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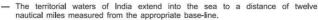
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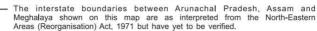


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DREAMLAND

SCHOOL WORLD ATLAS



Compiled by : Ved Prakash Design & Cartography by : Md. Shamim



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J-128, KIRTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI -110015, INDIA Phone: +91-11-2510 6050, 2543 5657 E-mail: dreamland@vsnl.com Shop online at www.dreamlandpublications.com Like us on www.facebook.com/DreamlandPublication

About This Atlas



Atlases have been an integral part of the study of Geography in schools. Nowadays, they are also becoming more and more popular with tourists and general public in search of instant information about the countries of the world or places of interest within a country.

School World Atlas is a treasure house of information. It is different from the other atlases available in the market in respect that besides the maps, it provides important facts about a country, like its land and people, its position within a continent and its economy in a nutshell. Useful information on currency, per capita income and form of government along with up-to-date data on area and population has been given along side the map of the country under the heading Facts and Figures.

The Atlas includes maps and other data on 39 countries in the six continents, and the Arctic and Antarctica. Useful geographical terms have been given at the end of the Atlas.

Every care has been taken to make the Atlas extremely useful to the students and other lovers of Atlases. Any suggestions, however, to make further improvements are welcome.

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Our Planet — Earth



Buried deep in the heart of our planet is a metal core of iron and nickel that is larger than the moon and almost as hot as the surface of the sun. The outer layer of the core is liquid metal, but at the centre enormous pressure has compressed it into a solid. When the earth formed 4,600 million years ago, it glowed red hot and the molten metals sank to its centre while the lighter rocks floated to the surface.

Around the core is wrapped a thick layer of hot rock called the mantle. This acts like a heated blanket, holding in the warmth. Around the mantle is a third layer called the crust, which forms the rocky surface of the earth on which we live. The thickest parts of the crust are about 60 kilometres deep, but if the earth were compared to an apple, the crust would only be as thick as the apple's skin.

The mantle contains traces of radioactive uranium which steadily gives out heat. This warmth rises, creating a more fluid part of the mantle known as the asthenosphere. Above the asthenosphere lies the lithosphere, which includes the outermost mantle and the crust. The lithosphere is made up of massive plates which float on the fluid asthenosphere. These plates are constantly moving, causing the continents to drift apart, mountains to form, the ground to shake and volcanoes to erupt. The earth belongs to a family of eight planets, each of which is in orbit (travelling) around the sun. Together they make up the Solar System, which also includes the moons orbiting around their planets, lumps of rock called asteroids and comets with their long tails of dust and gas.

The sun, the star at the centre of the Solar System, is a burning hot ball of shining gas. Without its heat and light the earth would be a frozen, dead world. Among the eight planets that orbit the sun the earth is unique. Only the earth has water in its oceans and enough oxygen in its atmosphere to support animal life. Mercury, Venus, Mars and Earth are rocky wastes. The giant planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are globes of gas and ice particles. Pluto once a planet in our Solar System is no longer considered a planet. On August 24, 2006 IAU (Indian Astronomical Union) declared that Pluto is much smaller than any of the official planets and would no longer remain a planet and now classified as a "Dwarf Planet."

However, the earth has not always been how it is now. Soon after it formed, about 4,600 million years ago, this planet was a roasting cauldron. Over millions of years the surface cooled and the atmosphere, oceans and continents formed. Life began in the oceans about 3,500 million years ago with tiny, microscopic life-forms. Many scientists think that animals and plants started to live on the land about 400 million years ago.

Facts & Figures

Diameter at the equator : 12,756 km
Diameter at the poles : 12,713 km
Diameter of core : 7,000 km
Thickness of mantle : 2.900 km

Temperature of : up to 7,000 °C Enner core Mass of Earth : 5,900 billion billion tonne Average density : 5.5 tonne / cu m

Atmosphere : 78% nitrogen 21% oxygen 1% argon

Time to rotate on axis : 23 hrs. 56 min.

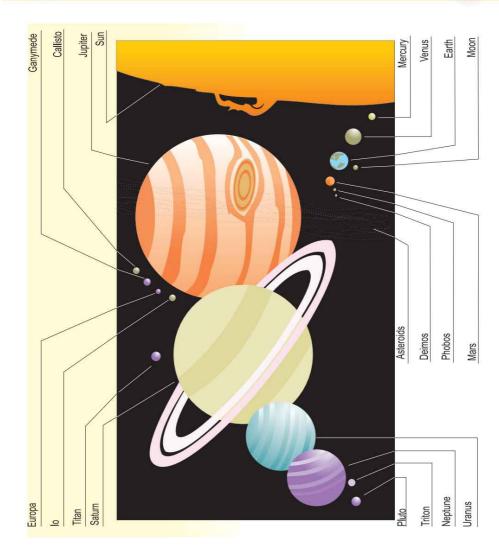
Time to orbit the sun : About 365 days 6 hours













How The Earth Began



Most scientists believe that the sun and planets formed about 4,600 million years ago from a huge cloud of tiny, solid particles and gases called a nebula. The solid particles and some of the gas had been thrown out of earlier stars that had died. The nebula began to shrink and spin, collapsing inwards because of its own gravity. Soon, material near the centre was colliding at tremendous speed and giving out so much heat that a glowing star, the sun, was born. The rest of the nebula formed into a ring around the sun and collisions inside this ring built up the planets. For a time the planets were very hot, but they never became hot enough to shine like stars. All the planets were bombarded by other much smaller bodies, so that their surfaces became covered with craters like the ones still seen on



▲This huge cloud of dust and gas is the Orion Nebula. Inside it, stars are forming. About 4,600 million years ago the sun and the planets were forming inside a nebula like this.

the moon today. On the Earth, however, wind and rain have gradually worn most of the craters away. The earth's original atmosphere probably contained large amounts of carbon dioxide (a gas made up of carbon and oxygen). As plants developed on earth they used the carbon dioxide to make food and released the oxygen on which all animal life depends.

The sun will continue to shine for millions of years, but eventually it will burn up all its fuel and die. Then the earth will be left as a cold, lifeless rock. This process is shown below:

When the Solar System formed, about 4,600 million years ago, it could have looked like this. The young sun was surrounded by a ring of gas and dust. Inside it the planets began to form.

As the planets grew the force field around them became stronger. When small bodies passed by, some were pulled in and began to orbit the planets. Others were flung out and became comets with long orbits around the sun.

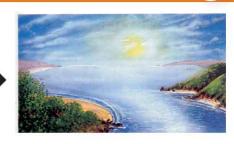
After several million years the planets settled down to form the Solar System. They continued to be hit by smaller rocks and these impacts formed craters. As the sun heated up any remaining gas and dust was blown into space.







Today the sun shines on the earth, producing heat and light by thermo-nuclear reactions deep inside its centre. These reactions change hydrogen into helium. They release so much energy that the sun could shine for about 5.4 billion years with little change in its size or brightness.



Some astronomers believe that in about 5,000 million years the sun will have used up all its hydrogen fuel and will start to die. It will grow brighter and hotter. The earth's polar caps will melt and the oceans will turn to steam. All life on earth will die in the stifling heat.



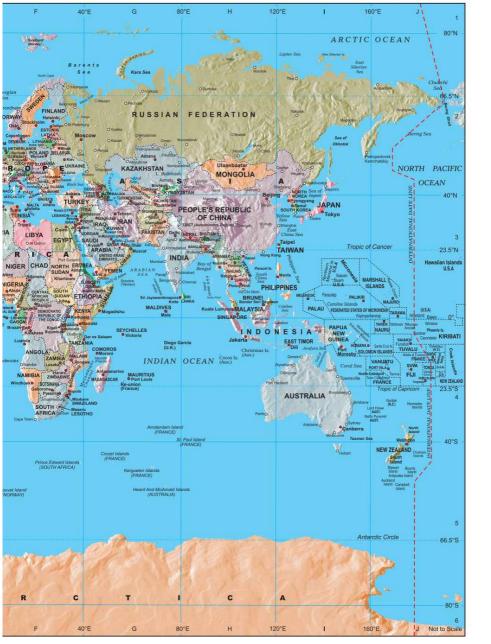
The sun will then expand into a giant red star. Its outer layers will blow out, becoming cooler and redder. The earth's atmosphere will be stripped away, leaving a bare, rocky planet whose surface will be scorched by the sun.



After a few hundred million years the sun will shrink to a tiny, white dwarf star. The daytime sky in the earth will be eerie like the full moons light, and the sun's rays will be too weak to warm the earth's dead, frozen landscape. Finally, it will cool to become an invisible, black dwarf star.









Asia Physical











Asia is the largest continent in the world, covering almost one-third of the earth's total land surface. It is part of the same landmass as Europe and stretches from Africa and Europe in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east. Chains of volcanic islands mark the continent's eastern border, which is a danger zone for earthquakes.

Asia's northwestern borders are formed by the steep crags of the Ural and Caucasus mountains. Lands in the far north extend above the Arctic Circle, where much of the region is tundra (a frozen, treeless wilderness that is locked in ice for many months each year). Farther south lies a broad belt of evergreen forest known as taiga, which in turn gives way to open, fertile grasslands in the west and east. However, few rainbearing winds reach Central Asia, so deserts have formed in this region. Little grows on the sandy wastes and barren, rocky plateaus where it is bitterly cold in winter and as hot as a furnace in summer.

The great triangular peninsula of India stretches south into the warm Indian Ocean. The world's highest mountain ranges, the Himalayas and Karakorams, form a barrier of ice and snow in the north. South of the mountains the snow melts into rivers that run through broad plains. These rivers often flood and deposit fertile soil over a wide area. Asia's sunny southwestern coastline is washed by the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, but the lands and islands of southern Asia have a tropical climate. There, it is hot and dry for part of the year, but drenched by rain during the summer months. At this time stormy winds called monsoons gather up moisture from the southern oceans and shed it over the land

Thousands of the world's most beautiful plant species originally came from Asia, including tulips from Turkey and rhododendrons from the Himalayas. Rice was once a wild grass that grew in many of the continent's flooded river valleys.



Mount Everest in Southern Tibet: Stradding Tibet's southern border with Nepal, lathy Mount Everest eclipses all other mountains in height, rising 8,846 metres (29,028 feet) above sea invert. Tibet is often called the Roof of the World because it is dominated by Mount Everest, the bovering Himslayan range, and a vast friging plateau whose elevation is higher than most mountains in other pasts of the world.

Alghanistan's Nomad Clans: Pastrun Baluch and Krygiz clans migrate from winter to summer pastures and back again, so that bod is always available for their herbz. Living in tents and moving their bednings on the backs of animals, they travel long distances relaying news, transporting animals and goods, and tading. Men and boys herd large animals, women do the milking and make butler and curds and children tend young animals.



Indonesian Longhouse: The Dayak are indigenous people who live in solated areas along rivers in Borneo Deerah Tingkat Halimanta Barat province. Up 15 00 Jayak families live together in a single longhouse. Some of these ridge-rooled dwellings are 180 metres (501 teel) long and have as many as 200 doors. Several long houses make up a Dayak

Castle of the White Crane: Japan's most magnificant castle is in the fown of Hingi; wast of Myoth on the country's main island. Honstu, Known as the White Crane because of its statility from the castle was built starting in the 14th century and is surrounded by mosts and high waits. The culter walls, designed for defence feature openings through which weapons were aimed. Through apertures in the inner walls, defenders poured boiling water or oil on invaders who made it past the fist wall.





Riding the Trans-Siberian Raliway: This train is making its way along the world's longest continuous train route. Travelling from Moscow to Vadwostik, passengers on the Trans-Siberian Raliway cross 10 time zones and cover more than 9.300 islomers (more than 5,779 miles). Until the ralimed's construction, from 1891 to 1904, settlers in Siberia were mainly criminals and political reflueres.

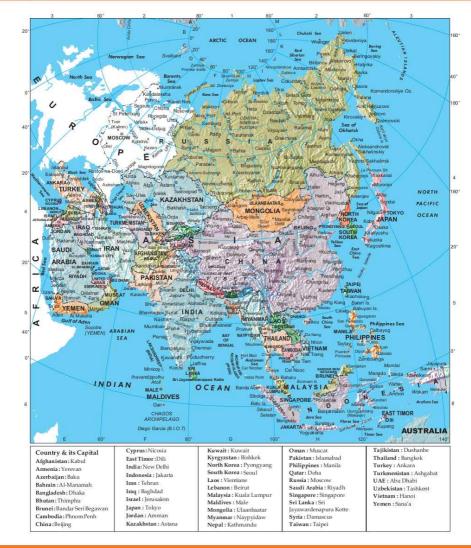
Rainforest Pythons: Pythons and other reptiles flourish in the wet trapical climate of Malaysia's rugged rainforests. This blood python has a thick stubby body compared to some of 4s longer ocusins. Southeast Asia's largest pythons can grow as long as 9 metres (30 bent). These snakes are called constrictors because they wind themselves around their warm-blooded prey and squeeze them to death. They then swaken the prey whost who prey whost who prey whost who prey whost who prey whost we have the present the state of the present t





Asia Political





Asia Political





Some of the world's first great civilizations sprang up in Asia from 3500 BC onwards. Their riches attracted trade and conquering armies. Over the centuries people such as the Mongols and the Turks built up and then lost vast empires. From the 1800's much of Asia was colonised by European countries. These new rulers took away wealth, but did not help the colonies develop their industries.

Great social changes have taken place in Asia during the 20th century. Many colonies freed themselves from their European rulers, creating independent nations such as India and Jordan. In countries where a large majority of poor people were ruled by a wealthy few, communism seemed to be the answer. Communist governments set prices for goods and labour. They also owned all property. The idea was that people would share the profits as well as the work. However, the spread of communism often caused wars with capitalist countries where individuals were able to own property and to set all prices. In 1991, the Soviet Union abandoned communism and, as it broke up, republics such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan became independent countries. Some Asian countries still have communist governments, although a number have recently held democratic elections for the first time. Many Asian governments are now improving the economies of their countries by creating new industries and improving old ones. They are using both government money and foreign aid.

Animals of all shapes and sizes are found throughout Asia. They include the Asian elephant, the Bactrian camel and the giant panda. The world's largest and smallest bats are also found on this continent. The tiny Kitti's hog-nosed bat lives in caves in Thailand, while the large Bismark flying fox is found in Indonesia. In the waters off southern Japan lurks the giant spider crab with a massive claw span of up to 2.7 metres.



Kingdom Centre Skyscraper in Ryadh, Sauld, Arabia II is the second laised skycaper in the country, and the world's third failest building after Sharphia World Financial Centra and Turtex Sky Tower. Besides the shopping mail. Kingdom Tower cordinatis he Ferra Seasons Hotel Riguelt and state-of-thire are apartments, and, a 55 m is stated on 10000 square natives site with capaciting for 3,000 vertices. The upper third of the tower features an invented prancial carts.



Adam's Peak: Situated in the highlands of central Sci Lanka, Adam's Peak is a place of pigirinador people of many faiths and from many countries. Set in the oblong platform that tops the mountain's 2,243-metre summit is a large hollow insembling a human holprint, venerated by Hindus, Muslims and Budthists alide.



Nomade Survive the Gobi: The Gobi Desert, which stetiches along southeastern Mengolia, is a black place of dry; sandy sol with and grassland called sisppes surrounding its central ana. With temperatures sowing to 45°C (13°F) in summer and plummeting aslow as 40°C (40°F) in winter, the Gobi pesso one of nature's sevenest challenges to human habitation, and most of its inhabitants live a nomatic like.



India's Toj Mahai. Considered to be one of the worlds made angelised students. Be Toj Mahai was under construction from around 1500 to anound 1500 it was built by Sheh Jahan as a memoral to his wife, who due in children's. It is located south of Delhi in Agra, where the Mughai Empire (1526—1777) built is explaid. Construction of this marble marbairs from fir and wide, and it till attacts admirate architecture of the 17th century.



Mohenjo-Daro, the Mound of the Dead, in Pakistan: Mohenjo-Daro, the most important archaeological site of the Indus Valley cruitsation, dates from 2500 to 1500 BC. A thriking metropolis in its day, the city once lay on the Indus Palver, now 5 kilometras (3 miles) away, and housed an estimated 40 to 50 thousand people.



Cathedral Cave near Kuala Lumpur: Cathedral Cave, the largest of the misjestic Belur Caves outside Kuala Lumpur is the setting for the annual Hodul Thalpusson ceremory. Workshipers clinic the many steps to a shine, where they ask for penance and blessings. Attached with selevers and hooks to each worshipper's body is a kward, a decorated wooden farme. To block the pain, the person enters a trancelike state.

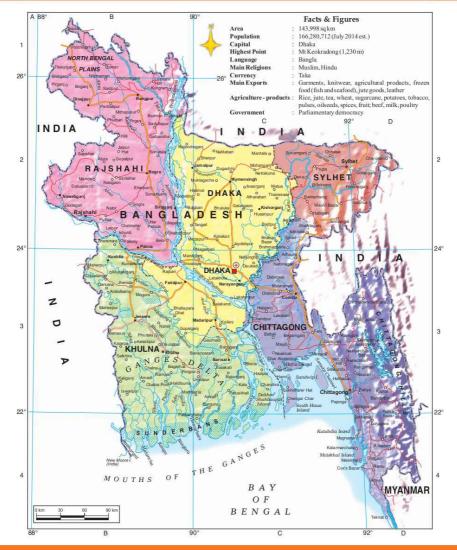


Russia's Space Shuttle: The cockpit of a Buran space shuttle known as the Vozdushno Kosmucheskyi Korak (VKK) is visible alon an Energia launcher, the world's most powerful rocket. Unlike the United States space shuttle, the VKK has no main engines. The first version was built to make only one flight, but never VKKs can hande as many as 25 flights.



Bangladesh Political











Most of Bangladesh is flat, very low-lying land. Two great rivers, the Ganges and the Jamuna, join forces just west of the capital, Dhaka. The rivers spill into a maze of waterways along the Bay of Bengal and form the largest delta in the world. There are frequent floods in Bangladesh, which have drowned both livestock and people. The floods also wash away crops, causing famine. Some experts want to control these floods with various engineering schemes. Others recommend setting up local projects to help people survive, such as building platforms on stilts where people can escape from the floodwaters.

Most Bangladeshis use the traditional tools and methods of their ancestors to farm the fertile plains and fish in its rivers. The males of the family plant and harvest rice, tea, sugar-cane or jute. The women and girls usually look after the home and garden, where they tend pumpkins or spices. Rural families live mostly in villages of bamboo houses built on embankments of mud. People travel between villages by canoe. Fewer than one-fifth of Bangladeshis live in cities, as housing and factory jobs are scarce.

This land was once part of the Indian province of Bengal. By the late 1940's it had become the eastern half of Pakistan. In 1971 civil war broke out when East Pakistan fought to break away from the control of West Pakistan. India fought on the side of East Pakistan and helped it to become the new nation of Bangladesh. Since its independence, there have been periods of military rule, but today Bangladesh is governed by a democratically elected parliament. Dramas based on religious stories are popular forms of entertainment in Bangladesh. Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali poet born in India, became prominent in Bengali literature during the late 1800's. Much of the traditional architecture of Bangladesh developed under Muslim rule during the 1500's and 1600's.



National Assembly in Dhaka: In Dhaka: the smooth, ultramodem design of the National Assembly building appears to contradict the ultrulent past of Bangladean. Roled by the Binsto until 1947 and a Philisteria province until 1971; the nation has endured great political upheaval in as brief time as an independent state. Military coups, in a brief time as an independent state. Military coups, in the province of the province of the province of the nation's political and social circler, while floods and familie have demanded its socionness' social province.



A Rural House in Bangladesh: This house in the Tangail district of Bangladesh is a typical 'bangla', Hindi for "living quarters" and the source of the English word bungalow. Most rural houses in Bangladesh are built of bamboo and have finatched roofs. Few of these one- or two-room bornes have electricity or running water.



Bangladesh Boat Race Festivals: Brightly painted snake boats paddled by large crews engage in a noisy, flast-paced contest in Bangladesh, a ration of rivers and lakes. The race is part of the festival of Durga Puja, an important Hindu celebration in honour of the goddess Durga, "mother of the world."



Busy Streets of Dhaka: Dhaka the capital of Banglidesh, as the nation's commercial trade, and Banglidesh as the nation's commercial trade, and industrial center. The busy port city, just west of the Meghina River and on the Dalessama Rev. has a rapidly increasing population. Though many of its residents are poor, Dhaka has a growing midde class, expecially in the northem suburb of Ramna. The city has glayed an important role in regional history. This is most evident in the old town area, Sadaripat, where mosques and other architectural reasons are reserved.



Farmworkers in a Rice Paddy: Farming employs meanly three-quarters of the workforce of this largely, agricultural country, Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries, is dominated by the densely populated countries, is dominated by the delta area formed by the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers as they emply into the Bay of Bengal. Most prome flat lewlands.



Nation of Rivers: The rivers of Bangladesh provide a major transportation network between the nation's coast and its interior. Even during the treacherous monsoon season, small boats navigate the thousands of kilometers of swellen rivers to reach areas that are incrensible by prod.

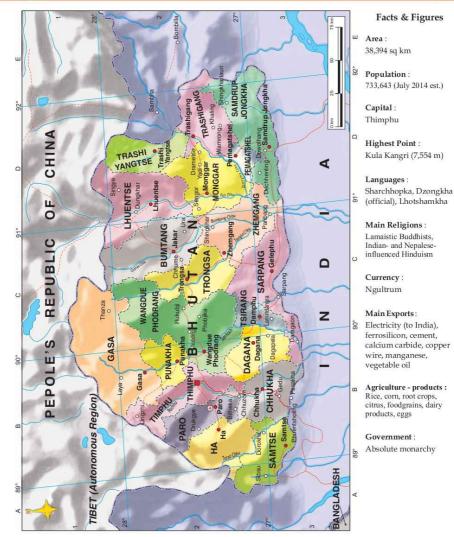


Devastating Floodwaters: Annual monsoon raise imundate the allurial plains of Bangludesh from May to October, causing flooding and loss of life, particularly in the heavily populated areas along the Bay of Benglude Innicially, the disastous floods and equally damaging topical cycleres replaint) set intributes and form topical cycleres replaints are intuinents and form dependent ration. The human foll, however, can be devastating.



Bhutan Political





Bhutan Political





This small country calls itself the Land of the Thunder Dragon, the mythical beast that appears on its flag. Thimphu, a town of about 725,296, population is the capital of the country. Bhutan is protective of its centuries-old cultural traditions.

Both tourism and mountaineering are developing. Most of the people of Bhutan are Buddhists of Tibetan descent. Another important group are Nepali-speaking Hindus. This is a land of extremes. Bananas grow on the humid, southern plain that borders India and forests of oak cover the cool, central hills. In the north the rugged Himalayan mountains lie permanently under ice and snow.

The country came under Tibetan rule in the 1500's. From the 1800's it was protected by Britain. In 1949 Bhutan became independent, although it placed the management of its foreign affairs in India's hands. India helped to build roads, develop hydroelectric power and mine coal. However, Bhutan remains a basically agricultural country. Long-haired oxen called yaks are herded in the high mountain ranges. Farmers grow crops such as potatoes, barley, citrus fruits, rice and wheat in the country's rich and fertile valleys.

Bhutan has three major land regions. A region of plains and river valleys lies along the Indian border in the south. It ranges from about 150 to 3,000 feet above sea level. Mountains in the mid-Himalayan region, which lies north of the plains, rise from 5,000 to 14,000 feet above sea level. Ash, oak, poplar and willow trees grow in this region's moderate climate.

