

➤ Unit 4 p43

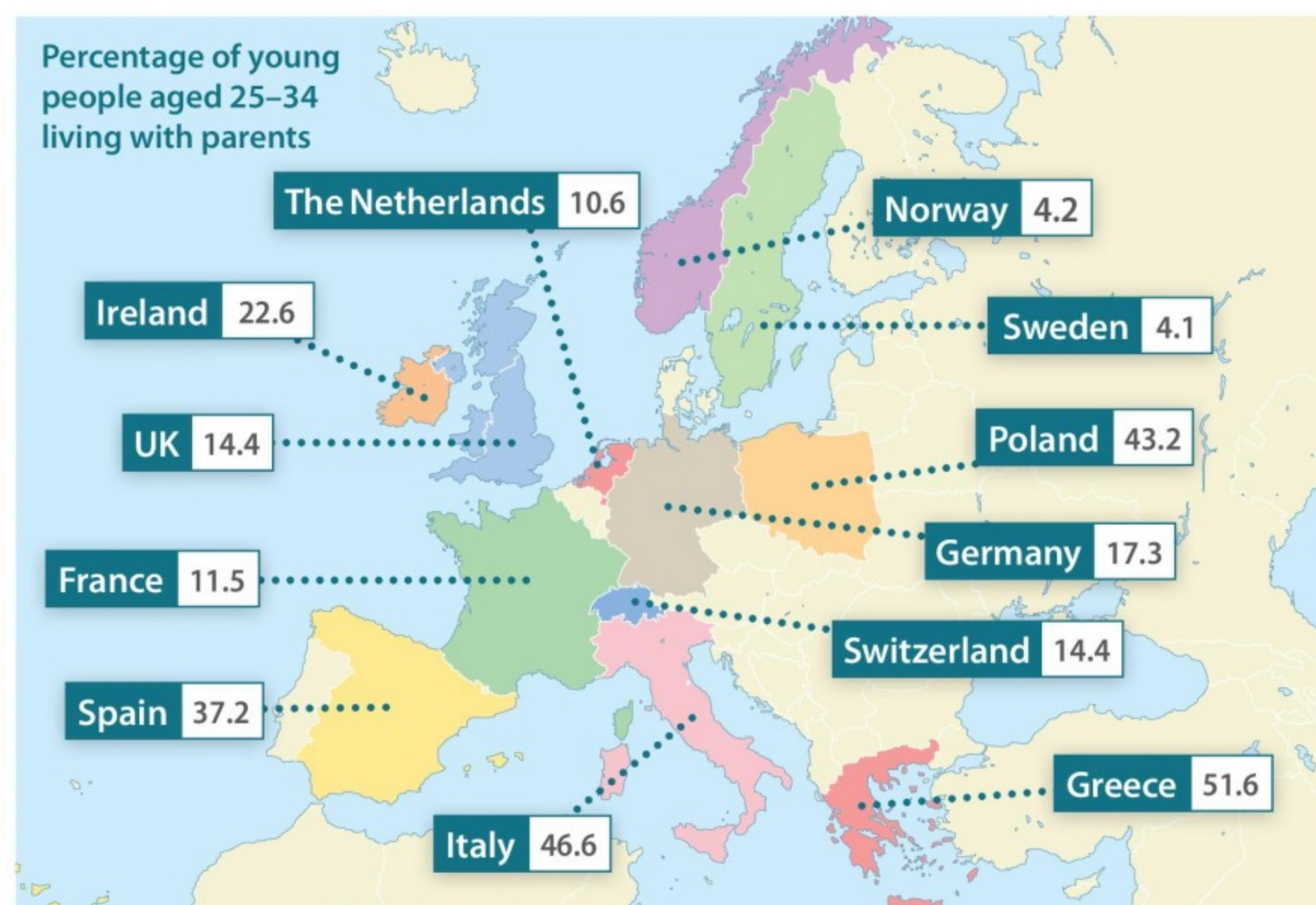
## Student B Speaking

### Can that really be true?!

- 5 If a piece of paper were folded 42 times, it would reach to the moon.  
**True.** Fold a piece of paper once, and it becomes twice as thick. Fold it again, and it becomes four times as thick, and then, eight times, and so on. This doubling means that the thickness eventually increases hugely each time. After twenty folds, the paper is higher than Mount Everest, and after 41, it's as high as half-way to the moon, so only one more fold would be needed to get there.
- 6 An octopus has three hearts and nine brains.  
**True.** An octopus has three hearts, which send blood to different parts of the body. As well as a central brain, an octopus has eight networks of neurons at the base of each of its arms. This means that each arm can 'think' of solutions to any problems it faces, such as how to open a difficult shell, while the octopus uses its main brain to deal with other problems.
- 7 Peanuts are not nuts.  
**True.** Most nuts, such as hazelnuts and almonds, grow on trees. Peanuts, however, grow under the ground, and are pulled up when ready, just like carrots and potatoes. This is why they are often called *groundnuts*, and it means they are actually a member of the legume family, along with soybeans and lentils.
- 8 Mammoths went extinct a thousand years before the Egyptians finished building the Great Pyramid.  
**Not true.** The pyramids of Giza were built around 4,000 years ago. Although most of the woolly mammoth population died out before that, a significant number continued to live on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean until around 1700 BC, and would have been alive while the pyramids were being built.

➤ Unit 5 p56

## Speaking



➤ Unit 10 p104

## THE END OF THE VIKING AGE

The Vikings reigned supreme in Europe for over 300 years. Indeed, fear of the Vikings played a pivotal role in reshaping that continent, but by 1100 AD, Viking power began to weaken. Back in their Scandinavian homeland, the Vikings' descendants had divided into separate kingdoms led by rival kings, which ultimately became Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Not only in Scandinavia, but throughout Europe, the people had begun to form themselves into powerful kingdoms, and the Norse raiders ran out of easy victims. In England, the victory in 1066 of William the Conqueror, a descendant of Norsemen from Normandy, marked the end of Viking terror.

As their power collapsed, the lifestyles of Viking settlers changed and beliefs disappeared. They became part of new, mixed communities. They intermarried with the locals and forgot many of their old ways. They were converted to Christianity, and warriors no longer went on raids. However, Viking civilization has never completely disappeared. Many places in northern Europe still have Viking names and Viking ideas, such as the creation of parliaments and the right to free speech. These are still very much a part of many modern societies. And of course Viking stories, myths, and legends continue to be enjoyed worldwide. Unlike Columbus, the Vikings may not have established a permanent presence in North America, but their genes have spread widely throughout the Western world. Millions of Americans and Europeans carry at least a bit of Viking blood.

