Italy
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1  1 a The Dolomite Mountains are in the lower eastern part of the Alps.
   b Lake Garda is at the bottom of the mountains around Milan.
   c The Po Valley is south of the Dolomite Mountains.
   d The Central Apennines are east of Rome.
   e The Adriatic Sea is between Italy and Eastern Europe.

2 Some of Italy's most beautiful beaches are on the islands in the south.

3 The highest active volcano in Europe is Mount Etna.

4 The word ‘volcano’ comes from the Roman god Vulcan, the god of fire.

5 The Stelvio National Park is the largest in the Alps.

6 In 1908 there was an earthquake that killed 72,000 people.

2  1 Rome sits on the river Tiber.

2 There is a sculpture of Neptune driving his chariot through the waters.

3 The Forum was the centre of politics and law in Ancient Rome.

4 The first gladiator games were in the Colosseum in Rome in AD 80.

5 Florence's oldest bridge is the Ponte Vecchio. It goes across the River Arno.

6 Italy's second largest city, Milan, is the financial centre and the centre of fashion and business.

3  1 Petrini started the Slow Food Movement because he wanted people to eat local food. Also it is healthier than fast food and it helps local economies.

2 In the north people eat more polenta than pasta.

3 Piedmont region is famous for truffles and other mushrooms.

4 The Lombardy cuisine does not use tomatoes very much.

5 Puglia makes more olive oil than any other region.

6 The best pizzas are cooked over a wood-burning fire.

4  1 The Etruscans are the first people we know something about.

2 The Romans fought the city of Carthage in the Punic Wars between 264 BC and 146 BC.

3 Hadrian’s Wall is in the north of England. It was built to stop the Scottish from entering England.

4 The population of Rome in AD 100 was more than 1 million.

5 The Roman Empire was divided into east and west by the fourth century because it was very large.

6 Venice controlled the Adriatic Sea between the twelfth and the fourteenth centuries.
5 1 The Romans mainly used mosaics on floors and walls.
   2 Renaissance artists wanted to make their paintings and sculptures more natural. They wanted to bring their works of art to life with humans that had human feelings.
   3 Boticelli’s Primavera tells the story of the Roman Goddess Flora.
   4 Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa is the first modern portrait.
   5 Michelangelo preferred making sculptures.
   6 Titian painted portraits of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, aristocrats and other rich people.
   7 Canaletto painted landscapes of Venice and paintings of London.

6 1 Catullus, Ovid and Horace wrote poems.
   2 Dante is called ‘the father of the Italian language.’ He wrote The Divine Comedy.
   3 Petrarch was Rome’s first Poet Laureate.
   4 There are ten stories in Boccaccio’s Decameron. They are told by three aristocrats and seven ladies.
   5 Umberto Eco wrote about his passion for the Middle Ages.

7 1 Monteverdi’s operas included an orchestra, singers in costumes and drama.
   2 They were great Italian tenors in the twentieth century.
   3 Mussolini’s government built Cinecittà for making films.
   4 After the Second World War ‘Spaghetti Westerns’ were made in Italy because it was cheaper to make them there than in the USA.
   5 Italy’s most important film festival is in Venice.

8 1 Explorers wanted to find a sea route because it would be a quicker way to get to China than by land.
   2 Amerigo Vespucci believed that Columbus’s discovery was not in Asia.
   3 Leonardo da Vinci was an inventor, painter and scientist.
   4 Galileo believed that the Earth travelled around the sun. He was found guilty of heresy and had to stay inside his house for the rest of his life.
   5 Enrico Fermi won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1938 for his work on the first nuclear reactor.

9 1 Milan’s Giuseppe Meazza Stadium gets its name from Italy’s greatest footballer of all time.
   2 Serie A is Italy’s most important professional football league. Twenty teams play in the league.
   3 Ferrari has won more Formula 1 races than any other car-maker.
   4 The race travels through the Alps, including the Dolomite Mountains.
   5 The water polo team won silver medals at the 2012 London Olympics.
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1. A large number of Italians went to the USA in 2013 to promote Italy’s culture, cuisine, design and fashion, and science and technology in ‘The Year of Italian Culture’ there.

2. Italy sells espresso coffee machines, ice cream machines, fridges, machines for cutting meat, making bread and pasta.

3. Three of the new inventions were: a) a robot that does recycling, b) a cloth that cleans itself with sunlight and c) bones made of wood.

4. Energica is making an exciting new superbike.

5. Italian families are having fewer children. Italy has one of the lowest birth rates in Europe.