National dress is compulsory the knee-length wrap-around "Gho" for men and the anklelength dress known as the "Kira" for women. Television and Internet were banned in Bhutan. In 1999, the government lifted this ban, making Bhutan one of the last countries to introduce television.



Buddhist Fortress in Bhutan: The Dzong of Punaakha was bull in 1637 at the junction of the Pho Chu and Sankosh hivers in west central Bhutan. Dzongs served as fortresses, temples, and monasteries from which surrounding territory was ruled. White-and-wid dzongs in Bhutan are characteristic of a 12th-century Buddhist sect.



Lush Valley of Bhutan : The fartile Pare Valley in western Bhutan is bused benatit the scaring Himmanyan range. To protect Bhutan from Tibetan invaders, the Thre-entiry Drugal Exong ("Nethorius Fortress") was built on a site 2.500 metres (8.300 feet) above see level. The valley contrists wheat fisield, mixed forests and some of Bhutan's firest pastureland, which is used for azino yalks.



Bhutan's Forest Resources: Sun filters innugh the fonest main in central Bhutan's mid-Himslayan region. Times are a major materal resource in Bhutan and a crucial part of its scoramy. To product and make the best used this valuable asset the government maintains centralissed control over the forests. Bhutan also has seshiblished forestly-training programmers designed to increase the amount and quality of Iris wood and its wood-product



In Weighing Rice in Thimphu: A woman weighs nice in a market in Thimphu. The country's rugged terrain and poor soil are generally unsuitable for cultivation, but landocked Bhutan manages to grow enough flood comustic consumption. The chief crops are rice, barley, wheat, fruits, and vegetables. In the high mountain areas, famers graze her/so if cattle and yest.



Sunday Market in Thimphu: Vendors and shoppers conduct business at a market in Thimphu, Bhitain's capital city. The city's Tashichho Dzong is the second largest dzong fortness) in the country. It was greatly enlarged in the 1903 sher Thimphu became Bhitain's capital. Most of the buildings in the city were built after this time and in traditional skyle without rails. Aust outside of Thimphu is Bhitain's defest dzong, the

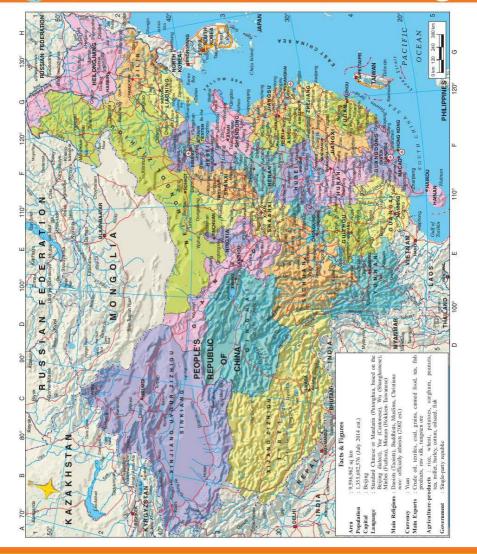


The Family at Work: Each member of the family assists in the fields to help feed the family and produce income. Today, Namgay's married daughter, Sangaym, is transplanting rice plants. The hillsides are terraced to dam water in order for the rice cross to grow.



People's Republic of China Political





China Political





China occupies about one-fifth of the Asian continent. This colossal country has the largest population in the world. Each day about 50,000 babies are born here. In order to provide food for such a large number of people, every scrap of fertile land has to be cultivated. The name China was given to the country by foreigners. It may have come from Qin (pronounced chihn), the name of an early Chinese dynasty (series of rulers from the same family). Beijing (also spelled Peking) is China's capital.

The river plains of eastern China have been farmed for thousands of years and great industrial cities have grown up in this region. Fewer people live in the more remote areas of the north and west, which include barren deserts and high mountains.

China has one of the world's greatest and most ancient civilizations, with a written history that stretches back 3,500 years. Among its many inventions are paper, silk and gunpowder.

In the course of the last century China has experienced many changes. After more than 2,000 years as an empire, the country became a republic in 1911. Following an uprising in 1949, China became a communist state.

During the 1990's a transformation took place in China's major cities. The narrow streets and low houses have been replaced by multilane highways and high-rise buildings. In contrast, life has altered little in many rural areas for centuries. Most people are farmers and use traditional methods to cultivate rice on the terraced paddy-fields.

The Great Wall snakes across the mountains of North China. Much of it was built over 2,200 years ago to defend the country's northern borders. The total length of the wall is over 6,000 kilometres.



Imposing Great Wall of China: The Great Wall of China winds through the countryside northwest of Beijing. The wall was originally a series of fortifications that were joined together in the 3rd century BC.



Dancers of the First Moon: Dancers on stills parade as part of First Moon celebrations, which conclude festivities marking the new year. The dancers are accompanied by musicians playing loud oboas and percussion instruments. Still dances date from approximately the 3rd century.



China's Famous Temple of Heaven: The breathtaking Temple of Heaven, about 5 kilomeires (3 miles) south of the Forbidden City in Beijing, is China's most famous shrine. Sometimes referred to as Tiantan, the monument encompasses a group of ceremonial buildings inside a



Chinese Opera: Elaborately costumed actors stage a colourful opera in Chengdu. This traditional music and drama form, which is based on Chinese history and folklore, has been popular since the mid-19th century.



Thriving Modern Hong Kong: Dynamic Hong Kong is one of the bour largest deserts in China covers more than 255 islands and a hilly perinsula along the Huang He borders its souther attached to China's southeast mainland. This aerial view than one-fifth of China's territory is desert, shows Victoria Harbour, part of the excellent depwater anchorage that makes this a major Asian port.



Lone Riders in the Desert : The Takia Makan Desert Thriving Modern Hong Kong : Dynamic Hong Kong | is one of the four largest deserts in China. A green belt covers more than 235 islands and a hilly pennisula along the Huang He borders its southern edge. More



Buddhist Caves of Longmen: The influence of Buddhism is evident in the carved and painted caves of Longmen (also called Lung-men Caves) in Henan Sheng near the city of Luoyang. More than 1,300 caves here contain nearly 100,000 stone statues of Buddha and 3,600 inscribed stone tablets dating from the 5th to the 7th century.

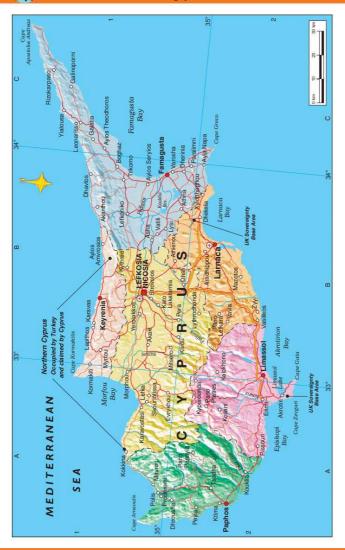


Tibetan River Valley: The Brahmaputra, which means mother river in Tibet, snakes through the Yarlung Valley between Tibet's barren southern slopes opposite the border with Brutan. Located southeast of thasa, the valley is thought to be the bittiplace of Tibetan culture and contains many significant religious and historic sites:



Cyprus Political





Facts & Figures

Area:

9,251 sq km

Population:

1,172,458 (July 2014 est.)

Capital:

Nicosia

Highest Point:

Mt Olympus (1,952 m)

Languages:

Greek (official), Turkish (official), English

Main Religions:

Greek Orthodox, Muslim, other (includes Maronite and Armenian Apostolic)

Currency:

Euro

Main Exports:

Citrus, potatoes, pharmaceuticals, cement, clothing

Agriculture - products :

Citrus, vegetables, barley, grapes, olives, vegetables, poultry, lamb, dairy, cheese

Government:

Constitutional republic



Cyprus Political



The fertile island of Cyprus lies in the east of the Mediterranean Sea. Four-fifths of its people are of Greek descent, while the rest are Turkish. Nicosia, the capital of this island country, is the largest city. Disagreements between the two groups have caused serious political problems. In 1974 a Turkish army invaded northern Cyprus and forced 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee to the southern part of the island, where they still live today. The island remains divided although northern Cyprus is only recognized as an independent country by Turkey, where it is known as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Cyprus has played an important part in the history of the Mediterranean region and many people have contributed to its culture, including the Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, French and Turks. Britain controlled the island from 1878 until its independence in 1960.

Today the rugged beauty of Cyprus, its historic sites, hilltop castles, sandy beaches and mild climate, have made tourism a major industry. Although many Cypriots now find work in the towns, agriculture is important. On the broad plain between the country's two mountain ranges farmers grow grapes, olives, potatoes and citrus fruits. There is also increasing industrial development, especially in the south.

Many people in the cities of Cyprus live in large western-style apartment buildings. Most of the village people live in simple stone or brick houses built around a courtyard. Some older Cypriot men in rural areas wear richly decorated vests and baggy black trousers called vrakas. Some of the women wear long skirts and short blouses called sarkas.



Hilltop Castle in Cyprus: Small castles overlooking the water are common throughout Cyprus. Many of these structures were built during the 13th- and 14th-century Lusignan Dynasty.



Mountains of Cyprus: Cyprus has two substantial mountain ranges: the Kryenia and the Troddos. The Kryenia range, also called the Pentadaitylos, runs northeast to form the island's panhandle. The Troddos range rises out of



Potato Harvest in Cyprus: Newly harvested potatoes are a major export crop for the island of Cyprus. The northem, Turkish-occupied section of the island produces mainly citrus fruits, tobacco, and grain, while crops in the Greek-Cypriot area include grapes, vegetables, and offices.



Cyprus Coast: Although the coastal waters of Cyprus do not support a fishing industry of any significance, shipping and international trade are vital to the Cyprus economy. The southeast coastal bean of Lamaca is a major port on the Mediterianean island of Cyprus. Is port was built on the sale of the ancient Phoenician town of Klum, originally settled in the 13th century BC and famous as the birthplace of the Greek Stotphilosopher Zeno.



Kyrenia Castle: Kyrenia Castle in Cyprus dales to the rith century with the construction of thick walls around an ancient Roman fort. Completely renovated in the 1400s, Kyrenia arose as a stronghold that for centuries protected its inhabitants from attack. Never taken by a direct attack, the castle succumbed to invaders only after blockades inhodend the delivery of food and supplies.



Archaeological Wonders of Cyprus: Ancient Kourin, Palos Mosaics and Ancient Salamis are the most important archaeological sites of Cyprus. These archaeological wonders give visitors a chance to explore the true history of Cyprus.

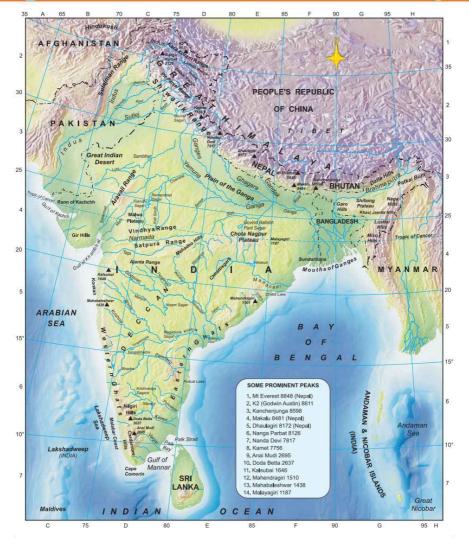


Divided Capital of Cyprus: Wide boulevards characterize Nicosia, the centrally located capital city of Cyprus. Since the Turkish occupation of 1974, the city and the rest of the island have been divided into separate sectors for Greek-Cyproi and Turkish administration.



India Physical







India is a land rich in natural resources. It produces vast quantities of food and manufactured goods. However, the rapid growth of its population means that there is still not enough food for everyone. Many of India's people remain extremely poor and natural disasters such as severe droughts, earthquakes and floods often add to their hardship.

The country has huge expanses of farmland, but much of it is not naturally fertile. Since India gained its independence in 1947 a great deal has been done to modernize farming practices.

Today agriculture contributes about onethird of the country's income. Various irrigation projects have been developed to bring water to dry areas. Experiments with new types of seeds and fertilizers have also resulted in much bigger harvests. Despite this, most farms are too small for modern machinery and can produce only enough food to feed one family. Farms in India are getting smaller all the time. This is because, under the Hindu law, land is divided equally among the children on their parents' death. Some Indians want to reform this law so that farms may be much larger and more productive.

Since the 1950's industrialisation transformed India's cities. Heavy machinery and electrical goods are now manufactured alongside traditional products such as cotton and silk. Plentiful supplies of oil and coal provide power for the factories and generate more than half the country's electricity.

Service industries are also growing in importance and more Indians are working in tourism, banking and communications.



Sunlit Himalayas: Local people hold sacred the glorious peaks of the Himalayas. In Sanskrit, Himalaya means "snow abode" (hima is "snow", and alaya is "abode"). A relatively young mountain chain made up of the world's highest peaks, the Himalayas continue to be propelled skyward as tectonic movement thrusts the Indian plateau important animal sanctuaries.



Protecting Indian Wildlife in Tamil Nadu : Indian and their keepers cross the shallows of the Kaveri River in the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary. Located in the central part of India's southern state of Tamil Nadu this neserve is one of the state's several



Ganges River Valley Tea: The Ganges River valley in West Bengal is the prime tea-growing region in India, the world's largest producer of the fragrant tea leaves. Plantations around Darjeeling, in the hills north of the Ganges River, yield the bulk of West Bengal's tea. One-third of India's tea crop is also cultivated in the states of Assam, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu is destined for export.



Thar Desert of Rajasthan : Camel riders from Jaisalmer, in the northwest Indian Rajasthan, cross sand dunes in the Thar Desert. The desert spreads across northwest Rajasthan and extends across India's border into Pakistan. Surprisingly well populated, the Thar is dotted with historic cities and legendary



Western Ghats of India: The Western Ghats is a Kathakali Dance Drama: The world-famous Kathakali mountain range that extends along western peninsular India. Slopes facing the Arabian Sea to the west are steep and deeply dissected by streams and sharp, rugged valleys. Gentle slopes and valleys characterize the eastern side and form the western edge of the



dance drama originated five centuries ago in the city of Cochin in India's narrow coastal state of Kerala. The performers, exclusively male, wear intricate makeup, painted masks, and elaborate costumes. Using dance and movement, they act out stories from Indian



Sikh Holy Place: Hari Mandir, or the Golden Temple. is the most important shrine for followers of the Sikh religion. Located in Amritsar, a large city of the Punjab in northern India, the Gurudwara was built in the 16th century and is said to have more than 100 kilograms (more than 220 pounds) of pure gold on its roof and walls.

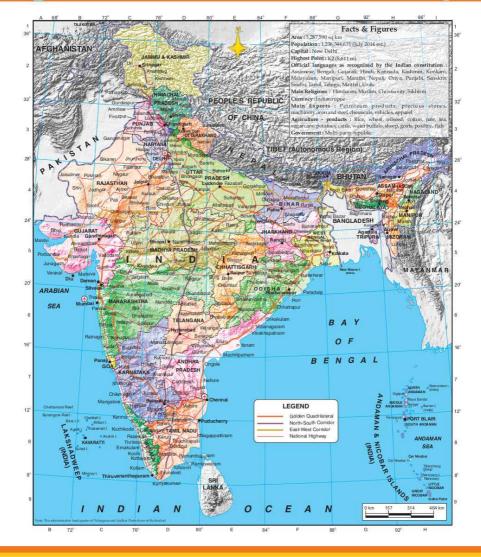


Sun Temple of Konark: The great 13th-century temple of Konarka is in the tropical state of Orissa. along India's northeast seaboard near the Bay of Bengal, Conceived as a chariot for the God Surva, the Sun Temple has 24 gigantic stone wheels around its base. Seven straining horses appear to pull the immense structure.



India Political





India is the seventh largest country in the world and it has the second largest number of people. This vast land contains contrasts of every possible kind—in its people, languages, customs, religions and landscapes. There are massive mountain ranges hidden permanently under ice and snow, vast plains crisscrossed by broad rivers, a parched desert, dense tropical forests and palm-fringed beaches.

By air many of these places can be reached within hours. However, most travellers use the crowded buses or trains and journeys can take days. Passengers cram onto the seats, often sharing space with chickens, goats or other animals that are being taken to the market. About three quarters of India's vast population lives in rural areas, where most people are farmers. Crops of rice and wheat are grown in the fields and animals reared are on small plots of land. However, in recent years thousands of people have moved away from this traditional life to find work in the cities. Life is very different away from the countryside. Noisy crowds fill the city streets and rickshaws thread their way through the traffic. The larger cities are now major industrial centres as India continues to make great progress in science, technology and industry. India is a country with many different ethnic groups and around a thousand languages and dialects. There are also a large number of religious faiths, although more than four-fifths of the population is Hindu. According to the Hindu tradition, people are born into social classes called castes. Strict religious rules govern the food, clothing and jobs of each caste.

Family ties are very important in India and marriage is often seen more as a union between two families than a relationship between two individuals. It is the custom for parents to choose their children's marriage partners for them. Today some Indians are trying to break down these social rules by encouraging young girls or boys to pick their own husband or wife.



India's Taj Mahal: The most outstanding monument built by Empene Shahjahan in the memory of his belowed Queen Mamtas Mahal. The 42-ace matche massistem complex located in Agra is one of Seven Wondows of the World Surrounded by beautiful gardens and fountains, the Taj Mahal is an spectacular example of Mochul archifecture.



Balaji Temple: The Hindu temple of Sri Verkateshwara atop the Tirumala Hills is probably one of the biggest pigirim centres in India. Situated at an altitude of 2600 ft. among T hills covered with abundant greenery in the Eastern Ghats, this temple is believed to have been in existence for over 2000 veems.



Delhi's Red Fort: One of Delhi's most impressive monuments, the massive sandstone Red Fort was built by the Moghit Emperor Shah Jahan over a nine-year period beginning in 1638. The Yamuna River used to flow beside the eastern edge of the fort, filling is deep moat with water. Today the river is about 1 kilometre (3.6 mile) larfier east, and the moail's empty.



Delhi's Great Mosque: To reach the enormous courtyard of the Jama Masjid, or Great Mosque, visitors must climb an imposing sweep of stairs. The elegant tomb, crowned by orion-shaped domes and framed by towering minarets, was built on an elevated site in Delhi from 1650 in 1656.



Char Minar, a Unique.... Intersection: In the earth of the old-lown section of Hyderabad in south central India, two main city streats intersect beneath a large rectangular structure with four open arches to accommodate streat traffic. Named for the four minaress that top the building. Char Minar was designed to be the centrepiece from which the entire city would extend.



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata: The Victoria Memorial, built in 1921, sits on the banks of the Hooghly River in the Maidan, a large park in the city of Kolkata. The domed marble structure was built to commemorate Queen Victoria, Empress of India from 1876 to 1901.



Lotus Temple, Delhi: It is the most impressive lotusshaped, religious building of the Bahais. The founder of this faith was prophet Baha'u'llah, whose aim was to create harmony between all the world's religions.



India Railways







India National Highways

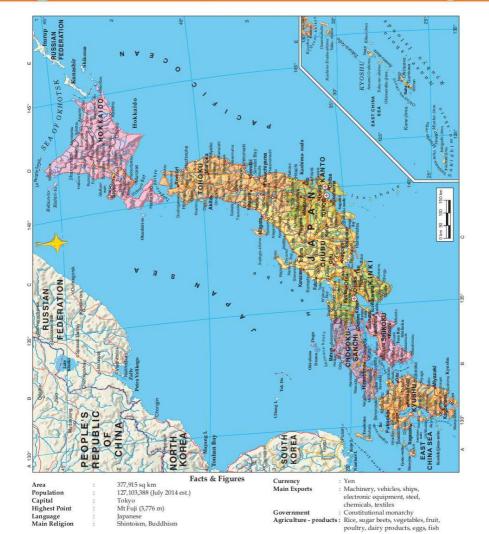












Shintoism, Buddhism







The Japanese call their island country Nippon or Nihon meaning the source of the sun. This ancient name explains the red disc on their national flag, which represents the rising sun. For many centuries emperors have been heads of state in Japan. Until the 1900's Japanese emperors claimed to be divine, believing they were descended from the gods. The amount of power held by the emperor has varied greatly from one era to another. Today the emperor's role and duties are ceremonial only. The government of the nation is carried out by a democratic parliament called the Diet. Tokyo, Japan's capital, is the largest city.

The Diet is made up of an elected House of Representatives and a House of Councillors. Political parties include socialists, liberals and communists, but since 1955 the most successful party has been the conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Modern Japan is world-famous for its powerful business corporations advanced electronic technology. However, this is still a land in which traditions and ancient customs are held in the highest respect. Among the busy streets and bright lights of the capital visitors can glimpse the past in the form of temples and shrines. They can also take part in chanoyu, a 500-year-old tea-drinking ceremony that signifies courtesy and hospitality. Most of the population lives in crowded cities on the coastal plains. Farther inland, much of the country is covered with forested hills and mountains. The land is both beautiful and unstable. Volcanoes and earthquakes are common throughout Japan.

Japan is made up of about 6,852 islands, which form a long chain off the eastern coast of Asia. The biggest islands are Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku and Kyushu. Most Japanese live on these four islands, even though much of the land is taken up by towering mountains and hills covered in forest.



Great Buddha: The Daibutsu or Grand Buddha, exudes serenity from its pedestal outside Kotokuin Tample in Kamakura. Cast in 1252, the famous bronze figure is more than 11 metros (36 feet) tall and weighs 120 tons. Tourists are invited to explore inside the enomous statue.



Torii Gate on Itsuku-shima: Low fide allows clam digging around the Torii Gate on the tiny sacred island of Itsuku-shima. Located in Japan's Inland Sea, the island is just off the Horishi coast southwest of Hiroshima. The towering Torii Gate was built in 1875 as part of the now-



Monument to the Horror of War: The A-Bornb Dome, the early excising of Hinshinshins Industrial Promotion Hall, Joons behind a modern monument memorializing the wickins of the alonic bomb dropped on Hirobiding by the United States on 6 August 1945 during World War. II. The dome and the memorial serve as a reminder of the suffering endured and as a plea against future such actions.



Sacred Mount Fuji: Spellbinding Fuji stands west of Tokyo and north of the izu-hanto, in the Fuji-Hakone-zu National Park. A darmant volcano that last erupted in 1707, it is Japan's highest peak, rising to an elevation of 3,776 metras (12,388 feet). The Japanese have long considered this symmetrical mountain sacred.



Sumo Wrestlers: Socuring a solid stance on the clay floor, a sumo wrestler selzes control over his opponent. Sumo wrestling, a Shirto rhual originating 2,000 years ago, is a professional sport fervently followed by zealous fars. Each match begins with purification rhusts and ends when a wrestler is shoved from the ring or touches the ground with any part of his body other than his set.



Discounted Electronics: Amia gintering packages, a Japanese merchant offers discounted electronic goods near Akirabara Station in northeast Tokyo. The country's production of computers and other electronic equipment has skyrocketed since World War II. The Japanese continue to maintain their cutting-edge position in the development of new technology.



Rice Harvest: Rice farmers harvest their crop by hand in the countryside near Chiba, southeast of Tokyo, Rice is Japan's major crop, and prices are favourably set by the government to encourage production and raise the level of trual income.



business centine, sits at the northwest and of Tokyo-wan. Although half of the country's export-import business handled by companies in Tokyo, it is not the country's leading port, because its harbour is relatively shallow and cannot accommodate. Marger ships. Yokohama's harbour, just south of Tokyo on the same bay, is deeper and handles most of Japan's occean trade.



