

Small Categories Series

Islands!

Well, in our never-ending search for off-the-wall (but interesting) new categories, we finally come to *Islands!* Did you know that...

- A best estimation is that there are some 180,497 islands in the world (at the moment!)
- One in six people on earth live on an island.
- Although there are islands in every ocean, 95% of the planet's islands are in the Pacific.
- Because of erosion, volcanic activity, and rise or falling ocean levels, occasionally islands disappear or get bigger or smaller, while new ones may pop up. In 1963, for example, the island of Surtsey, off the coast of Iceland, was born.
- The longest lasting islands last 5-10 million years.
- The eight largest islands are Greenland, New Guinea, Borneo, Madagascar, Baffin Island, Sumatra, Honshu, and Great Britain.
- Australia isn't counted as an island since it's counted as a continent.



- Java is the most populated island, with 130 million inhabitants.
- There are two general categories of islands: continental (those that sit on continental plates) and oceanic (those that don't)
- Some islands are man-made. An example is the island that Kansai Airport, in Japan, sits on.
- Ecological systems on islands are often unique because of their isolation. On Madagascar, for example, 80% of the plant and animal life are unique to Madagascar.
- The *Guinness Book of World Records* lists Bishop Rock, the westernmost of the Isles of Scilly (off southwestern Britain) as the world's smallest island. At low tide, it measures 46 meters x 16 meters. At high tide, there's nothing to measure at all!

Ok, this is a pretty eclectic category, but hey! Aren't most categories? You have to admit they're exotic (by definition!), rare (ouuu!), and will always give you that extra something to search for.

- I don't have any stats on Island covers, but as far as I know, I have the world's largest collection...one! (ha ha!)