

NEW INDONESIAN CAPITAL HAS NAME

Feb 7th, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. Do you like your name? Have you ever thought about changing it? If so, what would you change it to?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|----------------|--|
| 1. Archipelago | a) being blocked or crowded |
| 2. Javanese | b) water that comes from the ground |
| 3. Congestion | c) to show something |
| 4. Drawing | d) wider, including a wide range of things |
| 5. Groundwater | e) native language of the people of Java |
| 6. Ease | f) a group of islands |
| 7. Reflect | g) a person who criticizes |
| 8. Broader | h) to put in danger |
| 9. Endanger | i) to make weaker |
| 10. Critic | j) pulling, extracting |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text.*

Indonesia is planning on building a new capital city, and _____ the new capital has a name. From more than 80 possible names, President Joko Widodo selected Nusantara, which means 'archipelago' in Javanese.

Indonesia is _____ its capital to solve several problems. The current capital, Jakarta, is on the island of Java, which has long been the focus of economic development. However, Jakarta has become overcrowded, leading to _____ congestion and air pollution. It is also sinking quickly due to the drawing of groundwater. Some parts of the city fall as much as 25cm per year.

The new capital will be on the _____ of Borneo. The government hopes moving will ease population pressure in Jakarta. At the same time, they hope a new location for the capital will help spread development and _____ more widely across Indonesia’s main islands. The name Nusantara is meant to reflect this broader focus.

Environmentalists are concerned the building of a new capital will endanger Borneo’s precious _____ which are home to the world-famous orangutans and other unique animals. Other critics have suggested the new name is confusing because it is sometimes used to refer to the whole of Indonesia. Nevertheless, construction of the new city is expected to start this year, and the government wants to officially shift the capital in _____.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn’t exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
		x	congestion
		x	drawing
ease			
reflect			
	broader		
endanger		x	
			critic/criticism

Indonesia is planning on building a new capital city, and now the new capital has a name. From more than 80 possible names, President Joko Widodo selected Nusantara, which means ‘archipelago’ in Javanese.

Indonesia is shifting its capital to solve several problems. The current capital, Jakarta, is on the island of Java, which has long been the focus of economic development. However, Jakarta has become overcrowded, leading to traffic congestion and air pollution. It is also sinking quickly due to the drawing of groundwater. Some parts of the city fall as much as 25cm per year.

The new capital will be on the island of Borneo. The government hopes moving will ease population pressure in Jakarta. At the same time, they hope a new location for the capital will help spread

development and wealth more widely across Indonesia's main islands. The name Nusantara is meant to reflect this broader focus.

Environmentalists are concerned the building of a new capital will endanger Borneo's precious rainforests which are home to the world-famous orangutans and other unique animals. Other critics have suggested the new name is confusing because it is sometimes used to refer to the whole of Indonesia. Nevertheless, construction of the new city is expected to start this year, and the government wants to officially shift the capital in 2024.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com), asia.nikkei.com, [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com), [thejakartapost.com](https://www.thejakartapost.com)
For source links, see the article on [ESLNewsStories.com](https://www.eslnewsstories.com)

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. The Indonesian president is changing his name. (T / F)
2. Jakarta is sinking. (T / F)
3. Indonesia will build a new island. (T / F)
4. Indonesia's capital city will change in 2024. (T / F)
5. Borneo is home to orangutans. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. nusantara / new / will / the / capital / indonesian / be / called
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2. jakarta / there / heavy / pollution / is / traffic / in / and / air
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What is your country's capital city? How many people live there? Is it in a good location for a capital, or would a change be good?
2. How does the name of Indonesia's future capital, *Nusantara*, sound to you?
3. Have you ever been to Indonesia? What was it like? If not, are you interested in going there?
4. Does your city or town have a lot of traffic? What could be done to reduce the amount of traffic?
5. How is the air where you live? What are the sources of air pollution?
6. Is economic development focused on one part of your country, or is it spread evenly around? Which parts need more development?

7. What are the potential downsides and upsides of moving the Indonesian capital?
8. Should we be concerned about the environmental impact of the construction of the new city?
9. Where does your community's water come from? Is the water supply sustainable and safe?
10. The president of Indonesia chose the name of the new capital city. Do you think it was his right to choose? Should the name have been chosen in any other way?

RESEARCH: *Read or watch more about this topic. Write several pieces of information in the form of a list in English. Share what you learned with your partner(s) when you next meet.*

WRITING: *Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.*

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-f, 2-e, 3-a, 4-j, 5-b, 6-i, 7-c, 8-d, 9-h, 10-g

WORD FORMS: congest, congested/congestive, draw, drawable/drawn, eased/easeful, easefully, easing/easement, reflected/reflective, reflectively, reflection, broaden, broadly, breadth/broadness, endangered, endangerment, criticize, critical, critically

COMPREHENSION: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-T.

COMPLETE: 1. The new Indonesian capital will be called Nusantara. 2. There is heavy traffic and air pollution in Jakarta.