Malaysia Political





Facts & Figures

Area:

329,847 sq km

Population: 30,073,353 (July 2014 est.)

Capital : Kuala Lumpur

Highest Point: Mt Kinabalu (4,094 m)

Language:

Bahasa Malaysia

Main Religions : Muslim (or Islam official), Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions

Currency: Malaysian dollar (ringgit)

Main Exports: Rubber, palm-oil, timber, petroleum, tin, electronic equipment

Agriculture-products: Peninsular Malaysiarubber, palm oil, cocoa, rice; Sabah subsistence crops, rubber, timber, coconuts, rice; Sarawak rubber, pepper, timber,

Government: Federal constitutional monarchy







Malaysia is a green land with mountains cloaked in dripping rainforest, huge plantations of rubber and oil palms and sandy beaches. One thousand species of orchids bloom in the tropical forests, which are home to many wild animals and plants. Wildlife such as tigers, leopards and rhinoceroses are protected in several national parks.

Many Malays live in farm villages strung out along the roads between paddy-fields and pineapple fields. Along the coast most people fish for a living. A large Chinese minority (35 per cent of the population) lives mainly in the cities. This is an Islamic country, but all kinds of religions are practised. Malaysia is dotted with Buddhist and Taoist temples as well as Christian churches. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, is the largest city.

The ancestors of today's Malays came from China around 2000 BC. Many made their living by fishing or piracy along the swampy coast of Sarawak. The Arabs, Portuguese and Dutch all occupied this area before the British seized control in the early 1800's. After the Japanese occupation, during World War II, communist guerrillas launched a terrorist campaign against the British. Independence came to Peninsular Malaysia in 1957 and by 1963 the eastern territories had joined the new nation. Malaysia has a democratic system of government. Since independence it has achieved economic success with rubber. tin and oil. Timber-felling has laid waste great areas of forest, but is now controlled by the government.

Traditional arts of Malaysia include folk dances and puppet dramas. The folk dances may represent scenes of adventures, battles or love stories. In the puppet dramas, the puppeteer sits behind a screen and moves leather or wood puppets to act out different stories. The puppeteer tells the story and speaks the part of each puppet.



Malaysia's Supreme Court Building: As a constitutional monarchy run by a parliament and a prime minister, Malaysia has a king whose duties are largely ceremonial. The Sultan Abdul Samad building, home of the nation's supreme court, is in Kuda Lumpur. The court's distinctive clock tower is flanked by golden domes.



Malaysia's Terraced Rice Paddies: Rice, Malaysia's chief food crop, is grown throughout the country on small farms. These terraced paddies occupy land that was previously rainforest. Advanced imgation and drainage techniques and the introduction of high-yield varieties have improved ince multiclion.



Summit of Mount Kinabalu: The granite summit of Mount Kinabalu rises 4,101 metres (13,455 feet) above the minforest in Mount Kinabalu Nafenal Park. The highest peak in the Malaysian state of Sabah and the island of Borneo, the mountain is home to many varieties of orchids and other unusual plants.



Logging in Borneo: Cut from the thick forests of former, this timber is being transported by water in the Sabah region of Malaysia. Most Malaysian lumber is produced in Sabah and Sarawak, and it is an important export. But world-wide concern about destruction of the rain forest has slowed the expansion of the country's wood-products industry.



Borneo's Rich Natural Resources: The Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, in the northern part of the island of Borneo, provide the country with vast amounts of timber, oil, and natural gas. Most villagers, however, work in the rice fields, like this woman preparing rice seedlings.



Mosque in Malaysia: The Masjid Zahir Mosque, completed in 1912, is in the centre of Alor Setar, the capital of he Malaysian state of Negeri Redah. Located near the country's brother with Thalland, Negeri Kedah is Malaysia's most important fice-growing state. Some of the oldest settlements on the Malay Peninsula are here.



Tropical understorey: Sabah is altutadd on the northem is of mountainuss Bomoo. Heavy railla and warm tropical temperatures have produced dense evergreen railroms over almost all of the state. The all evergreen trees are common flowering plants. Palms ill evergreen trees are common flowering plants. Palms ill eventures to see publiques, ferris, and mossess. The constant, heavy rainful loaches nutrients from the soils, lowing them low in feetility.

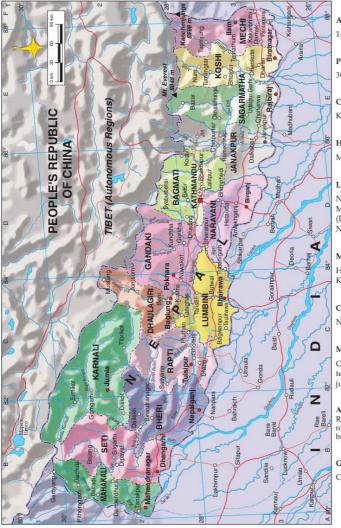


Martial Arts Exhibition: The martial arts are art articulorally important in Malaysia. Young Malay men are given instruction in Pentjak Stat, the art of self-debence, from analy age, Stat, Me Japanese karate and Korean taekwende, mobbes a spiritual as well as physical dimension, emphasing the practicular services as physical dimension, emphasing the proceedings of the self-debender of



Nepal Political





Facts & Figures

Area:

147,181 sq km

Population:

30,986,975 (July 2014 est.)

Capital:

Kathmandu

Highest Point:

Mt Everest (8,848 m)

Language:

Nepali (official), English, Maithali, Bhojpuri, Tharu (Dagaura/Rana), Tamang, Newar, Magar, Awadhi

Main Religions:

Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Kirant, Christianity

Currency:

Nepalese rupee

Main Exports:

Clothing, pulses, carpets, textiles, juice, pashmina, jute goods

Agriculture - products :

Rice, com, wheat, sugarcane, root crops; milk, water, buffalo meat

Government:

Constitutional monarchy

Nepal Political





The Himalayan mountains cover most of Nepal and form a snowy wall along the northern border with China. Their highest peak is Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. Far below the icy peaks, rhododendrons (group of trees and shrubs) cover the mountain passes of the Himalayan foothills. To the south of the mountains lie the humid and fertile Tarai Plains, where rhinoceroses and tigers roam.

Most of the people of Nepal are farmers, who use traditional methods to grow sugar-cane, rice, maize and wheat. Others herd sheep and yaks. Some work in tourism, as Nepal's spectacular landscape attracts mountaineers and trekkers from all over the world. Tourism has brought much needed money and development to this poor country. However, these changes are also threatening the local farmers way of life and the environment. A cloud of pollution now hangs over Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. Also, more than onethird of the forests have been cut down since the 1950's. Both locals and tourists use the timber for cooking and heating. Poster campaigns encourage everyone to conserve natural resources.

From the late 1700's to the middle of the 1990's Nepal was ruled as a dictatorship, either by a monarch or by members of the powerful Rana family. In 1991 King Birendra gave up his powers. Elections were held, which brought in a democratic government.

The Sherpas and the Gurkhas, two Nepalese groups, are known for their special skills. The Sherpas, a Himalayan people, have won fame as guides and porters for mountain-climbing expeditions. Sherpa men and women carry heavy loads up to high altitudes. Gurkhas are Nepalese soldiers in the British or Indian army.



ndid Isolation in the Himalayas : The towering snowy peaks of the Himalayas form a magnificent Nepalese capital city of Kathmandu, has one of Nepal's backdrop for the Gurung village of Gandruk, perched on richest collections of historical structures. The focus the steep slopes of Annapuma I. One of several distinct ethnic groups in the west-central region of Nepal, the Gurung raise cattle in pastures sometimes about 3.660 more than 50 temples and shrines. metres (about 12,008 feet) above sea level



Durbar Square Temples : Durbar Square, of Kathmandu's tourism industry, this part of the city boasts a royal palace, fascinating old residences, and



Sherpa, the Eastern People: This child lives in rugged Khumbu, near Mount Everest. Sherpas are highly skilled climbers. The mountains on Nepal's northern border are revered as the home of the gods. Sherpas are Buddhists who migrated south in the 16th century from Tibet's eastern region, Kham. Sherpa is the Tibetan word for "eastern people."



Nepal's Fertile Tarai Lowlands: The Tarai is a fertile river plain extending along Nepal's southem border with India. About 45 per cent of the people of Nepal live in the Tarai lowlands in simple mud-brick or stone houses. Farmers grow a variety of crops and raise livestock such as poultry, cattle, and water buffalo. In addition to farmland, the tropical Tarai contains many jungles and



epalese Buddhist Monastery: Mount Everest looms behind the Buddhist monastery of Thyangboche in the Himalayas. (The monastery burned down after this photograph was taken). The country is predominantly Hindu, but about 8 per cent of the population is Buddhist. Most Buddhists live in the Kathmandu Valley and along



Elephant Safari: An elephant safari is a popular mod of travel within Royal Chitwan National Park in the Tarai region of southern Nepal. Maintaining a healthy working elephant is expensive. One animal typically requires 272 kilograms (600 pounds) of food and 190 litres (50 gallons) of water daily. Each elephant has a human support group, which includes assistants responsible for gathering its food.



Golden Gate, Bhaktapur: The Golden Gate or Sun Dhoka stands at the western end of Bhaktapur's Royal Palace. The building of the gate and palace began during the reign of King Bhupatindra Malla (1696-1722) and was completed during the reign of his successor, Jaya Ranjit



Red Panda: From Nepal to the Chinese provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan, mountain forests of hemlock oak, and rhododendron harbour the beautiful red panda This cat-sized creature spends much of the day resting and sleeping in trees, but it forages mostly on the

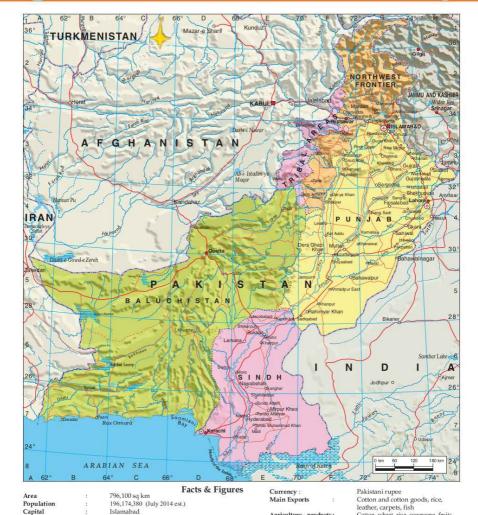


Language:

Main Religion

Pakistan Political





34

Agriculture - products:

Government

Cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits,

vegetables; milk, beef, mutton, eggs

Islamic republic

Urdu, English, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto

Pakistan Political





Pakistan is an Islamic republic in southern Asia. The neighbouring northern territory of Jammu and Kashmir in India is a beautiful land of lakes and mountains. In the northwest the road climbs the lonely heights of the Khyber Pass, a narrow passage through the mountains to Afghanistan. To the west a dusty highway leads to southern Iran. In the southwest little grows on the dry and rocky Baluchistan Plateau, while the sandy wastes of the Thar Desert stretch into the southeast from India. Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan.

The centre of Pakistan is a great plain called the Punjab, which means five rivers. The plain is so-called because it is watered by the Indus River and its four major tributaries. The Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej. The Punjab is extremely hot and dry, but a vast irrigation system allows the cultivation of wheat, rice, cotton and sugar-cane. During the occasional violent rainstorms that occur, the irrigation channels help to prevent serious flooding. They hold the water that might otherwise wash away the crops. The Punjab's rivers are also used to harness hydroelectric power at dams such as the Tarbela Dam on the Indus River. Pakistan's many industries produce cotton, garments, carpets, rice, sugar and processed foods. These goods are transported between large cities such as Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi by road and rail.

One of the world's first great civilizations flourished in this land around 2500 BC. The people of the ancient Indus empire settled in the Indus Valley and produced fine architecture and pottery. Over the next 3,500 years the region was invaded by the Persians Arabs, Greeks, and Turks. The British gradually took over India during the 1800's and, by 1900, this included all the lands that are now Pakistan.



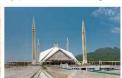
National Assembly: The government offices of Pakistan are located in Islamabad. Pakistan's National Assembly buildings are part of this complex. Islamabad was designated to replace Karachi as Pakistan's capital in 1999 and was built during the 1960's.



Lahore's Red Badshahi Mosque: The minarets and red sandstone of the 17th-century Badshahi Mosque dominate the old section of Lahore, capital of Pakistan's Punjab Province. From the 11th to the 17th certuines, this eastern Pakistan' city was the hub of the Moghul Emwire. and after that the centre of a Slikh Kingdom.



Pakistani Wheat Farmers: Wheat is Pakistan's principal food crop and is produced mainly in the Indius Valley of the Purjab province. The world's largest imgabio system makes farming possible in this otherwise barren region. Farmers blend new and traditional methods, still relying heavily on oxen and buffalor.



Faisal Mosque, Islamabad: A planned city, Islamabad contains many examples of modern architecture, including Faisal Mosque, designed by Turkish architect Vedat Dalokay.



Mongol City of Ancient Times: Remains of a 14thcentury fortress and a 17th-century mosque mark the skyline of Labroe, capital city of Pakistan's Punjab Province. The nation's second largest city, Lahore lies on the Ravi River in the fertile upper Indus Valley, just west of the border with India and the Himalayas.



Ancient Peshawar: Most people in Peshawar, a frontier town that traces its origins back 20,000 years, live in clusters of two- or three-room houses made of clay or mud bricks. Strategically located on a broad plain surrounded by aird mountains, Peshawar guants the east end of the Khyber Pass on Pakistan's border with Atheniers.



Pakistani Orchard: Much of westem Pakistan is a dry, mountainous plateau, in which bare ridges separate desert valleys. Where water is available, farmers grow wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane, vegetables oilseeds, ctrus, fruits, margoes, banaras, papaya, figs, and dates.



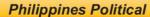
Karachi: Karachi: Pakistan's largest city and former capital, is shated on a beauful inatural habour northwest of the hidus River delta. It is the country's most important port, serving a large hirdenia, has habelled to the control of the control of the architecture of Karachi blands western, eastern and Muslim influences. Although the city is unplanned, residential districts have generally developed in concentric inass accordant to forcome levels.



Philippines Political











The Philippines is a nation of more than 7,000 islands. The larger islands are mountainous, with over 30 volcanoes, some of them being still active. Much of the land is clad in forest where bamboo, orchids and a huge variety of trees grow. Unfortunately, the country's rich resources have been ruthlessly plundered. Logging companies have felled millions of hardwood trees, causing problems with soil erosion. Manila, the capital of Philippines, is the largest city. About half of the population earn their living by farming, growing rice, sugar-cane, pineapples, bananas and coconuts. The economy is mainly based on agriculture and timber production. However, the manufacturing industry is expanding, producing clothing and processed foods.

The people of the Philippines are called Filipinos. Their ancestors were migrants from Indonesia and Malaysia. Groups of these dark-haired, dark-skinned people formed small communities throughout the islands and each group developed its own culture. As a result, the Philippines has a wide variety of languages, customs and way of life. Spanish explorers colonized the Philippines islands in the 1500's and named them after their king, Philip II. After the Spanish-American War of 1898 the United States of America (USA) bought the Philippines for 20 million dollars. Independence came in 1946 but under the military dictatorship of President Marcos the islands experienced censorship, corruption and poverty. Many left to work abroad. Marcos was overthrown in 1986. He and his allies fled to Hawaii. The present Flipino government is working to solve the environmental and economic problems that he left behind.

The Philippines has produced many painters and writers. Fabina de la Rosa, a popular Philippine artist of the 1800's, painted works showing the everyday life of the people, space and landscapes. Fernado Amorsolo, who studied under de la Rosa, became known in the 1900's for his portraits and rural landscapes.



Cebu City Taoist Temple: On the narrow east central Philippine site and of Cebu, the size and olsborate decision of a Tooist temple in the city of Cebu indicate that manyle coal residents praces to Tooism. The ancient philosophy and misjorn, based on the teachings of the philosophy and misjorn, based on the teachings of the philosophy and misjorn, based on the teachings of the philosophy and misjorn, based on the teachings of the century BC. The majority of Filipinos are Roman Catholic, and the manindra adhere to Protestanism, Islam or other



Ifugao of the Philippines: The Ifugao inhabit the mountainous region of the Philippines' north central province of Luzon. They are among the more than 50 culturally diverse indigenous peoples living on more than 7,000 islands. The flugao are surrounded by the Bortoc, Kafrga, Ibanag lokano and Ibadia rations.



Malacafang Palace: Malacafang Palace is studed lating the Passig in the San Miguel subub of Manila. The palace's name is derived from the Friipino May Lakan Dyrat, which separates as Pobleme in the Pree. The which separates as Pobleme in the Palaca palace of the Palaca pa



Filipino Muslim Sailing Vessels: Special-occasion assis omament Muslim wintas. or Singip costs, Coccasion assis omament Muslim wintas. or Singip costs, Coccasion assis omament Planpine island of Mindianao in the 13th century, and most Filipino Muslims, called Morn, still reside there tools will be supported to the Mindiana of the Suita Archipolago as holy lands and are seeking independence from the government of the Philippines.



Growing Rice on Luzon Island: Terraced rice fields are characterists of the northern island of Luzon, which produces the majority of rice in the Philippines. Grown here for 3,000 years, tice is a major crop and a staple of the Filipin diel. Recent improvements in famining methods and high-yield seed allow farmers here to grow enough nice to meet the country's needs.



Panay Festival: The Ali-Alhan betival takes place in the Philippin found if Alibid, on Panay, the sixth largest of the country's more than 7,000 islands. One of the Philippines's 900 inhabited islands, Panay control Philippines's 900 inhabited islands, Panay contractive of the Philippines's 900 inhabited islands, Panay convariety of indigenous peoples live on the mountainous, densely populated island, including several groups that confinue to uphrold the traditions of Filippine abordgines



Sugarcane Crop : Climate conditions in parts of the Philippines are ideal for sugarcane cubilation. Which generates significant export earnings. Sugarcane requires as easiers or of moderate ransfall followed by dry spell, during which the came internal and does for dry spell, during which the came internal and does for the spell cubing which the came internal distribution of the spelling places, sometimes destray copys. In 1990 a lay phono struck Cobu and surrounding areas, killing many people and wiping out the valuable sugarcane crop.

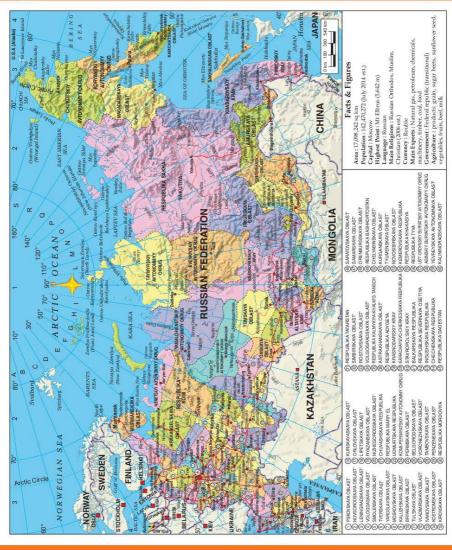


Bancas in the Philippines: Traditional vessels called bancas are still prevalent off the southern coast of Luzon, the Philippine archipelago's largest island, although commercial fishers now depend primarily on motorised boats.



Russian Federation—Political





Russia Political





Russia is the largest country in the world. It covers over 17 million square kilometres, borders 14 other countries and crosses eight time zones. Extending north to the frozen wastes that lie above the Arctic Circle, its expanses also take in vast forests, high mountains and wide plains. Russia mostly has long, bitter winters and short summers. Snow covers more than half of the country for six months a year, so it can be difficult to make the most of the many natural resources available. These resources include large regions of farmland and plentiful reserves of timber, oil, coal, natural gas and minerals.

For centuries Russia was a vast empire ruled by emperors called tsars. However, a workers' revolution in 1917 eventually ended the reign of the tsars and brought the Bolsheviks (later called the Russian Communist Party) to power. Russia became a republic and in 1922 joined with three smaller republics to form the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), also known as the Soviet Union

By the 1940's the four original republics had been further subdivided and there were 16 republics in the Union. Over the next 40 years individual republics made increasing demands for independence. The USSR eventually broke up in 1991 and communism collapsed. At present, Moscow is the capital of Russia.

Rolling plains known as steppes start below the forests. Meadows and wooded plains make up the northern steppes. The southern steppes are mainly treeless, but their rich oil makes this some of the best farmland in the whole country.

The Caucasus Mountains and the shores of the Caspian Sea form Russia's southernmost area. The slopes of the Caucasus contain rich deposits of iron and copper.



Grand Kremlin Palace: The Moskva flows past the gilded domes of the 15th-century Uspensky Cathedral and the imposing Grand Kremlin Palace, which is the newest of numerous buildings and churches enclosed by medieval fortress walls. Originally constructed in 1156, it was refortified many times to ward off attacks by the Mangals.



Sturgeon Worth Their Weight in Gold : A Russian fisherman whips a large sturgeon into his boat. Sturgeons are valued not just for their tasty flesh, but for their roe or eggs, which are seasoned and served as caviar



and intricately carved onion domes of Saint Basil's Cathedral, Mascow's most calourful landmark, Built in the 1550s to celebrate Ivan the Temble's conquest of Kazan' and Astrakhanskaya Ohlpot' this extraordinary

structure was ally known as the Cathedral of the Intercession of the Virgin. Eight chapels, each with a distinct exterior,



Russian Imperial Summer Home: The terrace of the Great Palace at Petrodvorets overlooks or the Great Palace at Petrodvorets overnows magnificent waterfalls, gilded fourtains and a statue of Samson prying open the jaws of a lion. The statue commemorates Peter the Great's victory over the Swedes in 1702 on Saint Samson's Day. A summer residence for Peter the Great, Petrodvorets was designed by a French architect in a style reminiscent of the palace at Versailles, and it was completed in 1721. During World War II, Germans destroyed most of the building and stole many treasures, but Petrodycrets has since been painstakingly restored.



Russian Icebreaker: Because Russia must use icebreakers to keep most of its ports open in winter, an important goal of its foreign policy over the centuries has been to win control of ice-free ports. The icebreaker Arctic, at berth in the northern port of Murmansk, was the first icebreaker to reach the North Pole



Frozen Waters of Lake Baikal: Traditionally called a sea by local inhabitants, Lake Baikal is 636 kilometres long. Its exceptionally deep, crystalline waters are home to more than 1,200 creatures found nowhere else. The world's only known freshwater seals, the nerpa, live in



Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula: Geysers and hot springs are abundant in the Valley of the Geysers on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula cold, remote finger of the East Siberian Uplands. The sparsely populated peni covers about 350,000 square kilometres (about 135,135 square miles).



