

## What is an island?

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water.

The size of the land can vary greatly between different islands. Sometimes islands are formed because of the activities of volcanoes under the sea.

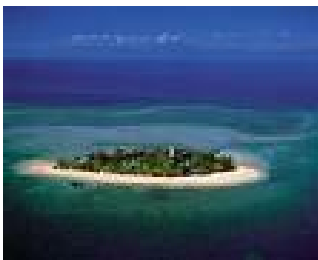
Islands can be formed in different ways.

Some are pieces of land that have become separated from the mainland because of the movement of the Earth's crust.

Others are formed because of the activities of volcanoes under the sea.



A volcanic island



Coral islands are formed when sea-levels drop revealing reefs of coral that have grown around a volcano.

A coral island in the Great Barrier Reef

Have you ever been to an island? Actually, you are probably standing on part of a large island right now.

What about a small island. Have you ever visited one? What was it like?

Visit your local travel agent with an adult and find some pictures of islands from around the world.

- Ask an adult to help you read about these islands.
- Can you find out where in the world they are?
- Say where each of these islands are.
- Ask an adult to help you to find some of these islands on a map of the world or a globe.
- How far away from the mainland are these islands?

Islands are very popular places to go on holiday. Nowadays, most people take aeroplane flights to distant islands but a cruise ship can also take you to many of the islands around the world.

Take another look at the island holidays in the brochures you collected.

- How would you get to these islands?
- Are there any other ways of travelling to these islands?

Draw a picture of your own imaginary island, think carefully which natural features you want to include.