

NAME

Chapter 2 Lesson 1 (pp. 25–26)

Write a Clear Topic Sentence**Activity**

Choose the strongest topic sentence for each paragraph below. Then explain your choice and explain why you did not choose the other two options.

1. Melanesia refers to an arc of islands north and east of Australia, which includes Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Micronesia, another group, contains many of the smallest islands in Oceania. The third group, Polynesia, lies in the eastern Pacific between Hawaii and New Zealand. “Poly” means many, and there are indeed many islands in Polynesia, including Samoa and the Cook Islands.
 - a. There are countless islands in the Pacific Ocean.
 - b. The islands in Oceania are broken into three main groups.
 - c. Guinea is the largest island in Oceania.

Explain your reasoning. _____

2. Nauru, the smallest island nation on Earth, covers slightly more than eight square miles. Before achieving independence in 1968, Nauru had been controlled by Germany, Japan, Australia, and to some extent the British Phosphate Commission, which heavily mined the island for phosphate. After draining its phosphate resources, Nauru turned to other, rather unusual ways to earn income. For example, in the 1990s Nauru received funds for holding foreigners who were waiting to enter Australia.
 - a. The Micronesian island of Nauru destroyed its land by mining for phosphate.
 - b. In times of colonialism, many islands throughout Oceania were controlled by foreign nations.
 - c. Despite being small and remote, the Micronesian island of Nauru has had a turbulent history.

Explain your reasoning. _____