Altai Mountain River: Whitewater rafters head down river in Russia's Altai region, a small portion of the Altai Mountains that spills over the country's southern border with Mongolia and Kazakhstan. The Russian Altai is the most elevated section of the enomous flatland of the West Siberian Plain



Singapore Political





Facts & Figures

Currency

Population		5,567,301 (July 2014 est.)	Main Exports	1	Machinery, vehicles, electronic
Capital	2	Singapore city			equipment, petroleum products,

Timah Hill (177 m) **Highest Point**

Area

Languages English, Mandarin, Malay, Tamil

697 sq km

Main Religions : Buddhism, Taoism, Islam,

Hindu, Christianity, Hinduism

rubber, chemicals, food, clothes

Agriculture - products: Rubber, copra, fruit, orchids,

vegetables, poultry, eggs, fish, ornamental fish

Singaporean dollar

Government Multi-party republic



Singapore Political



Over 50 islands make up the Republic of Singapore. The largest is linked by road across the Johor Strait to mainland Malaysia. Many of the smaller islands are uninhabited. Singapore lies just above the equator, so the climate is hot and sticky. It is a country that cannot produce enough food for its overcrowded population and water supplies have to be piped in from Malaysia. Yet Singapore has become one of the richest countries in South East Asia. Almost all its rainforest has been cut down to make room for homes, businesses or parks and there is very little agricultural land. The country's wealth is based on shipping, banking and international trade. There is a legend that Singapore was founded by a Malay prince who landed on the island in 1299. Over the centuries many Chinese people settled here to work and trade. Modern Singapore was founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles, who was a trader with the British East India Company. Britain ruled the country from 1858 until 1959. In 1961, Singapore became part of the Federation of Malaysia, but in 1963 it withdrew to become a separate nation in 1965. The people live under very strict laws. Any religion can be practised, but gambling and even chewing gum are forbidden. There are also huge fines for dropping litter. Personal freedom is limited but the crime rate is the lowest in the world. Almost all the people live in the capital, which also has the name of Singapore.

Singapore has a good network of transport. A bus system serves almost every part of the island. A railway links Singapore with Malaysia. Changi International Airport, on the eastern end of the island, is the nation's chief airport. The country has an average of about 1 automobile for every 8 household. Singapore has about 10 daily newspapers, at least one of which is published in each of the four official languages.



Satellite New of Singapore: Travelling directly south from the cloud shadow at the centre of this view brigg one to the city centre, where the Singapore River flows into Manina Bay, From Fort Canning Pask, not of the river and just west of downtown, the commercial throughtare of Contant Road extends to the northest. Singapore's Chrisatown lies southwest of the city centre, its Little India and Arab Street to the northeast.



Singapore's World Trade Centre: The new World Trade Centre, located in the city of Singapore and the southern coast, is one of the largest frade centers in Asia. The complex includes exhibition space, a convention and conference onthe, and a private club. It is the site of more than 60 international trade and consumer exhibitions annually. Singapore's leading



Singapore's Sultan Mosque: The Sultan Mosque, the religious centre of Singapore's Muslims, was built in the early 1800's by the last Sultan of Singapore, Islandar Shah. Each Fridey, red carpets are laid at the mosque's 14 gates to lead worshipers into its green-and-gold marble interior for prayer.



Farming Without Land: Although the city-state of Singapore has farmland, it cannot supply enough food to support the city's large population. One solution to the problem is hydroponics: the cultivation of plants in water containing dissolved nutrients.



Singapore Festival: Singapore's rivers and total inlets give the country's addistricts appearance and cultural event, the Dragon Boat Festival, derives from an ancient Chinese celebration in honour an anional hero who drawned himself to probest government corruption. Other spublicy loved out to save their both they were too late. To appease his spirit, they threw crooked rive in the niver.



The Night Safari: The world's first noctumal zoo, the Night Safari is one of the most popular attractions in Singapore. Open only at nights and using special lights, people see the animals in their naturalistic settings.



Cable Car to Sentosa Island: A cable car from Mount Faber carries tourists south to Sentosa Island, also accessible by ferry from Singapore's World Trade Centre. Once the site of a pirate cemetery, the island is now a recreational destination with facilities for golf and swimming, a maritime misseum, and an aquanium.



Singapore: Southeast Asia's Largest Port: Situated on a receiblent harbour. Singapore arks as one of the world's largest ports. Its economic success results largely from its advantageous location at the southers to of the Malay Peninsula, with the Indian Ocean to the west and the South China Saa to the east. Singapore emerged as an entrept of or thal importance.



Sri Lanka Political





Sri Lanka Political





Sri Lanka is an island ringed with palmfringed beaches. Inland is a fertile plain that rises through rolling hills, planted with tea bushes, to misty mountains. Rainforest covers the southwest. In about 543 BC a Sinhalese prince from India conquered the Vedda people who were living on the island and called the country Sinhala. Around AD 200 it was invaded again from India, by Tamil kings. The Tamils drove the Sinhalese into the south. The two groups continued to struggle for control of the country until the Portuguese arrived in the 1500's. They were followed by the Dutch and then the British, who ruled from 1802. The British called the island Ceylon. It became independent in 1948 and changed its name to Sri Lanka in 1972.

In the 1980's and 1990's old tensions erupted again. The Hindu Tamils of the north resented being governed from the south by the Sinhalese Buddhists. Thousands were killed in guerrilla battles and many Tamils left for India. However, throughout these troubles Sri Lanka has held on to a basically democratic system of government. Peace talks in the early 1990's brought hopes of settling the situation. About half of the population are farmers. Agriculture is the main economic activity, producing the important crops of coconuts, rubber, spices, flowers, rice and tea.

Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte is the capital of Sri Lanka.

The paddy-fields of Balangoda are surrounded by coconut palms. Beyond them forested slopes rise into the clouds. The forests are home to monkeys, elephants and parakeets, while crocodiles lurk in the rivers. The rich beauty of this island inspired its name, Sri Lanka, which means respected land.



Kandy's Temple of the Tooth: Named after the sacred relic it holds, which is believed to be the Buddha's tooth, Daleda Maligawa. or Temple of the Tooth, is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple of all. In and near Kandy, capital of the ancient Kingdom of Kandy, there are many tombs: ancient palaces and other femples.



Sri Lankan Reservoir at Polonnaruwa: Dense vegetation surounds an ancient reservoir at Polonnaruwa, the 11th-century capital of Sri Lanka's Chola Kingdon. Two centuries later the city as abandoned, but the nains of its great monuments remain. Enromous statuse of the Buddha and elegant carved pillars attest to the skill of the kingdom's sculptors and architects.



Sri Lankan Tea Harvest: 'In Sri Lanka, formstyl Ceylon. The vast green slopes of a lose estate dwaff the bent figures of farm workers as they harvest the country's most farmous crop, still called Ceylon tea. The best is grown at slewations above 1.220 metres (4.003 feet) in the fertile south central plains of Nurwar Elija and Horn Tea production was infatted by 15th-century British landowners when I proved more profitable than college.



Movie Favourites: These movie billboards in Maradana promote one of Sri Lanka's favourite pastimes: going to the movies. Although television broadcasts are increasing, movie-going is still a popular leisure-time activity.



Elephant Procession: Sri Lankars often incorporate music and dance in festudas claderating religious extraing religious extraing religious extraing religious extraing religious classify feccarded elephants, a chenheder and processions of lawisty feccarded elephants, chenheder and problem elephants, like people, have a casta system. Elephants are floatured prominently in many of Sri Lanka She shooted and floatured prominently in many of Sri Lanka Shestoned



Unique Fishing Technique: These Sit Lankans ser catching shellish in a coastal agoor. The traditional method of catching shellish in Sri Lanka is by tropping them in undervator wicker baskets or behind bamboostake lances. The rich fishing grounds once were open to all, and people who made their kinigh py fishing could move freely around the coast. Recently, however, the powerment in set a dade came coastal areas for forusal powerment in set as de de came coastal areas for forusal to the coastal areas for forusal powerment in set.



Colombo, Sri Lanka: Colombo is on the west coast of Sri Lanka, and it is the country's largest urban area, with about a million inhabitants. Colombo is also the largest port of the Indian Ocean nation, from which tea, rubber, gems, graphite and coconuts are exported, primarily to the United States, Sustralia and the United Reportem.



Ocean Fishing Near Negombo: On the west coast of Sri Lanka, fishers haul full nets onshore near the port of Negombo. Although fish comprises a staple diet, the fishing industry contributes a relatively small amount to the national economy of Sri Lanka,



Taiwan Political





Facts & Figures

35,980 sq km Area Population 23,359,928 (July 2014 est.) Capital Taipei **Highest Point** Yu Shan (3,997 m)

Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese Language

Main Religions: Taoism, Buddhism Currency New Taiwan dollar

Electrical equipment, machinery, Main Exports textiles, metal goods, plastic goods Agriculture - products: Rice, corn, vegetables, fruit, tea,

poultry, beef, milk, fish

Government Multi-party republic

Taiwan Political





The island of Taiwan is separated from mainland China by the narrow Formosa Strait Formosa, which means beautiful one, was the name given to Taiwan by Portuguese sailors in the 1500's. Much of the island is mountainous and forested.

There is lower ground in the west, where most people live. The moist, tropical climate enables farmers to grow crops such as rice and pineapples, although only about a quarter of Taiwan can be farmed. Tuna, shrimps and other fish are caught off the coast. Industry has become very important to the country's economy. Roughly one-third of Taiwan's workers now have jobs in the field of manufacturing and its factories export goods all over the world.

From the 1700's onwards the island was settled by China, but in 1895 it was taken over by Japan. Taiwan returned to Chinese rule in 1945 after the Japanese were defeated in World War II. In 1949 China became communist. The defeated leaders fled to Taiwan or Republic of China and set up a government there. Anti-communist Taiwan represented all of China at the United Nations (UN) until 1971. Communist China or People's Republic of China then became internationally recognized. Taiwan lost its membership of the UN in 1971 and now it has official diplomatic ties with only a few countries. Tensions between Taiwan and China lessened during the early 1990's. Taipei is the capital of Taiwan.

Copper, gold, limestone, natural gas, petroleum, salt and sulphur are mined in Taiwan. Taiwan has good network of roads, including an expressway that connects Taipei and Kao-hsiung. The country has an average of about 1 automobile for every 30 people.



Monument to the Past: Dwarfed by the magnificent architecture of the National Concert Hall at the Chiang Kal-shek Memonal, cheefeaders practice their routines in the square. The enormous memorial hall, graces a specious park in Taijei.



Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan's Hua-lien Shih: There are about 30,000 Taroko and more than 8,000 Rukai in Hua-lien Shih, a province located on the northeastern coast of Taiwan. Like other indigenous groups on the island, the Taroko and the Rukai are related to the Malay people of South East Asia.



Mainstay of the Talwanese Diet: Because of its steep stopes, agricultural cultivation is possible on only one-quarter of the land on the island of Taiwan. With the use of modern equipment and fertilizers, however, the country produces three nice crops annually, enough to feed the entire population, with some left over for export.



Taiwan's Tropical Tip: Taiwan's southern tip is a tropical region whose mountains crowd the seashore. Home to Ken-ting National Park, Taiwan's first national park, the region is known for its colourful flowers and multi-coloured butterflies. Sail Rock at Kenting Beach was carved by the



Harvesting Rice in Talwan: Fice is the principal crop and staple food in Talwan, where orginulure has always been an important economic activity. Talwan sustans the productivity of its farms through a cambia system of imgation, furtifization, and land management. Fice is a particularly labour intensive crop, requiring workers of digit the public lipaddies) and dams, weed the fields, plant and transplant rice seedlings, and harvest the crop, all and transplant rice seedlings, and harvest the crop, all



Taiwan's Taroko Gorge: A red-and-yellow pagoda overlooks Taroko Gorge, which siteos through 19 kilometres (12 miles) of Taiwan's Central Mountain range. From a road that follows the line of the gorge, there are spectacular views of steep marble cliffs and the roaning L-YW River.



Tidal-flat Farming in Taiwan: Small but highly productive family farms are common in Taiwan. Using modern methods, the Taiwanese cultivate all available land on the island, including slopes, dry riverbeds, and tital flats reclaimed from the sea.

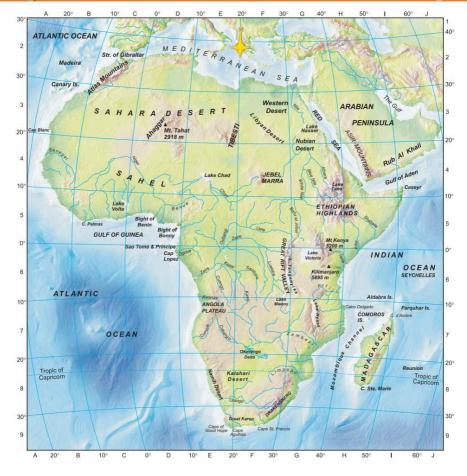


Busy Kao-haiung Harbour: A ferry boot, laden with passengers or motobiles and a femer transporting produce to merket, enters Kao-haiung harbour. Kai-Haiung's superhautral harbour. modern dock floothise, and importance as an inclustrial hub on the southwest coast make the city Taiwan's feeding port. Special size breaks for foreign investors in the industrial zone of Kaohaiung generate additional revenue and commerci.



Africa Physical







Africa Physical



Africa is the world's second largest continent after Asia. Africa covers about one-fifth of the earth's total land area. Only the artificial divide of the Suez Canal, in Egypt, separates it from the vast landmass of Asia. The West African coast curves out into the stormy waters of the Atlantic Ocean, while the East African coast is bordered by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The fertile Mediterranean coast gives way to the ranges of the Atlas Mountains in the northwest and the scorching wilderness of the Sahara, which is the world's biggest desert. The river Nile, carrying water through central Africa, has provided a lifeline to the deserts of Egypt for thousands of years.

To the south of the Sahara Desert, thin pastures and scrubs give way to the savanna also spelled savannah (grassland with widely scattered trees and shrubs). The humid region around the equator and the vast basin of the Congo River (called the Zaire river in Zaire) are covered by one of the world's last great rainforests.

East Africa is dominated by a series of cracks in the earth's crust. The Great Rift Valley runs from north to south and it has flooded in places to form a series of long, deep lakes. There are spectacular mountain ranges, too, from the Ethiopian Plateau to Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro and the snow-capped Ruwenzori Range.

Southern Africa also has its savanna regions and the dusty deserts of the Kalahari and Narnib. The southern high plateau grasslands, known as veld, end in the sheer cliffs of the Drakensberg Mountains. Further mountain ranges descend in the southwest to Cape Agulhas, the southern tip of the continent.

> Soccer Matches : Sometimes Simon and his children and friends attend soccer games. Soccer is the most popular sport in South Africa. Large crowds gather to cheer their favou teams and players.



Sahara Desert: The Sahara is the world's largest tropical desert. The landscape of this vast African desert includes mountain ranges, rocky plateaus, gravelly plains and



Kilimanjaro: A volcanic massif in northeast Tanzania. extends approximately 80 kilometres (approximately 50 miles) across the plains.



Victoria Falls: Awe-inspiring Victoria Falls plunge with a roar into a 108-metre (355 feet) deep, narrow chasm, striking the wall opposite and sending up a colossal shower of spray. Located at one of the widest points of the Zambezi, the falls span 1,700 metres (5,578 feet).



ignoring most other mammals and avoiding human

of plants. Unless attacked, gorillas are timid and peaceful.



Africa, They have a light-coloured coat covered with dark spots. They are carnivores and feed on antelopes, deer, snakes and goats. Leopards are agile and climb



African Elephant : Giant African elephants whose tusks alone can weigh more than 45 kilograms, are remarkable not only for their size but for a unique means of communication. Adults can talk to each other over vast distances using ultra-low-frequency sounds beyond the range of human hearing



Bamboo Tree: Bamboo is a kind of giant grass. It can grow as tall as a tree. Bamboo grows wild in tropical climates and warm, temperate climates, it has long narrow leaves and a straight, hollow stem with hard thick joints



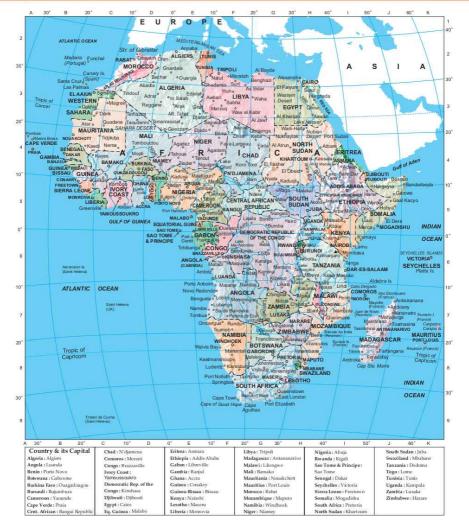


Welwitschia: The welwitschia is the only member of a family of plants. It lives in the dry, stony desert of south western Africa. Its long tap root grows down a cone-like trunk and spreads on the ground



Africa Political





Africa Political





The map of Africa shows over 50 countries, large and small. Just 50 years ago, most of these countries were ruled by powerful European nations, which became rich by exploiting their natural wealth. From the 1960's onwards African people once again began to rule their own nations, many of which have ancient histories.

Having gained independence, African leaders tried to bring about the new world they had dreamed of for so long. However, the years of foreign rule had left the continent with huge problems. Most of its people were poor, uneducated and unskilled. Colonial rule had often set one person against another and traditional homelands had been divided by new national borders. Trying to unite nations where people spoke many different languages and followed a variety of different religions was a tough job.

Many countries suffered years of dictatorship and millions of people became refugees because of war, drought and famine. White South Africans refused to give the vote to the black people who made up most of this nation's population.

Tragic news came from many African countries, including Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan. However, in 1994 hope was brought to the continent when Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president. In the 1990's many African countries started holding democratic elections and the world was reminded of the energy, goodwill and idealism of millions of ordinary African people.

Fossils found in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania tell us that the human race had its origins in this continent. We all share Africa's past and we must all hope for its future.



Village Life along the Nile: Rural life is dependent upon the contributions of family members, each of whom is expected to carry out specific duties, from helping in the fields to tending livestock.



Islamic Mosque in Tripoli: An arched passageway leads into a mosque in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, acity on the Mediterranean Sea. The mosque is one of many places of worship in Libya, where most people marticle islaim, the official religion.



Christian Traditions: Priests gainer near the town of Lalibela to mark the Feast of the Epiphany. Clergy members were widespread in Ethiopia's rural areas until 1975. Christian traditions prevail, exerting a major influence on artistic expression as well.



United by Islam: At Illizi, Algeria, Arabs and Tuaregs answer the daily call to prayer with a reading of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam. Islam came to Algeria in the 7th century with the Arabic invasion of northern



Rural Life in Morocco: Many people in southern parts of Moroccans live in houses of dried hard bricks. In other rural areas of Morocco, houses are made of wood



South African Ostrich Farm: Ostrich farming in South Africa became popular more than 100 years ago when plumes made of ostrich feathers were fashronable. Today's ostriches are raised for more than their feathers. Ostrich meat is prized for being low in fat and cholesterd. Ostrich skini is used in making strong supple



Traditional African Dancing: Marks important events in everyday life such as births, deaths and harvest time. The dancers in the picture are the Zulu people of South Africa.



Lepts Magna: Also called Lpqy, Neapolis, Lebida or Lebda to modern-day residents of Libya, was a prominent city of the Roman Empire. Its ruins are located in Rhoms, Libya, 130 km (81 mi) east of Tipoli, on the coast where the Wadi Lebda meets the sea. The site is one of the most spectacular and unspoiled Roman ruins in the Mediterranea.



African Sculpture: African sculpture includes figures, masks, decorated boxes and various other objects for religious, cemmonial and evenday use. Many early African sculptures were made of wood, bronze, ivory and a kind of earthernwan called larga cotta.

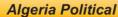


Algeria Political





Area 2,381,741 sq km Currency Algerian dinar Population 38,813,722 (July 2014 est.) Main Exports Natural gas, olive oil, wine, machinery Capital Algiers Agriculture - products Wheat, barley, oats, grapes, olives, **Highest Point** Mt Tahat (2,918 m) citrus fruits, sheep, cattle Language Arabic Main Religion Sunni Muslim Government Multi-party republic







Algeria is a large country in northern Africa. Northern Algeria stretches along the Mediterranean Sea. The country's narrow Mediterranean region has a warm climate and rich farmland. Algiers, the country's capital and a large city, lies on the Mediterranean Sea. To the south, the sunscorched wastes of Sahara cover more than four-fifths of Algeria. Beneath the surface of this desert area lie huge deposits of natural gas and petroleum. The people live mainly in the north, where the land is green and the climate more bearable. The northern cities are linked by roads. The main routes southwards are being improved to form the trans-Sahara highway.

The hardship of a life spent herding animals in the arid regions has forced many rural people into the coastal towns to find other work. Over half of all Algerians are now city-dwellers. Some live in smart, new apartment blocks, others in slums. Algeria's growing economy is based on the rich oilfields of the eastern Sahara. With profits from oil, the government has built new factories. But as yet there are not enough jobs to go around. Many people have gone abroad to work, especially to France, which ruled Algeria for 130 years and so has close ties with the country.

Since independence in 1962, Algeria has moved away from European influences. Arabic is the language of the courts and schools. Writers and artists are returning to the traditions of the Arab and Berber peoples. Most Algerians are of mixed Berber and Arab descent. The Berber people have lived in this region for thousands of years. Arab conquerors invaded the region in the AD 600's and converted the Berbers to Islam. Over the centuries some Arabs and Berber inter married, but they still form separate cultural groups, each with its own style of dress and language.



Casbah of Algiers: The Kelchaoun Mosque is one of many buildings crowded closely together in the Casbah of Algiers. The casbah is the oldest section of the city. This section was named after the Casbah (fortress) that



Forbidden Ahaggar Mountains: The desolate Ahaggar Mountains rise out of the Sahara in southeast Algeda, where temperatures often reach a scorching 50°C (122°F) in summers, and pumpe below 0° writers. The nation's highest elevations are found in the Ahaggar Mountains and the tallest of the peaks is Mount Taint at 3,000 metres (8.42° feet).



Ruined: Columns at Djemilia, near Setif, date back 2,000 years. At that time Algeria formed part of the fertile Roman province of Numidia. The fabulous ruined city now lies



Algerian Oasis: In the Sahara, date palms signal the presence of an oasis and fresh water, which rises to the surface from underground aquifers. Date palms at Ghardala, an Algerian town built in the 11th century around a sacred cave, provide welcome food and shade. Under the palms, oasis dwellers grow fruits, vegetables and grains.

Agerian Sahara: The Sahara Allas Mountains form deserts from the northern border of the Algerian Sahara, sand-dunes cover much of the northern Sahara. Other pants of the region consist of bare note, boudlers and stones. Although the Sahara covers more than 80 percent of North Arican, only about 3 per cent of percent of North Arican, only about 3 per cent of dates, citus fruits, and grains in a clated cases or travel from place to place harding lives took of the percent place to place harding lives took.



Natural Gae Production in Algeria: Near Algiera, natural gas is liquefied to reduce its volume before being exported in tankers to world markets. Natural gas is also transported from Algeria to Nagles, Italy, via fur Trans-Modifemanean pipeline for distribution. In recent decades, oil and natural gas deposts discovered in the Sahana have brought much-needed capitatio the Algerian



Trans-Saharan Highway: The Trans-Saharan Highway, which prosses the Sahara to link day, Indend Algeria with the Mediterranean Sea, has been under construction for more than two decades. Yet used strateches of the road remain unpawed. These unfinished sections are best reversed with consultant services consultant services or cannels and children seads of the Sahara make the highway difficult to maintain and are frequently impossable.



Egypt Political





 Area
 :
 1,001,450 sq km

 Population
 :
 86,895,099 (July 2014 est.)

