

The Atacama Desert

Before you watch

Answer the questions.

- 1 Where is Chile?
- 2 What do you know about it?

Comprehension check

1  Watch the video clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Where is the Atacama Desert?
 - a in the south of Chile
 - b in the north of Chile
 - c in the north of Colombia
- 2 How old is San Pedro?
 - a 5,000 years old.
 - b 550 years old.
 - c 100 years old.
- 3 How many antennas are in the Llano de Chajnantor observatory?
 - a 56
 - b 60
 - c 66

2  Watch again. Put these things in the order that you see them, from 1-8.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|-----|
| telescope | ___ | church | ___ |
| bird | ___ | town | ___ |
| desert | ___ | river | ___ |
| clouds | ___ | volcano | ___ |

3  Watch again. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 The Atacama Desert is the **hottest** / **driest** desert in the world.
- 2 People have lived in the Atacama Desert for **hundreds** / **thousands** of years.
- 3 San Pedro town is very popular with **workers** / **tourists**.
- 4 There is a church and a **museum** / **an art gallery** in the town.
- 5 The Llano de Chajnantor Observatory cost over **1 million** / **1 billion** U.S. dollars.

4  Watch again. Match the names with the words on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 San Pedro | a volcano |
| 2 El Tatio | a telescope |
| 3 Licancabur | a river |
| 4 Valle de la Luna | a field of geysers |
| 5 ALMA | a landscape |

5  Watch again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which other countries is the Atacama Desert in?

- 2 What is the desert home to?

- 3 What are *Pukaras*?

- 4 What kind of museum is there in San Pedro de Atacama?

- 5 Where is Licancabur?

Language check

Comparatives and Superlatives

The Atacama Desert is **smaller than** the Sahara Desert.

The Atacama Desert is **the driest** desert in the world.

Some people say it is **the most beautiful** landscape in the world.

6 Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in parentheses.

- ALMA is the _____ (large) and _____ (expensive) telescope in the world.
- Santiago is _____ (big) than San Pedro de Atacama.
- The Atacama Desert is _____ (dangerous) than the Amazon rainforest.
- The Amazon river is _____ (long) than the San Pedro river.
- El Tatio is one of the _____ (high) geyser fields in the world.
- San Pedro is the _____ (good) place to stay if you want to visit the Licancabur volcano.

7 Write sentences about people in your family and in your class using the comparative or superlative form of some of the adjectives in the box.

clever fast friendly funny old
strong tall young

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Extension



Look at the photos and answer the questions.

Photo A

- What are the people in the photo doing?
- Where are they?
- How do you think they feel?

Photo B

- What are the people in the photo doing?
- Where are they?
- How do you think they feel?
- Where would you prefer to live, the place in Photo A or Photo B? Why?