

## A2.12 Nature/Animals - Handout

- 1** These photographs and the people's descriptions of them are designed to introduce the topic of the natural world. Adjectives such as *lovely*, *relaxing* and *peaceful* should be useful for the learner to describe areas of outstanding natural beauty in their country.
- 2** It might be possible to visit websites or show photographs to illustrate the areas that are discussed. Vocabulary such as *rivers*, *valleys*, *mountains* and *lakes* will obviously feature in the discussion.
- 3** Again the reading texts should provide useful ideas, vocabulary and structures for the learner when he or she goes on to describe wild animals and those kept on farms in the ensuing speaking activity.
- 4** In many European languages the vocabulary for animals is remarkably similar. However, pronunciation will naturally be very different. Also, there are a lot of irregular plurals and collective nouns used in English for animals, which may cause difficulty (e.g. *sheep* not *sheeps*, *deer* not *deers*, *cows* or, collectively, *cattle*).
- 5** There are cultural differences regarding these animals. A Moslem might consider a dog as unclean and therefore not suitable as a pet, and cats are not universally adored. However, in such cultures, the keeping of birds or fish might be considered more acceptable and this could be discussed.
- 6** Again, brainstorming ideas together will greatly facilitate the successful completion of the following writing task.