 Capital
 :
 Cairo

 Highest Point
 :
 Jabal Katherina (2,637 m)

 Language
 :
 Arabic

Mostly Sunni Muslim, Coptic

Main Religions

 Currency
 : Egyptian pound

 Main Exports
 : Crude and refined oil, cotton and other textiles, fruits

 Agriculture-products
 : Cotton, rice, com, wheat, beans, fruits, vegetables,

cattle, water buffaloes, sheep, goats

Government : Multi-party republic







Most of Egypt is a burning, sandy desert that stretches south and west into the vast wastes of the Sahara. The river Nile flows northwards from Sudan through the baking cliffs, depressions and sand-dunes of the Libvan Desert and the Arabian Desert. Its course is marked by a narrow green strip, the result of thousands of years of flooding and irrigation. To the north the Nile spills across a coastal plain, forming a broad, fertile delta. Ships from all over the world lie at anchor in the great port of Alexandria. This is the second largest city of Egypt, founded by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. Its long waterfront and wide streets are cooled by the sea breeze. Egypt has two other historic seaports. These are Suez, on the Red Sea coast, and Port Said, on the Mediterranean Sea. They are linked by the Suez Canal. The country's eastern border, across the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula, is with Israel.

Nile is the lifeline of all Egypt's towns and cities, ancient and modern. Cairo, the capital city, is the largest in Africa. Thousands of people go there to trade, worship or study. It is a bustling, dusty city full of hooting taxis and hurrying crowds. In the shaded bazaars and cafes people meet to talk, play backgammon and drink sweet black coffee or tea. Modern hotels and office blocks rise next to beautiful old mosques and ordinary houses where the poor people of the city live.

Egypt has the oldest tourism industry in the world. Over 2,000 years ago Greeks and Romans travelled here to marvel at the country's ancient temples and tombs. They even left graffiti behind. Today many millions of tourists visit Egypt each year to enjoy wonders such as the Great Sphinx and the towering pyramids of the Pharaohs.



Red Sea at Sunset: Egypt's Sinal Peninsula juts into the Red Sea, dividing it at the north end into the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aquiba. One of the world's businst waterways, the Red Sea connects to the Mediterranean via the Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal on the west side of the Sinal Peninsula. The sea's name comes flow the red-brown aligne that give on its surface during the the side of the Sinal Peninsula.



Giza's Sphinx and the Great Pyramids: The mysterious Sphinx with Its Girs body and human head and the perfect symmetry of the pyramids at Giza are world-encowed symbols of Egypt's another heritage. The closest of the three pyramids, all of which contain royal funeral chambers, was built around 2600 BC. The imposing statue of the Sphinx was formed from fuge



Mausoleum of Aga Khan III: A domed elegant mausoleum, the final resting place of Aga Khan III, graces a slope gutside Aswan in Egypt.



Great Pryamid of Giza: Egypt's wondrous pryamids endur on the outsikins of Giza: a ply on the west bank of the Nile directly across from Cairo. Perhaps nothing symbolizes Bypt beffer ban the Great Pryamid, which was constructed over 4,500 years ago using more than 2 million hing stone blocks. Scientists believe the Great Pryamid may have been used as an astronomical instrument.



Aswan High Dam: The Aswan High Dam reins in the Nile River in southeast Egypt. Vast quantities of water back up in Lake Nassers south of the dam, which began operating in 1968 to provide Egypt with year-round water for irrigation. The dam's hydroelectric plant supplies the country with abundant low-cost electricity.



163 kilometres (about 101 miles) through Egypt, from the Medierranean Sea to fire Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. Completed in 1669, the waterway out the England-to-India sailing distance nearly in half. The canal also gained immedate strategic importance as a thoroughtan for naval vessels.



Mount Sinal: At 2,637 metres (8,652 feet), the top of Mount Sinal offers a spectacular view of the surrounding jagged peaks and steep stopes. The summa of the mountain, venerated by Jews and Christians as the site where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God Mount Sinal is near Mount Catherine.

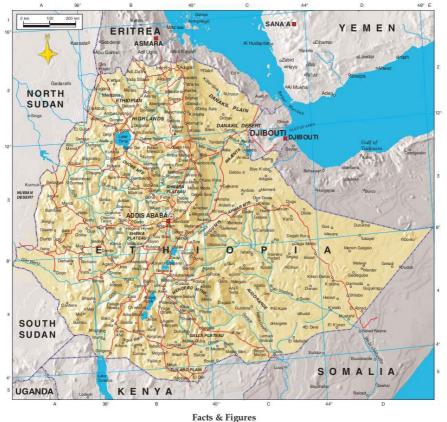


Canol Market: Egypt is known for its popular camel markets. In these open-air bizaras people buy, sell or frade camels, although horses, buils and various waves may also be bartered. Some of the young, Indenticamels are add as food, while the stronger and sturdier camels are add as food, while the stronger and sturdier once are means to carry people or parcels across the desert or between fields and forums. Until meantly, a weekly camel market was held in the imbachs section of Cairo. The market is now located about 35 kilometres (more than 20 mills) outside of town.



Ethiopia Political





Area	1	1,104,300 sq km	Currency		Ethiopian birr
Population		96,633,458 (July 2014 est.)	Main Exports	:	Coffee, hides, pulses, oil seeds
Capital	1	Addis Ababa	Agriculture - pr	roduct	s: Cereals, pulses, coffee, oilseeds,
Highest Point	:	Ras Dashen (4,620 m)			sugarcane, potatoes, qat, hides,
Language	1	Amharic, Oromigna, Tigrinya			cattle, sheep, goats
Main Religions	009	Orthodox Jelam Protectant	Covernment	34	Multi-party republic

traditional

54







Ethiopia is a hot and mountainous country with all kinds of wildlife, including giraffes, leopards, antelopes, elephants, rhinoceroses, lions and baboons. The central region consists of a high, rocky plateau which covers about two-thirds of the country. It comprises mainly of rich, fertile grassland rising to craggy (high, steep, sharp or rugged mass) peaks. This plateau is split in two by the Great Rift Valley, a long scar in the earth's crust that stretches all the way from Syria southwards to Mozambique. The highlands are the coolest part of the country and this is where most of the farming in Ethiopia takes place. The lowland regions that circle the plateau are hot and dry, giving way to scorching deserts along the Djibouti border. Addis Ababa is the capital city of Ethiopia.

Most Ethiopians are farmers in the highlands and live in round, wooden houses with conical, thatched roofs. They use wooden ploughs, pulled by oxen to prepare the land for sorghum, teff and maize, which are the main food grains. Crops that are grown for sale or export include coffee, oil-seeds, pulses and sugar-cane. Many farmers struggle to survive because of the severe droughts that plague this hot, dusty country.

A number of different people live within the borders of Ethiopia. Between them they speak about 80 different languages and dialects. The people fall into two main language groups. The Semites live in the northern and central parts of the country and include the Amhara and Tigre. The Cushites live mainly in the southern and eastern areas.

Ethiopia has one of the oldest civilizations in Africa. Legends say that Menelik, the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, ruled here around 1000 BC. A powerful and prosperous Arab nation called Aksum had grown up by AD 100. In AD 330 it became Christian and from the Middle Ages onwards Ethiopia was ruled by Christian emperors.



Ethiopia's Highest Point: At 4,620 metres (15,158 feet), Ras Dashen Terara is the tallest peak in Ethiopia and among the highest points on the African continent.



Wheat Harvest: Ethiopian farmers harvest wheat in contral Ethiopia. The Ak'sh' district near Adds Ababa is one of the few tarm areas in the country that produces a supuls. Although much of Ethiopia is fertile, only a small portion of the land is farmed, generally with traditional methods. In addition to wheat farmers grow continued sugarcane, oilseeds, maize, barley, sorghum, cotton and a rain called train.



Lalibela's Rock Churches: In the 12th century King Lalibela of Ethiopia constructed a series of 11 churches of pure rock. Their tops are at ground level, and each structure is surrounded by a trench 12 metres (40 feet) deep. Pligitims and tourists come from all over the world to marvel at the churches or b take part in various religious



Oryx: Onyx are antelope. There are three species of Oryx, two of which are endangered. Two species are found in the desert areas of Africa. The Anabian Oryx is the rarest species and lives in the deserts of Saudi Arabia. The Oryx has a short mane, a hump at the shoulders and lame hooves.



Tisissat Falls: From Lake Tana in northwest Ethiopia, the widers of the Blue Nile travel about 32 kilometres before plunging over specioular Tisissat Falls. The Blue Nile arcs to the southeast from Lake Tana, then flows west find Sudan, and finally north to Khartoum, where it morges with the White Nile. There, the two rivers come logother into the mightly Nile.



Ancient Fortress: The ruins of Fasilities, an ancient palace, lie within the fortified velas is Gonder, a historicity in the highflands of northwest Ethiopia. Set on a rocky ridge in Gonder Kiffe Happe, Gonder was the capital of the Abyssinian or early Ethiopian, empire from this and the St. Its architecture was heavily influent and Portuguises traders, and many buildings strongly resemble European medieval brires ses.



Simien Mountains: The fourth highest mountain range in the African confinent he Simen Mountains are located in north-western comer of Ethiopia According to an ancient Greek might, tits mountain is "the chess table of gods." The mountain is home for some endemic widths and briefly species. The Simen are remarkable as being one of the few spots in Africa where srow recolator balls.



Addis Ababa City Hall : The Addis Ababa City Hall houses the offices of the Municipality of Addis Ababa Along with Africa Hall, the UNECA headquarters, the Addis Ababa city hall was one of the two projects designed to demonstrate, in the words of Emperor Halla Selassia.











Libya is an Arab country in Northern Africa. It lies on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The country is bordered by Egypt and Sudan on the east, Chad and Niger on the south and, Algeria and Tunisia on the west. Tripoli, Libya's capital and largest city, lies along the Mediterranean Sea. Modern highrise buildings are common in the city's area. About 90 per cent of Libya consists of the dunes of the Sahara Desert. The eastern section of the Sahara, which crosses into Egypt and Sudan, is called the Libyan Desert. There are scattered oases. At the large oasis of Al Kufrah, a huge underground water supply lies beneath the desert rock.

The semi-desert regions provide sparse grazing for sheep, goats, cattle camels. The only natural farmland is along the Mediterranean coast. On the northwestern plains and the northeastern highlands, farmers use mainly traditional methods to grow pulses, vegetables, and fruits such as oranges, olives, almonds, and grapes.

The Berber people were the original inhabitants of this land and today almost all Libyans are of Berber and Arab descent. In ancient times trading ships and war galleys brought people living along the Mediterranean to Libya. The Phoenicians settled in the northwest and the Greeks in the east. The Romans conquered the whole coast, shipping wheat and fruit to Italy from their African estates.

The Arabs invaded in the AD 600s, bringing Islam to North Africa. For a long period the country was split between Tunisia and Egypt. In the 1500s, it became part of the Turkish empire, but Arab rulers still had local power. Italy seized control and ruled the country from 1911 until 1943. During World War II, Britain defeated Italian and German armies in the Libyan Desert. As a result, Britain and France briefly shared control of Libya. Libya gained independence in 1951 and Idris-I became king.



Libyan Desert Oasis: A herder watches over sheep near the Kufrah oasis in the Sahara of Libya. Fossis and rock paintings reveal that the Sahara may have had a wetter climate thousands of years ago. It is believed that grasslands and streams covered the area, allowing elephants, giraffes, antelepes, ostriches, and other cereate to bit in the extense.



Libyan Oil: in 1973 the Libyan government select control of the country's cheff resource, oil and nationalised the assets of most foreign oil companies operating in the country. All now perfolem ventures misst now give a controlling interest to the Libyan government. With soil earnings, the North Artican nation makes available many social services, including free education and medical zero.



Tadrat Acasus: The nock-art stes of Tuchart Acasus can be found in the southwest region of Ubya, each of Child. The remains of many prehistoric communities are scattered throughout the Tadrat Acasus mountains range, including hundread of samples of well-preserved rock paintings and rescools. In 1985 the UM Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) designated this area a World Heritago Site.





Roman Ruins at Leptis Magna: Stately ruins of the ancient city of Leptis Magna in Libya attest to a fine at 500 years of Roman occupation. Located east of modern Topols on the Guil of Sidra Leptis Magna so funded around the end of the 6th century BC. Better as became a Roman city, if was a Phoenician Intelligent Statement. Many of these ancient buildings are made of limestone and decorated with green, bluegrey and of limestone and decorated with green, bluegrey and

nink marble



Nomadic Tuareg: Wrapped in a blue neil, a Tuareg man rides a camel near the northwest Libyan town of Ghadames. A nomadic Muslim minority, Tuaregs are encamped in various localities throughout the Sahara and norther Africa. Among the Tuaregs, inheritances and traditions such as luit-playing are passed down by



Addax: Only a few thousand of this rare desert antelope still exist in the Sahara, scattered in isolated populations from Maurisania to Sudan. An addax, can go weeks without water and can withstand temperature as high as 46°C (115°F). Its broad hooves and flat soles are adapted to walking on sand.

Mediterranean Monk Seal: Among seals and sea lons, only the monk seals inhabit waters that are warm the year anound. The Caribbean manks seal is believed to be extinct, and while the Hawaiian and Mediterranean species are considered extremely ranker. Fever than 50 Mediterranean monk seals, Monachus monachus, may remain, widely calitated among rocky jetels and may remain, widely calitated among rocky jetels and year. Allow, Like the young of most seals, monk seal pupe grow rapidly By the age of the or or seeks, if shock is black worldy infant coaft siding on an allwar-gray coaft and begins feeding on its own a few weeks if shock and begins feeding on its own a few weeks if shock worldy infant coaft siding on an allwar-gray coaft and begins feeding on its own a few weeks later.



Madagascar Political





Main Exports Coffee, cloves, vanilla, sugar, sisal, shrimps Capital Antananarivo Agriculture-products : Coffee, vanilla, sugarcane, cloves, cocoa, **Highest Point** Maromokotro (2,876 m) rice, cassava (tapioca), beans, bananas, Languages French, Malagasy, English peanuts, livestock products Main Religions Indigenous beliefs, Christian, Islam Multi-party republic Government

Madagascar Political





Madagascar is an African country made up of one large island and many tiny nearby islands. Antananarivo is the capital as well as largest city of Madagascar. Madagascar lies in the Indian Ocean about 240 miles (386 kilometres) south-east of the African mainland. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. In the east, forested mountain slopes rise from a narrow coastal strip fringed with rocks and reefs. Inland are cool, high plateaus which, in many places, have been stripped bare of natural vegetation. Precious hardwood trees have been felled for fuel and to clear land for farming. The hot and humid western lowlands gradually give way to arid scrub in the south. Most people live in the central region or along the east coast of the island. The coastal areas often suffer from destructive cyclones.

Madagascar separated from the African mainland about 160 million years ago and many of the animals on the island evolved into species not seen anywhere else on the earth. Tragically, human settlement and the loss of the forests of the island means that today its soil is the most eroded in the world and no fewer than 127 animal species are considered to be endangered.

Most of the people depend on agriculture, though only five per cent of the land can be farmed. People of Madagascar grow rice, sweet potatoes and cassava for food. They raise cattle in the west of the island and fish in the rivers and lakes as well as the sea. Factory workers pack meat, brew beer and refine sugar. Madagascar has rich deposits of graphite, chromite and semi-precious stones such as beryl and garnet. Offshore reserves of oil may point to a more prosperous future, but so far these have not proved to be worth exploiting commercially.



Ring-tailed Lemur: The ring-tailed Lemur spends much of its time on the ground, it inhabits the woodlands and forests of southwest Madagascar, where it subsists largely on wild figs and other fruits.



Betsimisaraka of Madagascar: The lush forests of eastern Madagascar are a vital part of the culture of the Betsimisaraka people. Outrigger canoes provide an efficient form of transport along the coast of this tropical land, where annual rainfall can total 2,032 millimetres (30 inches).



Sakalava of Western Madagascar: The Sakalava are a widely dispersed people, extending along the full length of western Madagascar. In this dry climate, the thorny trees and wide-open woodlands demand a judicious use of



car refer to only in the completely isolated rain forests of Borneco and northern Sumatra. Swinging gracefully through the brair dead in lowland swamps, where they feed on fruits, leaves, flowers, stems, and insects.



Noncoming the Dead: The people of Matagascar tele to their island as "holy ground" because it holds the bodies of their ancestors. They take great care to honour their dead. Tombs like these are prepared according to strict rules.



Orangutan: The reddish-brown orangutan is found

Madagascar's Agricultural Economy: Viewed from a nearby hiltige, a farm valley in Madagascar appears as a swird of vind greens. Agriculture forms the base of Madagascar's economy, employing four-fifths of the people. In this sladen alson of Affacts southeast coast, the bast soil is in the northern region, which is separated from the rest of the country by mountains. Madagascar is the world's largest producer of vanilla beans and cloves, and it six exports coffee, sugar, and sixal.



Indri: On the island of Madagascar, the forestdwelling lemur indri is regarded as sacred, believed to be a human transformed after death. Nearly extinct this black-and-white mammal lives in smaller large groups, marking its territory with its deafening screams and barks



Southern Africa Political





So	uth Africa	Namibia		Botswana		Zimbabwe	
	: 1,219,090 sq km : 48,375,645 (July 2014 est.) : Pretoria : Champagne Castle (3,375m) : IsiZulu, IsiXhosa	Population Capital Highest Point	: 824,292 sq km : 2,198,406 (July 2014 est.) : Windhoek : Brandberg (2,580m) : English, Afrikaans	Area Population Capital Highest Point Language	: 581,730 sq km : 2,155,784 (July 2014 est.) : Gaborone : Otse Mt (1,489m) : English	Population Capital Highest Point	390,757 sq km 13,771,721 (July 2014 est.) Harare Mt Inyangani (2,595 m) English, Shona
	Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, North Sotho, South Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana	Main Religion	Salara Marana Roma Salara Salara	And the second	s: Christianity, Badimo : Pula	Main Religions	Christianity, traditional beliefs
Main Religions		Main Exports	Diamonds, uranium, fish products, meat products, livestock	Main Exports	: Diamonds, copper, nickel, meat and meat products	Currency	Multiple. Due to inflation multiple currencies are used for transactions in Zimbabwe
Main Exports	: Gold, metals, diamonds, food products, machinery	Government	: Multi-party republic	Government	: Multi-party republic	Main Exports	Tobacco, iron alloys, gold, nickel, cotton, steel
Government :	: Multi-party republic					Government	Multi-party republic







South Africa is a land of great scenic beauty with dramatic cloud-topped mountains, steep-sided valleys and vast, dusty plains. In its national parks endangered species such as elephants and rhinoceroses are actually increasing in number. Along the east coast are sandy bays and above them pineapples, oranges and mangoes flourish in the warm, sunny climate. In the south are forests of cedar, while on the northwest borders parched scrub gives way to desert. Cape Town, South Africa's legislative capital and oldest city, lies at the foot of Table Mountain. Pretoria is South Africa's administrative capital. The country attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists from around the world every year.

A wealth of minerals is buried in the rocks of South Africa. It was the discovery of diamonds and gold that attracted a rush of European fortune-hunters in the late 1800's. The Europeans conquered the African people or bought their lands. They dug mines and made South Africa the richest and most highly developed country in the continent. Yet the wealth benefited only a minority because in 1950 the white government brought into force the policy of apartheid (racial segregation). This separated blacks from whites and refused them equal rights. Almost the whole world spoke out against the cruelty of this regime, which left millions of people in abject poverty. The democratic elections of 1994 gave South Africa a majority black government, which brought hope and a new sense of co-operation to all its ethnic groups.

For many visitors the first sight of South Africa is the beautiful city of Cape Town. Right at the tip of the continent, it shimmers beneath the dramatic backdrop of the Table Mountain. Most of the coast is overlooked by mountains, the towering Drakensberg range rising steeply in the east. The wilderness of the Namib Desert borders the mighty northwest coast.



Nelson Mandela: After years of political vicience, South Africa's long history of oppression and apartheid ended with the election of Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president. The occasion marked the first time in South Africa's history that the government was not dominated by the witte minority.



Cape Town's Parliament Building: As the legislative coupled of South Arics. Cape Town when the nation 3 of southerd South Arics. Cape Town when the nation 3 of southerd South Arics as far the electron. Roll of the south Arics as far the electron. Roll of the Arics and South Arics as far the electron. Roll of the Arics and Arics are also the electron when the Arics are also the south Arics are also the southerd are also forms to "Eurika". The Houses of Parliament are also forms to "Eurika" that 21.5-cant diamond that sparked the South Arics and diamond rash when it was discovered on the bank of the Cange River in the South Arics.



Lion of Kruger National Park: It is a world-famous game reserve, where elephants, leopards, lions, zebras and other animals roam freely in the park. Kruger National Park is South Africa's most popular lourist attraction.



Mining for Gold: In the dim light and camped passageway of a South African mine, workers go about the grimy business of extracting gold from the earth. Gold ware discovered in the Transvala the late 19th century, and the precious metal has played a key tole in the nation's burgeoring economy very since, wealth of important minerals, and metals, shoulding coper, silver, fin and diamonds.



South African Ethnic Groups: South Africa's multisertic population is predominarily black African. Only 13 per cent of the country's population is white with Asian and coloured (people of African, Conty 13 per cent of the country's population is white with Asian and coloured (people of Africans belong to him distinct ethnic groups: Zulu, Xhocan, Pedi, Softh, Tawana, Tionga, Swazi, Nabede and Venda, The Zulu, the largest of these groups, comprise about 22 per cent of the total population coultraineding the whitee by a considerable margin: each of the Biske dethnic groups.



Black-Backed Jackal: People prize the black-backed jackal of Africa for its fur. This jackal is more attractive than the common Jackal.

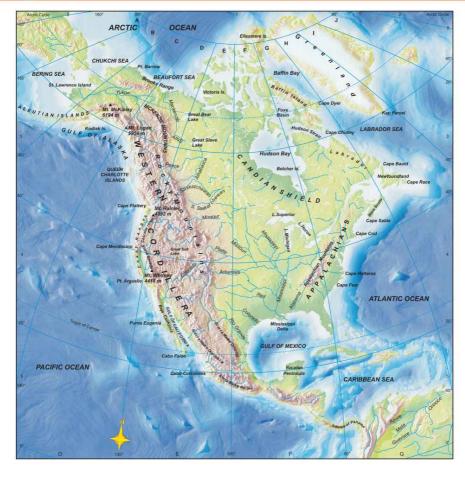


Kruger National Parks: Kruger National Parks is one of the largest game reserves in Affail. It covers an ear of 19.633 square kilometres (7,500 sq m) in the provinces of Limpop and Mpumalanga in ordineasters of Limpop and Mpumalanga in rordineasters of the west and south of the Kruger National Parks are the two South Affaica in privinces of Limpop and Mpumalanga. In the north is Zimbabwe, and to the easts is Mozandhine.



North America Physical







North America Physical



North America has a total land area of over 24 million square kilometres, making it the third largest continent after Asia and Africa. It is shaped like a giant triangle, narrowing at the base to form a thin strip of land that joins the continent to South America. This strip contains the countries of **Central America**. The North American continent also includes Greenland and many islands dotted across the **Caribbean Sea**.

The far north extends well above the Arctic Circle and is a frozen, treeless land. The continent's highest mountain, **Mount McKinley**, lies to the north in Alaska. The extreme south has both dry deserts and lush rainforests, with tropical vegetation covering many of the Caribbean islands. In between lie the forests of Canada and the northern United States of America. To the east the five **Great Lakes** (Superior, Huron, Erie, Ontario and Michigan) form part of the continent's water drainage system. **Prairies** span the centre of North America.

Most North American deserts lie in the southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. One vast dry area reaches from southern Idaho and Oregon into Mexico. It includes the Great Basin, the Mojave Desert and Death Valley (driest place) and the Sonoran Desert.

The wide range of climates on this continent means that it is home to numerous types of plants and animals. Only the far north is too cold to support much in the way of plant life, although polar bears, Arctic wolves, Arctic ground, squirrels, reindeer, Arctic fox, and various lemmings survive in the snowy surroundings.

