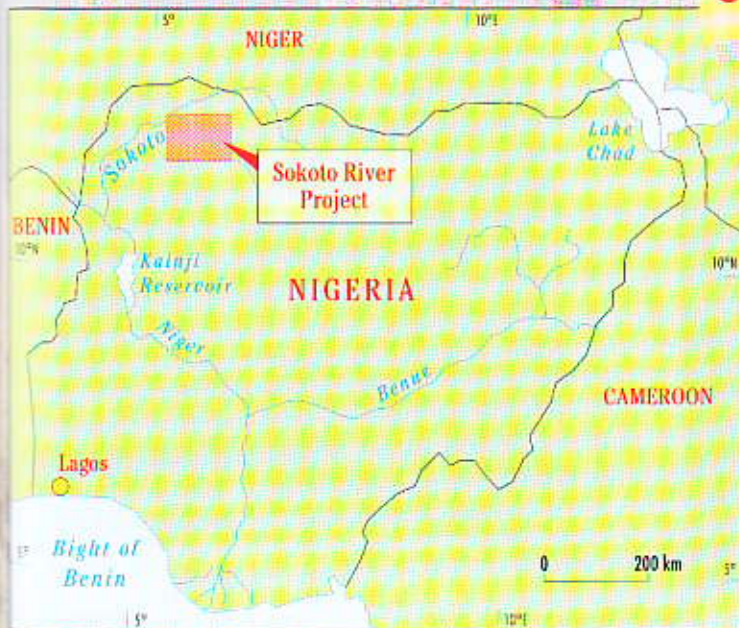


## Case Study L

# Sokoto River Project, Nigeria

Nigeria is a large country in West Africa. It stretches from the edge of the arid Sahel south to a humid rainforest environment on the coast. It has a population of nearly 90 million people. Its economy used to be based on agriculture and cash crop exports, particularly of cocoa, palm oil, cotton and groundnuts. However, oil became the mainstay of the economy in the 1960s and '70s. Unfortunately, agriculture was neglected, and with low oil prices in the 1980s, Nigeria suffered, finding it difficult to pay for the food it now had to import. There is still a great deal of poverty.

In your school holidays you are asked by Rural Action, a charity running projects in the developing world, to report on the success of water resource development in Nigeria. You decide to focus on the dry north-west of the country. Your job is to find out about the existing development projects and assess how successful they have been, so that you can advise Rural Action on how to design their own new projects.



The Sokoto River Project in Nigeria, West Africa.



## Case Study M

# The Mexican Oil Industry

To understand any country's attempts to make its way in the world, we need to know about its geography and its history. Mexico is no exception. It is part of the Spanish-speaking world: why? It is an economically developing country, but next door is the USA, which is the most powerful nation on earth: does this cause any problems and what opportunities does it provide? What resources does Mexico have, and how successfully are they being developed?

Mexico has had an oil industry for nearly a century. Since the early days of the industry the Mexicans have been suspicious of large transnational companies developing the oil (and taking the profits). At one stage all the foreign companies were nationalised – without compensation, which made Mexico very unpopular with its rich neighbour, the USA.

You work for an international oil company. At a conference last week in Dallas you heard that Mexico was looking for partners to expand its oil production. You think your firm should move in. However, before you can ask the Board, you need more information. Your boss has told you that there have been problems in the past in Mexico. You request a summary on Mexico's oil history from the company library.



Mexico.



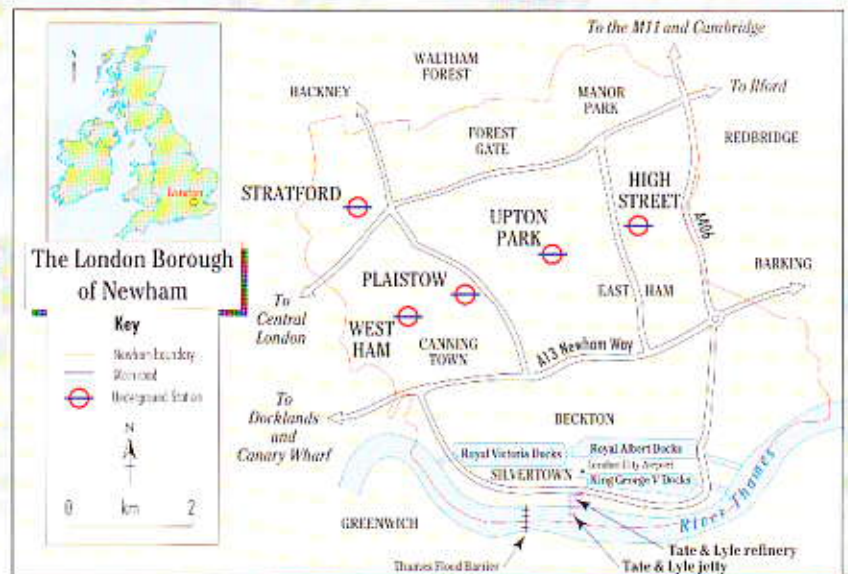
## Case Study N

# A Multinational Company: Tate & Lyle

You work in your spare time for your local community paper *Stratford Voices*. Your parents came originally from Jamaica. Your grandparents and several other relatives still live there. Whilst at school you found out that Tate & Lyle have a large factory near where you live. Now you decide to write a series of articles on the subject, especially because you know there are links between the factory and Jamaica. You have much to investigate. Your research begins with Key Question 1.

Stratford is a district in the east London borough of Newham. Newham has a population of 208,000 and is located north of the River Thames. The area once relied heavily on the London docks and historically most people were employed in the docks and in dock-related industries such as sugar refining. Today the docks have all closed down and many of the old industries have disappeared. The Tate & Lyle sugar refinery remains in the borough, within sight of the Canary Wharf office development, using its own jetty for importing raw cane from Jamaica and other sugar growing countries.

Tate & Lyle is a large **multinational company** operating in over 50 countries around the world. How does such a company operate and what is its impact upon the local community – both in Newham and in other countries where it operates?



Newham in east London.



## Case Study 0

# Subsistence Farming in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is the world's third poorest country. It is landlocked, slightly larger than the United Kingdom, and situated in the dry savanna-Sahel zone of West Africa. Until 1960 Burkina was a colony of France, known as Upper Volta. In August 1984 the country was renamed 'Burkina Faso', which means 'land of noble people'. Inhabitants of Burkina are called Burkinabe.

You are working with a firm called ECODEV which specialises in giving advice on environmental development. Your first job involves a one-month visit to Burkina Faso in West Africa where the government has asked for your suggestions for the future development of the department of Yatenga. Before you fly out to Burkina it is essential that you find out as much as possible about the country.



Burkina Faso in West Africa.



## Case Study P

# The Rise and Rise of Taiwan and the East Asian NICs

You have been asked to lead a Department of Trade and Industry research team on an important overseas mission. The team will include economists, geographers and managers from British industry. The government wants to discover why some countries have become so successful in electronics manufacture. Your destination is Taiwan, one of the leading newly industrialising countries in East Asia. You will need to present your report to a meeting with ministers soon after your return.

NICs (newly industrialising countries) are countries where manufacturing industry has developed quickly over the last 30 years or so. Some are large countries like Brazil, but others like Hong Kong are much smaller. Four of the most successful and smallest NICs – Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan – are located in East Asia. Most of us have at home goods made in these countries: radios from Singapore, watches from Hong Kong, sports equipment from Taiwan or cutlery from South Korea. We can make these items in the UK, so why do we buy them from Asia?



Taiwan and the East Asian NICs.