Thick forests cover much of Canada and the northern USA. Animals such as raccoons and skunks are unique to the North American woodlands



Mount McKinley Reaches for the Sky; Alsaks's Mount McKinley, sits called Denal, or the high one is the tallest mountain in North America, soaring 6;194 metres (20;20 feet) above seen level. During the summer, the sum shines for 18 to 20 hours per day in this northern region; and Mount McKinley of less in a sumise that takes place around 4:00 am in the summer. In the area surranding Mount McKinley, of less far are rich with a variety of wildlife, including grizzly bears, moose, wolves, and foxes.



Sonoran Desert, Arizona: The saguano (Cereus gignateus), nalve to Mexico, Calibrira, and Arizona, grows in the warm and sunny Sonoran Desert near Phoenix and Tucson. The saguano mides up for its slow start by fiving upto 150-200 years. It grows only to 1.5 inches about during its first tray years, after which it adds about 10 contimeters (about 4 inches) coch year, reaching a holgh of 2 16 3 meters (6.5 to 10 feet), A malum saguaro may be 15 metres (50 feet) tall, and can grow to a height of 18 meters (60 feet) tall, and can grow to a height of 18 meters (60 feet).



Spring in Death Valley: Death Valley in California and Nevada is a desert final gets less than 50 millimetres (less than 2 inches) of rain per year and is one of the hottest places on the earth. A temperature of 56.7°C (134°F) has been recorded here. Yet plants and arimats manage to live in Death Valley, fed marrly by underground springs and a few streams.



Magnificent Lake Superior: The largest body of fresh water in the world, Lake Superior is the farthest north and west of the five Great Lakes. Shared by the United States and Canada, it is also the highest of the five, at 183 metres (600 feef) above sea level. Its deepest point is at 400 metres (1:300 feef).



Mississippi Farmland: One of the most beautiful areas of the upper Mississippi Filver system is where the niver marks the border between Wisconsin and lowa. The region's rich farmland results from soils and minerals left by advancing and retreating glaciers over tens of thousands of wars.



Golden Gate Bridge: The Golden Gate Bridge which is 1,280 metres (4,200 feet) long, marks as one of the world's longest bridge. With the blue waters of the Poolic to the west and seen is 38 Francisco Bey He be east, the bridge remains unsurpassed for its beautiful setting. Spanning the Golden Gate start, the building connects San Francisco Bey Gate start, the countries of California.



Raccoon: The raccoon, inhabits forests, scrubs, fields, and welfands across. North America, from southern Canada to Panama, and in parts of Europe, where the species has been introduced. It never strays for from water, in which it searches with its destroaus and sensitive forepaws for crayfish, frogs, and anything else that is editible.

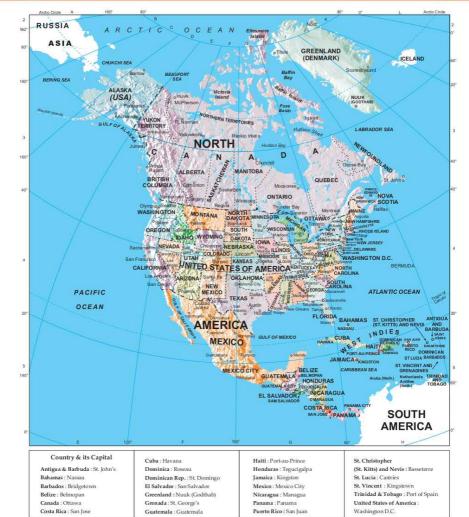


Spotted Skunk: Few animals who wind up on the receiving end of a skunk's anger ever cross it again. When threatened, the rodent aims its noxious anal gland secretions at the face of its attacker, hitting targets up to 6 matres (19.7 feet) away.



North America Political





North America Political



The enormous North American continent includes countries with all kinds of cultures, languages and economies. These very different countries have one thing in common—they were all controlled by a European power at one time. The countries of the North American mainland are now independent, but European links continue on some islands. Greenland (the largest island in the world) is still officially part of Denmark while the islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, off Canada's east coast, are governed by the French. Britain, France and the Netherlands lay claim to a number of the Caribbean islands.

The United States of America (USA) has the largest population and the most developed economy of any North American country. Mexico has the next strongest economy, followed by Canada. In 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement came into operation between these three countries. This created the world's largest area of free trade (countries trading with each other without restrictions).

Most other Central American and Caribbean countries are much poorer, with a small number of people often controlling what wealth there is. This situation has frequently led to periods of revolution and war. In some cases countries have been controlled by the army. Over the years millions of people have left Central and South America as well as the Caribbean and moved to the USA or Canada. Large numbers still enter these countries, often illegally. The fastest-growing regions of the USA are the southern states that receive most of these immigrants, although these states are popular anyway because of their warm climate.

The **White House** in the capital city of Washington D.C. is the official residence of the President of the USA. Many of the people who live in the city work for the US government.



Home to Presidents of the United States: Gracing more than 7 hectares (more than 17 acres) of sweeping lawn on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., the White House has been the home of every U.S. President since John Adams, Philadelphia archited Lames Hoban, an designed the Georgian-style beautiful grey sandstone building.



United Nations Headquarters: The landmark buildings of the United Nations (UN Start allongside the East Rive in New York City. The fail Secretaris Building and the white General Assembly Building are two of the four main structures that make up the UN's centre of operations. Established in 1945, the UN moved into its New York headquarters in the autumn of 1952, and the majority of the world's nations are now members. The opparation's goal is the preservation of peace and human dentity.



Yosemile Falls: With a drop of 740 metros (7-255 feet). Yosemile Falls is the lallest wanterful in North Falls: in the lallest wanterful in North America. Like most waterfuls in mustainuss regions, if developed where a glocker despender a major rank valley, kening hanging a less-ended branch valley. The always impressive Yosemile Falls is most spectacular in late spring when it guides with melted snow. More than 100 years old; Yosemile Halling allest remains one of the most popular parks in the United States with more than 4 million visibres annually.



Native Americans of Washington State: Insoft Native Americans perform the First Salmon ceremony with traditional tribal music. Located near the city of Marysville in northwestern Washington State, the Tulalip Indian Reservation extends from Poir Gardner in the past of Everett into the waters east of Camano Island.





Anaheim's Best-known Landmark: Disneyland, one of the world's most famous burist attractions, opened in 1955 in Anaheim, California, southeast of Los Angeles. This Orange County amusement park bears the signature that made Wald Disney's movies his: animated fantasy and heartwarming characterisation.



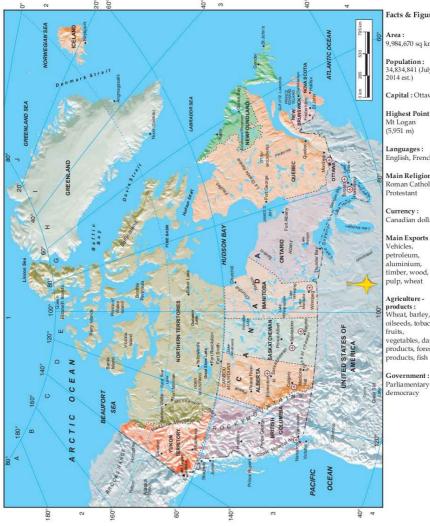
Jefferson Memorial: The Jefferson Memorial honours the man who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, the nation's third president, and the first U.S. Secretary of State.



Ancient Pueblos: The southwestern region of the United Status is dotted with ancient Native American communities called pueblos. Pueblo buildings are flat-rocfed structures that resemble today's apartment houses. Made of adobe (sun-baked mud-and-straw brick) or sometimes stone, pueblos are several storeys high.

Canada Political





Facts & Figures

Area: 9,984,670 sq km

Population: 34,834,841 (July 2014 est.)

Capital: Ottawa

Highest Point : Mt Logan (5,951 m)

Languages: English, French

Main Religion : Roman Catholic, Protestant

Currency: Canadian dollar

Main Exports: Vehicles, petroleum, aluminium, timber, wood, pulp, wheat

Agriculture -products : Wheat, barley, oilseeds, tobacco, fruits. vegetables, dairy products, forest

Government: Parliamentary democracy

Canada Political



Canada is the second largest country in the world after Russia. Its northern lands reach deep into the frozen Arctic, but the majority of the population lives in the south, close to the border with the United States of America. The country consists of ten provinces and three territories. It is full of contrasts, from fishing villages scattered along the Atlantic coast to major centres such as the Frenchspeaking city of Montreal. The central plains form an immense grain-growing area, while rain-washed forests border the Pacific Ocean. Canada was once a farming nation. Agriculture is still important, but now the country is highly industrialised and produces all kinds of manufactured goods.

The name Canada probably comes from kanata, an Iroquois Indian word that means village or community. The country itself has become a collection of different communities. Many people are of British or French origin and the country is officially bilingual (both English and French are spoken and written). Almost all Canadians are of European descent. Indians and Eskimos, the original people of Canada, make up about 2 per cent of the nation's population. The word Eskimo comes from an Indian word meaning eaters of raw meat. However, the Eskimos call themselves Inuit, which means people.

Canada is a rich country. Most of its wealth comes from developing what occurs naturally-trees, fish, oil, natural gas, minerals and water. It is the world's largest exporter of oil, gas, mineral products, chemicals, area, metals and food products. Nearly 900,000 jobs depend on the forest industry. Besides being rich in all kinds of fish, the waters of Canada's huge lakes and rivers are used to produce electricity.



the Mist, which takes visitors to the foot of Niagara Falls. guests are issued raincoats to protect them from the spray that results from 150 million litres (41 million gallons) of in the 1800's. The original inhabitants of Canada's water per minute rushing over the falls. More than nine west were skilled carvers, as their elaborate totem times as much water flows over Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side than over Niagara Falls on the United



Horseshoe Falls, Canada: Aboard the small Maid of Indigenous Peoples of Canada: The "Ksan Indian Village in Hazelton, British Columbia, is a reconstruction of a traditional Gitksan village that stood on the site poles show.



Racing in the Snow: All of Chicoutimi tums out for the annual winter carnival, which includes an exciting horsedrawn sled race. Winter sports are extremely popular in Quéhec Province which boasts of world-famous ski sorts in the Laurentian Mountains, north of Montréal



Evergreen Timberline: Canada's northern evergreen forest is a vast coniferous forest of white and black spruce, balsam fir, larch, and birch trees. Only Russia has a larger continuous stretch of evergreen coniferous Winters in northern Canada are severe and long



Canada's Golden Waves of Grain : A large portion of southern Saskatchewan is covered with wheat fields such as this one in the Qu'Appelle river valley east of Regina, Saskatchewan contributes about half of Canada's total production of wheat, and it is the province's leading



Grandeur of Notre-Dame Basilica : thmuch omate stained class windows hathes the lavish interior of Montréal's Notre-Dame Basilica.



Parliamentary Presence in Ottawa: The copper-clad rooftops and lowers of Canada's Parliament Buildings overlook Rideau Canal, which stretches around 200 kilometres (124 miles) between Ottawa and Kingston. Begun in 1859 and opened for the first sessions of Parliament eight years later, the buildings were nearly consumed by fire in 1916.



Prosperous Toronto: The freestanding spire of the CN Tower soars above the gleaming high-rise structures of Toronto's striking skyline. Perched on the northwestern shore of Lake Ontario, Toronto developed rapidly after the opening of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1959. Today it is an important international shipping port and Canada's largest city. Toronto is also known as a favoured film making site, regularly playing host to Hollywood movie stars and crews.



Mexico, Central America & Caribbean





Mexico Facts & Figures

Area: 1,964,375 sq km

Population: 120,286,655

(July 2014 est.)

Capital: Mexico City

Highest Point: Citlaltepetl (Pico de

Orizaba) (5,636 m)

Language: Spanish, Mayan,

Nahuatl

Main Religion: Roman Catholic,

Protestant

Currency: Mexican Peso

Main Exports: Manufactured goods,

oil and oil products, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee,

cotton

Agriculture - products: Corn, wheat,

soybeans, rice, beans, cotton, coffee, fruit, tomatoes; beef, poultry, dairy products; wood products

Government: Federal Republic

Mexico Political



Mexico has been influenced by a rich mixture of traditions and cultures. These range from the country's own early civilizations, such as the Mayan, Toltec and Aztec, to Spanish and modern American ways of life. Almost 90 per cent of today's population belongs to the Roman Catholic Church, which the Spanish introduced in the 1500's. Also Spanish is the country's official language. Mexico city is the capital and largest city of Mexico. It is also one of the largest cities in the world. Mexico's landscape is unusually varied. Within short distances of one another, there are tropical coastal lowlands, high mountains, volcanoes, and parched desert, as in Sonoran. A great river in the north, the Rio Grande, forms over half the border between Mexico and the USA. Large numbers of Mexican people go to the USA in search of work and cross this river to get there. Mexico is rich in minerals. It is one of the world's leading silver producers. The country also has large deposits of copper, gold, lead, salt, timber and sulphur. Corn is the chief food of Mexico. The corn is ground into corn meal and then shaped into a thin pancake called a tortilla.

Many young people from rural areas have moved to Mexico City to find work. As a result, some villages are almost empty and the capital is growing at a fast pace. Over 21 million people live in and around this city today. It is growing too fast to provide for all of its population. Many people live in slums and have no work. However, a lot of new factories are springing up along Mexico's border with the USA, creating jobs for workers in the car and electronics industries.

The majority of Mexicans are mestizos (a mixture of Spanish and Native Americans). Many villagers still speak one of the Native American languages. The country's festivals reflect traditions that are 5,000 years old. Most Mexicans, however, live in large cities where influences from the USA and Europe are transforming their everyday life.



Maize Harvest in Mexico: After the maize harvest near Amecameca de Juinez in central Mexico, farmers gather the dried staks and stack them. Or use as livestock footder, Although maize is the traditional mainstay of the Mexican dict, beans, squash, stawbern, and other crops are also produced by the country's large number of subsistence farms.



Spiritual Centre in the Mountains: Nested in the Meseta Central de Chiapas, the wilage of San Juan Chamula is dominated by its church, which symbolises this community's spiritual importance to the region's thousands of athoic Chamulas.



Aztec Pyramid of Santa Cecilia Acatitlán: Northwest of Mexico City, the small pyramid in Santa Cecilia Acatitlán is the only completely intek Aziec temple in existence. Although its age is unknown, it predates the 14th-century Aztec capital of Tenochitilán, the site that later became Mexico City.



Courting Danger in the Bultring: A bullfajter faces a charging bull in Plaza de Toros Oriente in San Miguel de Allende. Bullfighting has been staged in Mexico with much pageantly and speciacle since the 16th century. It is both an at form and a popular enlettainment. Considered a World Hentage site, San Miguel si a chaming dity. The bulling is the oldest in



Monuments to Totec Glory: Reclining between two enormous separats, the famous "charmoot" figure wats to receive differings in the Temple of the Warriors at Chechen Itză. The ruins are a fisscripting remnant of the religious centre and capital established here by the Totlecs after their 10th-century defeat of the Mayans.



Sinking Palace: Construction of the magnificent Palacio de Ballas Artes, or Palace of Fine Arts, began in 1905 but was not completed until 1934. The huge marble structure cost what was then an enormous sum: U.S.\$15 million. Because of the building's weight, it has sunk 4.5 metres (15 feet) into Mexico City's soft ground.



Holy Week in Moxico: A Good Friday procession truels intrough a Nexo City south ording folly Week, a sedemn time of neligious observance throughout Mexico. In the past, during the Holy Week, rised was forticidan and attandance was required at all religious functions. On Holy Trunchy, three days before Easter, worstippos had in silence, and on Holy Sturday, an effigy of Judas, the betrayer of Jesse Cfrist, was burned.



Ossaca's Santa Domingo Church: Bull in the 1570 by the Spanish, one of the finest and highly cramate the Santa Domingo Church in Ossaca stands as a prominent example of the architecture of its day. The finest development of the santa-facture of its day of the santa of Ossaca on Mesco's southern Paiche coast. Ossaca is famous of the interfact of the state of Ossaca on Mesco's southern Paiche coast. Ossaca is famous of the interfact of the state of the santa of the santa



USA Political





Facts & Figures

Aros

9,826,675 sq km

Population:

318,892,103 (July 2014 est.)

Capital:

Washington DC

Highest Point :

Mt McKinley (6,194 m)

Languages :

English, Spanish

Main Religions:

Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, other Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Islam, other or unspecified, unaffiliated

Currency: US dollar

Main Exports :

Agricultural products (soybeans, fruit, corn), industrial supplies (organic chemicals), capital goods (transistors, aircraft, motor vehicle parts, computers, telecommunications equipment), consumer goods (automobiles, medicines)

Agriculture - products :

Wheat, corn, other grains, fruits, vegetables, cotton; beef, poultry, dairy products; fish; forest products

Government:

Constitution-based federal republic; strong democratic tradition

USA Political



The United States of America (USA) is the world's fourth largest country. It stretches across North America between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, from the east to the west. It has Canada to its north and Central America to its south.

The country is divided into 50 states. Two of these are isolated from the rest—Alaska, which is on Canada's western edge and Hawaii, a chain of tropical islands in the Pacific Ocean. The USA is ruled according to its famous Constitution, a document setting out how the country is governed. It allows individual states to make some of their own laws. This helps to give each state its own special character. Washington D.C. is the capital of the USA.

No other country in the world contains so much variety within its borders, from the icebound lands of Alaska and scorched deserts of the southwest, to the wide plains in the midwest and subtropical forests of the southeast.

The population is no less varied. People from all over the world have made their homes in this country, bringing with them many different religions, customs, and languages. Most American people enjoy a standard of living that is one of the highest in the world.

Two great mountain chains dominate the east and west of the USA. In the east the Appalachian Mountains are low and covered with forest. In the west, the Rocky Mountains which include 100 separate ranges, are much higher, with many peaks reaching over 4,000 metres.

Between these two ranges, massive plains extend across the centre of the country. The northern and central parts of the plains are known as the Midwest. Drought is a problem in the north of this region. However, much of the area is fertile farmland, watered by major rivers such as the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio. These rivers are part of a water drainage system that includes the five Great Lakes in the northeast



United States Capitol: With no formal training in architecture, William Thomton won the competition for design of a new U.S. capitol building in the early 1790's. His plans amived months late, but they pleased the judges, who had found nothing acceptable among earlier



Close View of a Space Shuttle: This view of the orbiting space shuttle Altariat shows its payland: the first atmospheric laboratory for science. The first atmospheric laboratory for science. The first married suttle mission began on 12 April 1961, with the laboration from Cape Canaversi, Frodai. The shuttle sanded safely the Organister all Coverno's Are Force Base in anded safely the Organister all Coverno's Are Force Base in finel finely grown continuously, misking the United States a world leader in space technology and exportation.



lowa's Riches: Iowa's rich soils provide a fertile base for the state's traditional agricultural economy. Iowa ranks among the lop time states in the value of its agricultural exports. Unfortunately, however, recent United States familing trens indicate a more lowards large commercial farms and machines replacing manual labour, with a resulting decline in employment.



Hollywood: Hollywood, the film capital of the United States for more than half a centrur, is part of Los Angeles, a southern California megalopolis. Although many films are made on location in other places, the movie industry remains centred in Hollywood, where much of the nation's talent and many motion picture studies are concentrated.



Stably Supreme Court Building: Rows of Counthian columns grace the white match legiced of the Sureme Court building in Washington, D.C., combuding to the massive structure's decidedly classical design. The building houses the juddal branch of the nation so overment. It has been the site of many landmand decisions handed down by the nine Justices, who are appointed to imbegret the Urities States Constitution.



Michigan's Mackinac Bridge: The Mackinac Bridge in the northem state of Michigan is one of the world's longest suspension bridges, with a total span of 26.572 feed. The suspension bridge spands over the Strats of Mackinac, which connect Lake Human and Lake Michigan, the of the the Great Lakes. At the south end Michigan, the of the the Great Lakes. At the south end other safety features help the bridge withstand norther more of Sart Igenac. Massive foundations, piers, and other safety features help the bridge withstand northern Michigan's externe writer weather.



Bald Eagle: The half eagle is not really held. Its head is covered with write feathers, its fall is also white. A young bald eagle is dark brown and has scattered bight markings, it is the national bird of the USA. Considered an endangered species throughout much of North America in June 2007! was taken off the list of Endangered species as there have been sizeable increases in its population.

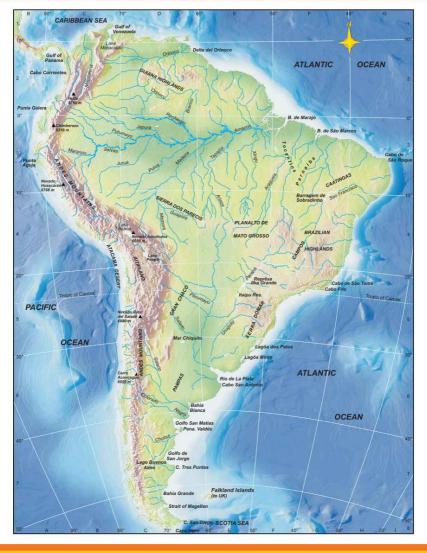


Lake Superior: The largest body of freshwater in the world, Lake Superior is the farthest north and west of the five Great Lakes. Shared by the United States and Canada, it is also the highest of the five, at 183 metres (600 feet) above sea level.



South America Physical







South America Physical



South America is the fourth largest continent. It stretches from the tropical warmth of the Caribbean Sea, off the coast of Colombia and Venezuela, to the icy and stormy tip of Tierra del Fuego, which is shared by Argentina and Chile. Between these two points are landscapes and climates of immense variety. The hot, dusty grasslands of the Pampas stretch through the cattle-ranching countries of Argentina and Uruguay. In the west are the soaring Andes Mountains, with cool, fertile valleys where coffee grows. The parched Atacama Desert of northern Chile is one of the driest places in the world. In Brazil the Amazon Basin teems with lush, green jungle. South America also has towering waterfalls, vast lakes, and rugged islands.

The Andes, the longest mountain range on Earth, form the backbone of South America. They run 7,250 kilometres down almost the whole length of the continent. Even close to the equator, snow stays on the highest peaks all year round. There are many volcanoes in the Andes. Occasionally they erupt, sending molten lava spewing over the landscape. Movement way below the surface of the earth causes the earthquakes that frequently rock this region. The Andes have rich deposits of gold, copper, and tin. In parts of Colombia, there are emeralds.

The world's second longest river begins in the Andes. The Amazon River crosses virtually the entire continent, with a network of smaller rivers feeding into it. This vast area of well-watered land is covered with the world's largest rainforest. Even today parts of the Amazon Basin have never been fully explored.



Granite Pinnacles of Patagonia: The sheer granite faces of the Torres del Paine soar nearly 2,800 metres from the Patagonian steppe. These sharp peaks, along with numerous mourtain takes and vast expanses of ice masses in Chide's Patagonia region, are remnants of the monumental broces of the last



Living in the Andes: Many Perwises live in the Andes, the rugged mountain range extending root to south finough the country's centre. Villages can be found at elevisations as high as 5,000 metrics (16,000 feet). Living conditions are rugged in the Andes, as roots are few and most homes lack electricity. The roots are few and most homes lack electricity. here. The com slage and hay are fed to the Illamas and albaces, which are meared by the Villagers.



Mighty Amazon: A thousand rivers, draining an area nearly the size of Australa, flow into the vast Amazon, the world's second longest river. A great number of the river's many tributaries have rever been explored. The Amazon flows through the earth's largest rainforest, a complex and hagile ecosystem that supports an immense variety or finant and mainst sensions.



Glant Galápagos Tortoise: This 272-kilogram (800-pound) bribise of the Galápagos lives mainly on the warm, dry lava soils near the ocean's edge. For food and water, if wanders into the inland hills along traits cut by hundreds of previous generations.



Spectacled Calman: Calman cocodius: Although smiller to disjoints and crocodies: the spectacled calman is more aggressive. Like its relatives: it kills by clutching its prey in its huge javes and dragging it underwater to it it drowns. Calmars grow up to 1.5 metres (4.9 Sed) long in the rivers of the Amazon Basin. The calman is named after the ridge across its snout that resembles the bridge of a pair of Spectacles.



Alpaca: Living in Penu at elevations between 4,000 and 4,600 meters (13,123 and 15,002 feet), alpacas are raised for their magnificent word. Alpacas and liamas are both domesticated forms of the guarance. Liamas are used for hauling, alpacas for their wool. Growing to 15, metres (4) feet) long and weighing 63 kilograms (139 pounds), alpacas are better adapted for higher elevations than flamas, although the live stocks can

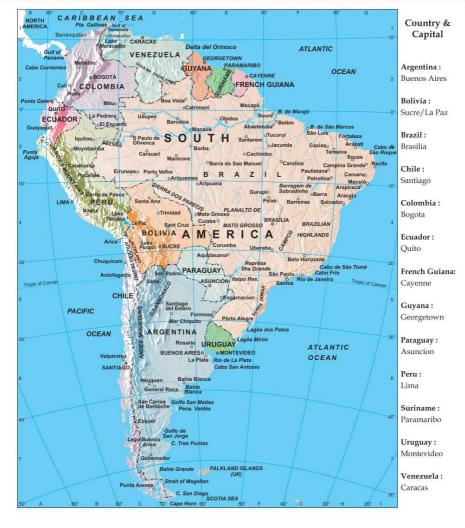


Wind Whips the Chaoo : The Gran Chaoo, a wast area west of the Rio Panguay, cover once than half of Panguay, cover more than half of Panguay, and parts of Angueria and parts of Angueria and Solivia. Believed to be an ancient sea bed, it is now an and sub-tippled region having savannas and flow forests. Selements and flow forests. Selements (2000) square miles) in ama, is virtually inhabited except for a few Memorate colonies, river selfements, and nomadic native groups. The Chaoo: and virtuals natural resource is the quebracho, or travial's resource is the quebracho, or travial's resource.



South America Political







South America Political



The Native Americans settled in this continent at least 11,000 years ago. They probably came from North America, but originated in Asia. In the Andes some of them developed sophisticated civilizations. The last and most brilliant of these were the Incas. Their civilization was destroyed in the early 1500's by conquerors from Spain. Many of the Native Americans were killed or were wiped out by that came with the European invaders diseases. Their lands were taken over, mainly by the Spanish and Portuguese. Millions of new settlers from Italy, as well as from Spain and Portugal, flooded into the continent. In the 1820's the settlers began to break away from the rule of Spain and Portugal in a series of bloody wars of independence.

During the 1800's many of the new nations prospered, but usually the settlers' descendants profited while the Native Americans stayed poor. The gap between rich and poor widened. Poverty increased after 1929, when the world economy went into decline. Strikes, riots, civil wars, corruption and greed led armies to seize power and rule by dictatorship in almost all the countries of South America at some point. In recent decades more and more South American governments have been democratically elected. There has been a general concern to preserve political stability and improve basic living conditions. The continent has a great wealth of natural resources, but earning money from them often upsets the delicate balance of nature.

South America has one of the richest varieties of wildlife in the world. In the Amazon Basin alone there are at least 80,000 different kinds of plants, 3,000 types of river fish and 1,500 species of birds, 4,000 species of butterflies. In the rainforests, large bird-eating spiders; mammals including armadillos, jaguars and sloths. A large number of reptiles; and, almost 2 million species of ants exists in this rainforest. In the rivers there are manatees, pirahds, stingrays, freshwater dolphins, giant catfish, and electric eels. Of the thousands of rainforest insects, many are yet to be identified and studied.



Valley of the Moon: Rocks and desert landscape dominate Chile's Valley of the Moon, about 17 kilometres west of San Pedro de Atacama. The vast expanse of the barren Atacama Desert, one of the world's driest regions, stretches 1000 kilometres (600 miles) and encompasses



Guyana's Kaleheur Falls: The waters of the Potaron Rever plung 255 meters (74 feet over central Guyan Rever plung 255 meters (74 feet over central Guyan Kalehur Falls, just one of the country's several spectacular waterfalls. King Erdward Will Falls bellow with a dort 255 meters (840 feet) is formed by the seminag river. King George V Falls, also called salto Orah because the plunging Rio Cath, is in a remote part of the rainbrest. Its estimated height is of 500-700 feet.



Copper Mining in Chuquicamata: Enormous copper deposts were discovered in 1910 of Chuquicamata. near the Bolivian border. The excavation was initially financed by mining comparies from the United States Today, Chile is the world's largest copper producer, and its economy depends heavily on the export of this valuable one. The Chuqui mine is expected to be



Scarlet libis: This magnificent bird nests in colonies of up to 10,000 in the trees of Venezuela and Brazil. It lives by marshes, takes and shallow coastal waters, near the frogs and fish on which it depends. With it is legs and slender sickles-shaped beak, it is beautiful in flight. Groups of libis beat their wings and rest in staggered rythm.



Devits Island: Between 1852 and 1945, lie du Diable off the French Guiana coast was a brutaf French penal colony. The island housed political prisoners, while common convicts were legel in camps in the mistres were legel in camps in the mistres will be about 1945 and 1945. The standard of Marcini, In 1946 but the last immates were not sent back by Frence until 1952. A famous film was made on the escape of a prisoner from this deathly place papillon.



Paraguay's Powerful Itajo'u Dam: Paraguay's Itajoù hydrodectric dam is the slayest in the world with 20 furthers generating more than 12,000 megawats of power. The dam is on the Rib Parami, which forms the southern, and part of the eastern, border of Paraguay A joint venture project, the dam was completed in 1982 at a cost of \$18 billion, with most of the funding supplied by the Bazalian government, Itagio produces much more power than Paraguay needs, and most of the electricity is sent for Brazil.



Bautile Excavation in Suriname: At a Dutch-owned mine in Suriname, an excavator is used to dig for bausile, the one from which aluminium is extracted. Aluming aluminium, and bausile account for as much as 85 per cent of Surinam's exports and about 90 per cent of fis tax evenues. Aluminium mining has diminished in importance in recent years, however, causing major layoffs and raising the already-fin unemployment.



Argentina Political







Argentina Political



Argentina is the second largest South American country after Brazil. Its huge area includes semi-tropical regions in the north, the icy southern tip of the continent and open plateaus and grasslands in-between. Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, is the largest city. Native Americans were the first inhabitants. They were forced into slavery or killed by the Spanish, who arrived and claimed the land as their own in the 1500's. It was the Spanish who named this land Argentina, from argento, the Latin word for silver. They believed that they would find rich deposits of silver here, but they were wrong. As it turned out, Argentina's greatest treasures were not metals, but lush, green pastures and fertile soil. This is largely an agricultural country, relying heavily on cattle and sheep farming, wheat, fruit and wine. Enticed by opportunity, millions of immigrants came to settle in Argentina over the years. Thus, the towns and cities contain people of many nationalities. Argentina has suffered severe political troubles. In 1982, the country went to war with Britain over ownership of the Falkland Islands which lie about 310 miles (499 kilometres) east of the Strait of Magellan. Argentina was defeated. Although economic problems continued, the 1990's saw a more stable political situation.

Around 500 years ago, there were probably some 300,000 Native Americans living in Argentina, from the Guarani in the subtropical northeast to the Guajira communities in the far south of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Then in the 1500's the Spanish arrived and began to take control of the country. Gradually the indigenous peoples fell victims to diseases brought by the Europeans, died in slavery or were killed in wars and massacres. Today, Argentina has only small numbers of its Native Americans, who live in remote areas.



Towering Cerro Aconcagua of the Andes : The breathtaking Cerro Aconcagua summit rises 6,960 metres (22,834 feet) to become the highest peak of the Andes and of the Western Hernisphere. Nearby, at the base of the Andes, is the thriving city of Mendoza, in the wine region of Mendoza Provices strategically situated along a century-old trade route



Argentine Pampas: The Argentine pampas, a va grassy plains region, may be the most fertile agricultural land in the world. In this economic heartland, of the country, growing grains as well as raising cattle and sheep provides farmers and ranchers with a high standard of living.



Los Glaciares National Park : In southwestern Argentina, along the border with Chile, Los Glaciares National Park comprises nearly 4,450 square kilometres (more than 1,722 square miles) of protected land. Two distinct regions are found in the park—rainforests and grassy plains to the east, and dramatic peaks, glaciers as well as snowfields to the west. It became UNESCO world Heritage site in 1980



Grand Colon Theatre : Glittering lights illuminate the tiered balconies of the Teatro Colon Theatre, the crown lewel of Buenos Aires's vibrant cultural scene. Considered one of the world's finest opera houses, the Colon Theatre regularly plays host to international ballet and opera companies. Its considered to be one of the five top-most Opera houses of the world and is a national monuments it is the home of Argentina's ational Symphony and National Ballet Company.



Flourishing Buenos Aires : Broad avenues and wellkept parks and plazas give downtown Buenos Aires a feeling of spaciousness and tranquillity. Argentina's capital and largest city, it is also the country's leading industrial centre and chief port. Lying along the southern share of a wide, funnel-shaped bay, the port of Buenos Aires handles the majority of Argentina's foreign trade. The people of this city proudly call themselves porteños or port dwellers, as many arrived by boat from Europe.



Argentina's National Dance: The tango Argentina's most famous dance, was once considered too risqué for the country's conservative tastes. Tum-of-the-century dockhands in Buenos Aires created the gliding, rhythmic dance, blending elements of Cuban and African dances The tango craze quickly swept Argentina and, soon after. North America and Europe.



been the site of major political demonstrations, including of Italia the steadfast rallies of Argentine women protesting the settled in barrios (neighbourhoods) such as La Boca, disappearance of their children during the military regime where vividly painted buildings attract tourists today. fmm 1976-1983



Historic Plaza: Buenos Aires's Plaza de Mayo has long Brightly-coloured Boca: In the 19th century, scores ns immigrated to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and



Bolivia Political





Capital Sucre/La Paz Highest Point Nevado Sajama (6,542m) Language :

Area

Population

Spanish, Quechua

10,631,486 (July 2014 est.)

Main Religion Roman Catholic Currency Boliviano

Main Exports Natural gas, oil, tin, zinc, silver, gold, coffee, sugar Agriculture - products Soybeans, coffee, cocoa, cotton, corn, sugarcane, rice, potatoes, timber Government

Multi-party republic



Bolivia Political



About one-third of Bolivia lies high in the Andes Mountains, on a dusty plateau called the Altiplano. The weather there is bright, cool and mainly dry. The highest mountain peaks are capped with snow throughout the year. Bolivia has two capitals, La Paz and Sucre. La Paz, the largest city and the centre of government, is considered to be the main capital. It stands on the Altiplano plain at a height of about 6,402 metres. This makes it the world's highest capital and visitors arriving from lower regions often feel quite breathless and dizzy because of its thin air. Sucre is the legal capital, where the country's main law courts are situated.

To the east, the weather is warm and humid. There, the Andes drop away through tropical rainforests to the Amazon Basin. In the well-watered river valleys, farmers grow tropical crops such as coffee, sugar-cane, pineapples, bananas, and avocados. Cocoa, the plant from which the drug cocaine is made, is also grown. The country's forests supply large quantities of timber, such as mahogany and balsa wood, as well as rubber (which comes from tree sap), and brazil nuts. The bark of the chinchona yields quinine, which is used to treat malaria and is an ingredient of tonic water.

In the southeast of Bolivia lies the Gran Chaco, a vast area of swamps, tangled scrub, and dry grasslands, where herds of cattle graze. The oil and natural gas found in this area are sent by pipeline to Argentina and Chile. Natural gas is one of Bolivia's most valuable exports. Since independence Bolivia has had a troubled history of war, unrest, and military rule. It lost its only stretch of coast to Chile in the 1880's and a large part of the Gran Chaco region to Paraguay in the 1930's. Bolivia is unusual because over half of its people are Native Americans, mostly the Ouechua and Aymara.



Arid World of the Altiplano: The altiplano is the high, dry western Bolivian plateau situated between two ranges of the Andes. In this barren region, thin crystal-clear air, and cold alternoon winds create dust storms, few trees grow, and famino is all felion struade.



La Paz's Lofty Neighbour: One of Bolivia's tallest peaks. Nevado Illimani is a towening neighbour of La Paz, the highest capital ofly in the world. The city is situated in a shallow canyon on Bolivia's alliplano or high plateau at an elevation of 6.402 metres (21.004 feet), this peaked mountain is held in ave.



Festival in the Sky: The Quechus-speaking people of the Andes Mountains are scattered throughout hundreds of vilages in Equador, Peru, Chile Northern Algentina, and Bolivia. In addition, many reside in the city of Cusco, once the capital of the Incan Empire. This "city in the sky" is the frequent setting for the colourful celebrators of its intigenous people. It is also famous for the Machu Picchu



Bolvian Llamas: The strong, aglie llama, a relative of the camel, and the alpaca, is perfectly suited to the difficult ternain of Bolvia's highlands. In most of the country's mountainous southwest, elevations are more than 3,600 metres (more than 1,141f feel.), and there are two good roads. Llamas are tough animals, which tolerate the thir air of the high mountains.



Breadbasket of Bolivia: In the Valles and Yungus regions of central Bolivia, where broad highland valleys lie among gently shoping hills, much of the country's food is grown. Grains, vegetables, coffee, cocoa and bearans thrive in the warm Meditermeen-like climate. The region also features grasslands and scrub forest used for cattle grazing.



Bolivia's Legendary Silver: Prospectors flocked to Bolivia when silver was discovered in Potosi in 1545. The country's vast quantilies of silver and later tin, supported the Spawsh economy for two centuries, and heiped Spaintning the industrial revolution in Europe. The silver being carted across in ships, also motivated prates to stak the Caribbean Sea.



Use of Lago Titicaca: The last reeds grawing along the banks of Lago Titicaca are gathered by the Uses, who transform them into architectural wonders, including houses and floating islands. Died reeds of the tall grass also are weven into storay and efficient boats reminiscent in design of Egypt's papinys basis along the Nike. Bolvia in design of Egypt's papins, along Theca with Prox. and the Use people of Lag Tiblaca with Prox. and the Lag people of Lag Lag Tiblaca with Town and the Cop people or Lagrand in both countries, living along the lakes shores.

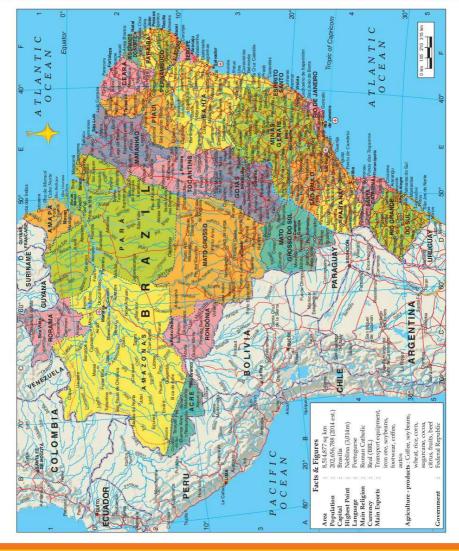


Marsh Deer: A female marsh deer shows off her summer cokur of bright chestund brown. The unique large must-limed entities and colour of this deer, which is found from Berzil to Argentina, distinguish it from smaller South American deer. As the name suggests, marsh deer live in naces where there is water and derae bush all the round, your and where they can cause the support of the support of the properties of such as where the support of the support of such as where they can such as water like such as water such su











Brazil Political



Brazil is the largest country in South America in both area and population. It occupies almost half the continent and has more people than all the other South American nations combined. Brasilia is the capital of Brazil. The country's culture is a mixture of traditions of all kinds of people, particularly Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans. Everyone joins in when the most famous colourful carnival festival in the world takes place each year during five days of Easter revelry. All over Brazil the streets come alive with colourful parades, music, elaborate floats, and dance. The Carnival is especially spectacular in Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city.

The magnificent Iguazu Falls, which form part of the border between Brazil and Argentina. are about 2 miles (3 kilometres) wide and 80 metres high. These falls are a World Heritage. This city also shows the huge gap between rich and poor people in Brazil. With increasing migration, many live in temporary houses, called favelas, close to the factories, where most of them seek employment. Slums exist about 40-50 kilometres away from modern, high-rise buildings and sophisticated nightclubs. Brazil is filled with natural wonders. The brown, sluggish waters of the great Amazon River snake their way across the north of the country. The river passes through the world's largest area of dense, steamy rainforest, the Amazon rainforest which teems with wildlife 420 species of mammals, and 4.000 species of butterflies.

Brazil also has rich mineral resources and fertile soils where soyabeans, citrus, fruits, coffee, rice, cocoa, corn, sugar-cane, and tobacco grow. The country also grows a lot of timber. This should bring great wealth but, like much of South America, Brazil suffers from economic problems. There is widespread poverty among its ever-growing population. So a lot of people have moved inland in search of new farmland. As a result, huge areas of the Amazon rainforest are being destroyed. This has become an environmental issue of world-wide concern. Brazilian gauchos or cowboys tend grazing sheep in the central and southern plateau region.



Forests of the Amazon Basin: More than half of Brazil falls inside the heavily forested Amazon Basin. This basin's tropical auinforest is among the world's most varied ecosystem, containing more than 2 million plant and animal species, and 3,800 bird species 3,000 fish species.



Birthplace of Modern Brazilian Culture: The Casa de Misen overfooks the harbour at Salvador. Brazil's first capital. Founded in 1549, Salvador features elegant centuries-old colonial mansions and gilded churches. It is the centre of African-Brazilian culture, where Portuguesa-Catholic customs blended with those of West African slaves, who were brought to work in the



Arabica Coffee Trees in Brazil: An evergreen tree originally from Africa, the Arabica coffee-bean plants require strict growing conditions and do best at temperatures between 16°C-24°C at height of 1,800-3,800 feet. Brazil produces more coffee than any other country, although freezing weather occasionally wipes out the cross



Kayapo of Northeastern Brazil: The Kayapo er among the more than 70 different tribes who have lived continuously along the Amazon River for at least 20,000 years. They and neighbouring people such as the Yuruna, the Tapapi and the Tapau share cultures that are similar to their more distant neighbours—the Arawak, the Potigurara, and the Tamun people of the



Breathtaking Saltos de Iguaçu: The spectacular Saltos do Iguaçu lies on the Argentine-Brazilian border. The Rio Iguazu pours over cataracts into a caryon called the Devil's Throat, creating horseshoe-shaped falls 4 kilometres (2 miles) wide and averaging 61 metres (200



Cowboy Culture in Bahia: Inhabitants of the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia are separated by long distances, but cattle ranching provides a bond for these vaqueros or cowboys. This semi-and region is the country's porcest, partly because of its uncompromising weather. Severe droughts last up to two years, followed by termetial rate.



Pale-throated Three-lood Sloth: The sloth moves so slowly and deliberately that its name is synonymous with laziness. It spends most of its days alone, hanging upside down from tree branches, feasing on leaves. Algae that gow in its fir help camcullage it from predators such as birds of prey. If attacked, the sloth can inflict severe wounds with its long claws.



Legacy of Gold: So much gold was mired arcund the town of Our Petis in the 1700s that the are was dubbed Minas Geniai ('general mires'), now the name of the Bezzilain state in which the Davis located. Bezzilain state in which the Unit located Bezzilain state in which the Unit located Bezzilain state in which the Unit located Bezzilain state in White South of the White Sou



Colombia Political







Colombia Political



Situated in the northwest corner of the continent, Colombia joins North America at its border with Panama. Bogota, Colombia's capital and largest city, lies in a basin high in the Andes Mountains. One of Colombias coasts looks over the Pacific Ocean, while the other is washed by the warm Caribbean Sea. It was from the Caribbean that the Spanish arrived in the 1500's. They named the country after Christopher Columbus, the European who first discovered it. The Spanish killed many of the native people and more died as slaves, while digging for emeralds and gold in the mines. Today most Colombians are partly Native American and partly Spanish in origin. Their Spanish past lives on in Colombia's grand colonial architecture, while popular music, dance and food have a Native American flavour.

Colombia has many extremes of landscape and climate. Along the coasts are sweltering swamps, humid forests, arid deserts and sugar plantations. Most Colombians live in cities in the Andes Mountains, working in mines or factories. Some grow coffee in the valleys. The eastern plains are vast with ranches, rivers and savana. The south is clad in dense rainforest, which is home to pumas, sloths, tapirs and caimans. Colombia has over 1,500 species of birds, from tiny hummingbirds to enormous harpy eagles.

This land was originally home to many groups of Native Americans. Some communities lived in rainforest settlements and wandered in the open plains in search of food. Another group, the Chibcha, established an advanced civilization in the Andes. They traded gold and emeralds for Guajira salt and cotton. Gold was their most common metal and the Chibcha used gold to make needles and fish-hooks as well as beautiful jewellery and ornaments.



Plaza Bolivar: Founded by a Spanish conquistador in 1538, Colombia's capital city of Bogotá was liberated from Spain in 1819 by Simón Bolivar. He made the city capital of his Republic of Gran Colombia, but the republic quickly broke apart and later became the modern nations of Venezuela. Ecuador. Colombia: and Panama.



Cartagenia's Strongest Castle: One of the first clinic in South America founded by the Spanish, Cartagenia in South America founded by the Spanish, Cartagenia clinics to 1533. Ac Colombia's major port, it was here that purifieder beasses were sented untilityey cut-the beaded only galleons for transport to Spain, Cartagenia was also a control for the slave state. Because the city's offices were a templino target for 16th-century. Cartholon priests, the Spanish buttle a massive simustone well around the city's offices with the Spanish buttle an assive simustone well around the city's Archino founder for the slave monterior Cartagenia from attacks.



Salto de Tequendama: The Salto de Tequendama, secluded in the Cordillera Oriental of the Andes Mountains, is one of Colombia's most breathriading sights and a major burist attraction. In a forested area just south of Bogola, a nocky ogne narrows at the top of the spectacular 130-metre- (427-feet) high falls.



Emerald Mining: Nearly 55 per cent of all emeralds come from Colombian mines. Prized for their deep-green color, flawless emeralds self for as much as \$40,000 per caral. Most of the gense come from eastern Colombia's mountainous Cordillera Oriental region. The best emeralds are found in Muzo, a mountain fown north of Boods.



San Agustin's Mysterious Statues: This ancient stone statue is one of more than 500 in the Forest of the Statues, an archaeological park near the Colombian village of San Agustin. San Agustin, in the mountains near the Ecuadorian border, is famous for these ancient statues and the park is a National Heritage site.



Salt Mining in Colombia: Colombia is self-supporting in salt production. Most of its deposits lie in the Condilera Onental of the Andes, Indigenous peoples have traded many of the larger deposits, exchanging salt with other groups for gold, and emeralds.



Long-haired Spider Monkey: This slender black-andbrown morkey moves quickly through the Amazonian rain forest. It barks when danger approaches, shakes tree branches, and even tres to urinate on intruders from its high porch.



Harpy Eagle: One of the world's strongest birds of prey and the largest eagle, the harpy eagle is adapted to hurting in forests. Its wings allow it to manoeurve easily, and its huge claws enable it to tear monkeys and sloths from branches. It also hurits dogs and small pics.



Peru Political







Peru Political



Peru was the homeland of the Inca, who ruled over an impressive empire in the mountains and fertile valleys of the Andes some 600 years ago. The Inca civilization was destroyed by Spanish conquerors and today most Peruvians are mestizos (people of mixed Indian and European ancestry). Peru is the third largest country in South Africa. Only Brazil and Argentina cover a greater area. Lima (pronounced LEE mah), the capital of Peru, is the largest city. Peru is one of the world's leading producers of copper, lead, silver and zinc. Descendants of the Incas still farm the ancient terraces on the steep mountain ridges. Llmas (an animal with a thick woolly coat, used as a beast of burden) loaded with baggage tread old Inca trails and condors, the elegant vultures of the Andes, glide through the clear air overhead. To the west of the Andes the country's main cities lie on the coastal plains. To the east a vast, remote region of tropical forest stretches towards the Amazon Basin The Amazon begins its immense journey in Peru's mountains, just 190 kilometres from the Pacific coast. At the port of Iquitos the river is deep enough to receive ocean-going vessels from the other side of the continent.

Peru is rich in mining, fishing and agriculture, yet it remains a poor country troubled by violent unrest. In the early 1990's Maoist guerrillas called the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) controlled large parts of Peru. Thousands of farming families were caught up in the troubles, while struggling simply to survive.

Peru is a farming nation. High in the Andes Mountains, the backbone of the country, farmers work on small plots of land to grow potatoes, which are believed to have originated here. Chickens, sheep and llamas are raised for their produce.



Mining Peru's Highlands: Copper is mined from an open pit near the city of Arequipe in the Andean highlands of southern Peru. Peru ranks among the world's leading producers of copper, silver, and zinc, and it also has significant gold deposits. Iron ore, lead, and petroleum contribute to Peru's economy as well.



Corpus. Christi Procession: Staturs and silver are panded through the streets of the sculmen Penuian town of Casco during the annual Corpus Christi (Bady of Christ) procession. The celebration starts at low when playms tike down from mountain glaciers where they have knell in prayer for half the night. In Cucci town plaza, Native American women sell food to celebraris and fourtists in honour of the holiday.



People of the Andes: The Quechua-speaking people of the Andes Mountains live in hundreds of villages stretching from Ecuador through Peru and into Bolivia.



Sacred Urubamba Valley: A Spanish colonial church stands in the Rio Urubamba valley, which is in the foothills of the Penuvian Cordillare Occidental near the ruins of Machu Picchu. Visits to South America's most famous Incan ruins usually begin in the nearby town of Cusco with a four-hour train ride through this valley,

which is called 'the Sacred Valley' by the Incas.



Road to Colca Canyon: A llama pack train travels along the road leading into the Colca Canyon. The Ilama, which is closely related to the alpace and the vicula, can cany up to 91 klöggams (up to 200 pounds) and can work up to 12 hours a day. Llama wood is woven, and the skin is tanned for leather. Only the female is raised for meat because the meat of the male is tough.



Peruvian Wildlife Haven: Yaminahua paddle down the Rio Manú through the Peruvian Amazon in Manú National Park Amongits abundant wildlife are morkeys, giant river offers, black caimans, capibanas, tapirs, jaguars, ocelots, alligators and more than 500 taps species, including bucars, parrots and hummingbirds.



Farming in the Clouds: The Andes, the worlds longest chain of mountains, are made up of dozens of smaller mountain ranges called conditiers. The Nevado Urubamba overlooks the rolling grasslands of a high valley. Native Amenicans of the highlands survive by farming and herding llamas, alpacas, goats and sheep. Peni's mountains are popular with foreigh rickets.

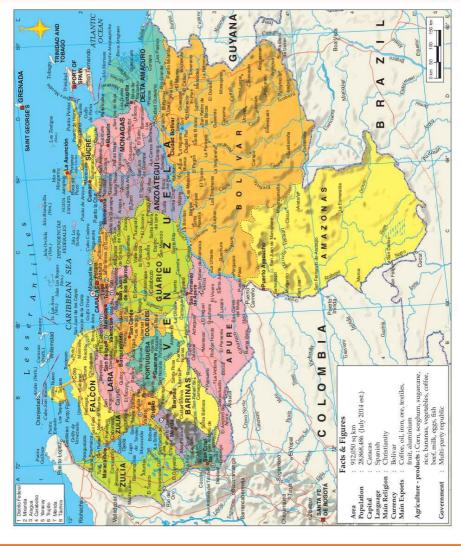


Peru's Coastal Desert: A narrow band of desert called and Sectura Desert, extends along Peru's north central coastline between the South Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains. Cool air currents from the ocean whisk beach sand into the footfalls of the Andes, forming dunes a ship as 400 metres (1.312 feet).



Venezuela Political





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Venezuela Political



Venezuela used to be a poor country, dependent on farming. But today it is the richest nation in South America. Its fortunes changed when huge reserves of oil were tapped at Lake Maracaibo. Using money from oil, the Venezuelan government launched a massive programme to build roads and improve health education and housing. However, poverty is still widespread. The modern cities are ringed by slums that continue to sprawl as thousands of poor people flock in from the countryside to find work. Meanwhile, vast areas of Venezuela remain unexplored. The remote southwest is densely cloaked in dripping rainforest, known chietly to the native Americans who hunt and fish there. The lives of these people are barely touched by the modern world. In the southeast there are great tables of sheer rock called tepuis that have never been climbed.

In the far north, tourists and foreigners are drawn to the white, sandy beaches of the Caribbean. In the centre, cattle-ranchers and farmers make a living on the Llanos Plains. To the west, coffee is grown in the high Merida valleys.

Caracas, Venezuela's capital and largest city, has many high-rise apartment buildings. Spain colonized this area of South America in the 1500's, crushing the Native Americans. Today Venezuelans are of mixed race and their main language is Spanish. Venezuelans enjoy music and dance. Popular dances include the exciting, rhythmic salsa and fast, lively Carribbean dances such as the merengue and guaracha. The national dance of Venezuela is the Joropo. This lively dance is performed to the music of cuatros (fourstringed guitars), the harp and maracas (rattles made of beans, stones, or gourds). Rock music is also popular among young Venezuelans.



Angel Falls in Canaima National Park: The highest waterfall in the world, Angel Falls waut from a tepul or massive flat-topped mesa, with such speed and force that the water barely touches the sheer face of the clift. The falls are part of Venezuelas Canaima National Park, the largest national park in South America and the site of many unusual plant species.



South American Metropolis: The Iristric colonial form of Carness, Venezuelis's capital dity, has been transformed into a modern metropolis in recent decades, primarily by oil money. Founded in Fig. 1 at the foot of Mourt Avila near Venezuelis's tropical coast, the city has grown more than seven-fold may past 40 years, making it the fastest growing capital in South America.



Venezuelan Devil Dancers: Each June at the annual Corpus Christi festival in San Francisco de Yare and other Venezuelan fowns, the riobus procession of devil dancers—with their wildly grotesque masks and devilishmed costumes—is a main attraction.



Venezuelan Mining Operation: Gystallien nocks containing minerals, iron, aluminum, gold and diamonds, resources harvested by mining operations—give the Guiana Highlands in Venezuela's southeast comer their distinctive end hue. Most of the region is covered in rolling savanna and tepuis, massive plateaus and measa topped with sandstone.



Cowboys on the Llanos: On the Venezuelan Bancs—a level to slightly rolling grassy plains region stretching from the Andes to the Atlantic, cattle are nounded up for sale at ordeos. Ranching is the chief economic activity of this sparsely populated area.



Margarita Island: Margarita Island lies just off the east coast of Venezuela. Not even the infamous mosquitoes can keep Venezuelan, North American, and European tourists from the Island's beaches, of which Playa del Aqua is regarded as the finest.

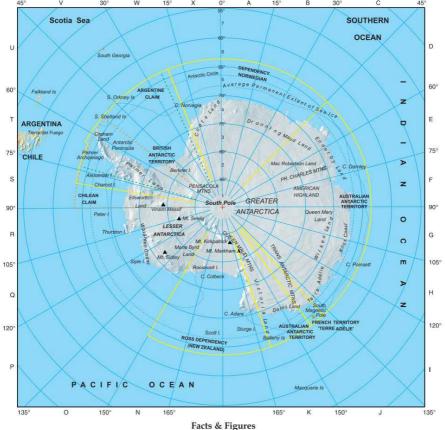


Least Term : The smallest term species, measuring about 22 continuence (i) inches in length, least term build nests by making depressions in beach sand and relying on returnal cannotilage to protect their eggs. These birds live in coastal areas, including beaches, legions and estudience. They can be seen hovering above water, searching for small fish to spear. In summer they come is North American indian destinate and coastal areas to bredt. In white, they migrate of class term is now become endangrand because of the increasing human presence in their summer breeding grounds.



Antarctica Political





Area: 14,000,000 sq km

Population: No permanent population

Highest Point: Vinson Massif (4,897 m)

Ice cover: Ice and snow cover 98 per cent of Antarctica

Average depth of ice: 2,000 m

Deepest ice: 4,800 m

Mineral resources: In 1991, commercial mining was

banned in Antarctica for 50 years

Living resources: Cod, icefish, krill



Antarctica Political



This vast wilderness at the bottom of the world is almost entirely covered by a sheet of ice that is about 4,800 metres thick at its deepest point. Antarctica is the fifth largest continent and the coldest by far. The world's lowest-ever recorded temperature, -89.2°C, was measured at a Russian scientific base called Vostok Station in 1983

The only ice-free land to be seen in Antarctica consists of a few mountain peaks and other barren, rocky areas. As ice sheets around the coasts melt during the southern summer, great sections break off as icebergs (huge masses of ice moving in the sea). These icebergs can measure up to 60 metres in height and can be many kilometres long. They are extremely dangerous to passing ships.

The Trans-antarctic Mountains cross this icy continent, dividing it into eastern and western regions. There is a high, ice-covered plateau in the east, while the western region consists of a group of mountainous islands joined by ice. Antarctica has some volcanoes, including the continent's most active volcano, Mount Erebus. The western region also contains the continent's highest point, Vinson Massif, which measures 4,897 metres above sea level.

The cold Antarctic waters are rich with krill (small, shrimp like animals) small crustaceans (hard-shelled animals), fish, seals and whales. Seabirds such as skuas and albatrosses abound and there are eight types of penguins. Plant life is limited because of the bitter cold, but mosses and lichens are found around the coast.

Antarctica has such a harsh landscape and climate that people can never settle here permanently. Its only inhabitants are visiting scientists who carry out research projects.



McMurdo Station: Of the more than 30 scientific bases located in Antarctica, McMurdo Station on Ross Island is the largest. It is a vital and bustling community during the warmer months of October through March, when the station is home to hundreds of scientists and other



Tourism Along Antarctic Shores: Inflatable rubber "Zodiacs" carry tourists through the treacherous iceberg-filled waters of Paradise Bay along the Antarctic Peninsula, Since 1958, tourists have boarded ships at South American seaports to cruise the isolated wild



Amundsen-Scott Base at the South Pole : Because of its severe cold weather, Antarctica was the last continent to be explored. In December 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to mach the South Pole A disappointed Englishman, Robert Falcon Scott, arrived



Welcoming Party: Emperor Penguins are a wondrous visitors to Antarctica. In recent years this continent at the bottom of the planet 95 per cent of which is covered with ice, has become a popular destination for adventurous tourists. Cruise ships just a month later, in January 1912, about his team perished on the way back. from South America take two days to cross the Strait of Magellan and Drake Passage. They usually employ scientists to teach visitors about Antarctica's natural



Flenhant Seal . The male's elongated trunk-like spour earned the elephant seal its name. An infant weighs about 41 kilograms (90 pounds) at birth and can gain 9 kilograms (20 pounds) per day while nursing. A bull can reach 4.9 metres (16 feet) long and weigh up to 4,086 kilograms (up to 9,007 pounds), while the female is much smaller. During mating, a competing bull will rear up and gnash another with its teeth, fighting that can become auite bloody



Antarctic Krill: This 5-centimetre (2-inch) like crustacean gathers in the of thousands in shoals near the surface of the water in the seas that surround Antarctica. Krill is the main food source for many Antarctic animals, including whales, seals, fishes and birds. Light-producing organs on the knill give off a bluegreen glow that illuminates the water at night.

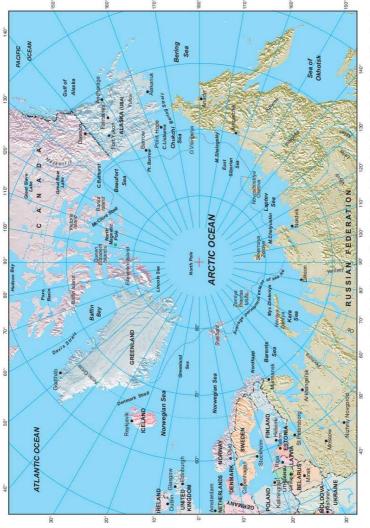


Wandering Albatross: The largest of about 24 species of albatross, with a wingspan of 3.3 metres (10.8 feet), this bird is well adapted to life on and over the seas that surround Antarctica. It is able to drink sea water by expelling the extra salt through glands in its nasal cavity. Though it is a heavy bird with weak wing muscles. with strong winds it can soar indefinitely. The wandering albatross can be found trailing a fishing boat for days, scouting a free meal. It lives up to 5. years, an amazing age for a bird.



The Arctic





Facts & Figures

Area (Arctic Ocean):

14,056,000 sq km

Area(land):

The Arctic includes the northern parts of Europe, Asia and North America. Its southern

boundary is the Arctic Circle.

Average depth of Arctic

Ocean:

Deepest point:

5,450 m

Mineral resources:

Oil, natural gas, coal

Living resources:

Fish, seals



The Arctic



Arctic, AHRKtihk, is the region continuous cold around the North Pole. It includes the Arctic Ocean (the smallest ocean in the world), thousands of islands, and the northern parts of the continents of Europe, Asia and North America. People long believed that the Arctic was a cold, barren place where human beings could not live. But explorers and scientists found that, except for Greenland, nine-tenths of all arctic lands have no snow and ice in summer. Berries, vegetables and flowers grow in a few places. The sun never shines on much of the Arctic during the winter. But it shines on the entire region for at least part of the day from March to September.

The Arctic has great importance to human beings. Information from the Arctic weather stations helps scientists to predict the weather farther south—in Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States.

Northern nations such as Canada, the Soviet Union and the United States have built military installations in the Arctic to protect their frontiers and trade routes. To build these military installations, people have had to learn many things about this harsh region of the world. Engineers have learned how to construct houses on the permanently frozen soil, and scientists have studied the plant and animal life to find ways of how people can survive in the Arctic.

A number of people live in the Arctic. They come from a variety of backgrounds, but all have adapted to the Arctic in similar ways. For example, all Arctic people make their clothing from animal skins. Their chief food is meat and fish. Eskimos are the most widespread from northeastern Greenland to the Siberian coast of the Bering Sea.

The Arctic has served as an important source of food since prehistoric times. Over 10,000 years ago, during the last period of the Ice Age in Europe, people who made tools like those of the modern Eskimos hunted



Frozen North : Most of the Arctic region consists of ice-covered water, the Arctic Ocean The Amtic is commonly defined as the region around the North Pole lying north of the Arctic Circle (latitude 66°30' north). Arctic land areas extend to the coast of Siberia, Iceland, Greenland, northern Alaska, Canada's northernmost mainland and Arctic Archipelago, and numerous islands.

Beluga Whale (or White Whale): This 5.5-metre (18-foot) dolphin gathers with herds of a thousand or more at the mouths of Arctic rivers every summer. It then travels hundreds of miles upriver to warmer waters, where the calves are hom. An infant is born dark-coloured and does not turn white until its fifth or sixth year. The white colouration provides excellent camouflage against the ice, foam and whitecaps of Arctic waters. The distinctive bulge on its forehead is a fat





Walnus 1.4 massive blubbery body, long whisters, and 5f-centimete (20/inth) lacks set in a tiny head have made the walnus a favourte among cardonnists. The walnus made the walnus a mode-set a motes (17 Bed) in length and up walnus made-set a motes (17 Bed) in length and up walnus made-set and the set of the



Narwha! : Marine biologists mmain uncertain about the purpose of the unicom-like bus of the male narbour suggest tits a loof for breaking ice, stiming up the sea bottom in a search for paye, or dissipating up the sea bottom in a search for paye or dissipating uses body heat, but most believe it is used in mating displays and fights between nu'ss. During migration, narbas may gather in schools of hundreds or thousands in their Aretic habitat.

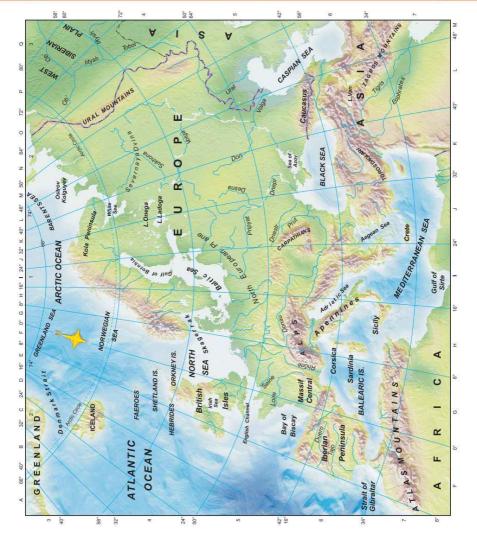


Blue Whale: As the planet's largest anima, the blue whale reaches 31 meris (102 feet) in length and weights up in 18,040 kilopams (200,231 pounds). Its heart is the size of a small automobile and pumps more than 15,400 trees of a small automobile and pumps more than 15,400 trees (500,231 pounds). The blue whale is a discounded to the years to a call weighing about 6,356 kilogams (14,012 pounds). The blue whale is a mammal, not a fish, and lives up to 50 years. Because of extensive huntring, fewer than 4,000 may survive today, down from several hundred trousand a centry ago. The remaining whales the southern Hemisphere, but the populations in the southern Hemisphere, but the populations in the southern Hemisphere, but the populations in the northern Centers may, in fact, be larger.



Europe Physical







Europe Physical



Europe is the second smallest continent in the world by area. It stretches westwards from the Ural Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. The Urals form the border with the continent of Asia, which is part of the same landmass. Europe's coastline is deeply indented, with many peninsulas, bays and islands. The largest island is Great Britain, just off its northwest coast.

The most northerly areas lie in the cold, snowy wilderness above the Arctic Circle. From there, the great arm of Scandinavia curves south around the Baltic Sea. Much of central Europe is an enormous plain, once covered in trees, but now largely cleared for farmland. Summers are hot and winters bitterly cold. This plain stretches from Russia across to France and southeastern England, taking in the countries of Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. In the west the climate is milder, affected by rain-bearing winds from the Atlantic Ocean and a warm ocean current called the North Atlantic Drift. Southern Europe is separated from the north of the continent by the towering mountain ranges of the Pyrenees, Alps and Carpathians. The lands around the Mediterranean Sea enjoy mild winters and warm summers. Olives, oranges, lemons, grapes and cotton grow well in these areas. In the far southeast rise the arid, rugged mountains of Greece, with its many rocky islands.

In the southwest the Iberian Peninsula juts out into the Atlantic Ocean. Much of it is a hot, dry plateau. It is separated from North Africa by the narrow Strait of Gibraltar.

On this crowded continent wild plants and animals have to compete for space with human farms, settlements and industries. Even so, with its many climates and habitats, Europe supports a rich variety of wildlife. The cold lands around the Arctic Circle are home to reindeer, geese and snowy owls.



Majestic Caucasus Mountains : The Caucasus Mountains, within max one of the points where European Ad Asia meet, stetch about 1,127 klometres (about 700 miles) belowen the Back and Caspian sans. Notice of the Section of the Section of the Section of the Alps, the Caucasus range includes several peaks that is some than 5,000 miles of the Section of the Alps, the Caucasus range (mote than 16,404 feet), Mount Ebrus is Europe's highest peak at 5,647 enters (18,510 feet).



Note Dame: Refected in the waters of the Seins storm clouds gather over the monumental towers and portals of Note Dame Cathedral. Construction of this famous Gothic structure began in 1163 and continued well into the next century. Although it was severely vandalized during the French Revolution, the restoned landmark is trady the centrelieve of historic Paris.



Giesbachfille of Switzerland: Fourteen cascades of water fall down the nocky cliffs of the Berne from to farm Switzerland's Giesbachfille, dropping a total of 400 metres (1,325 bet). The falls are located or Beinezersee in the southeast region of Bern Carton. This canho, or regional subdivision, is also called the Bernese Oberland and is considered by many people to be the most scenic area in Switzerland.



German Wine Country: The vineyards in Bernkastel-Kues produce some of the finest white wines in the world. The apricultural town fies on the Mosel River, west of Frankfurt am Main in the rolling highlands of western Germany, Much of the highlands are rocky and infertibe, but the river valleys provide excellent soils.



Fabled White Cliffs of Dover: The rough and stormy English Channel flows between the southern coast of England and the northern coast of France, and connects the Atlantic Ocean with the North Sea. The channel is 565 kildmethes (351 miles) long, with a maximum width of 240 kildmethes (148 miles).



High Slovak Watershed: The Carpathian Mountains orm a watershed between the Black and Baltic seas. Rich in minerals and coal, the mountain system reaches its highest point in the Tatry, part of Slovakia since Czechoslyvakia spili into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. The High Tatra National Park is norular with hiless.

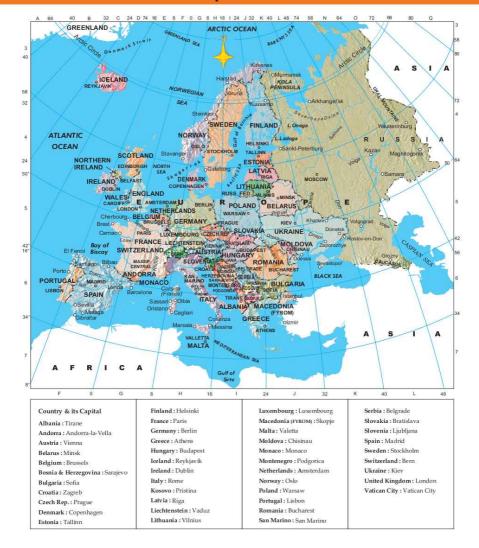


Farming in Finland's Lake District: Finland's Lake District encompasses a large central plateau in the southern half of the country, where a series of shallow lakes are connected by thousands of streams and



Mediterranean Bounty: Numerous squid and a lone octopus hang over a drying rack on an island in Greece, where the sea pervades every aspect of life. Tourists have recently begun to outnumber fishers, however, and the travel industry has replaced shipping as the dominant economic force.

Europe Political









Throughout its history Europe has had a great influence on world politics. It was the ancient Greeks who first created a democracy, in about 450 BC. This system, where the government is chosen by the people, is widespread today. During the Middle Ages the Roman Catholic Church held great political influence across Europe. By the 1700's power had shifted away from the Church into the hands of a few nations such as Spain and Great Britain. They grew rich from exploiting Asia, Africa and the America. Many of these colonies did not gain their independence until this century.

Both World War 1 (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945) began in Europe. After World War II the continent split into communist countries in the east, led by the Soviet Union, and non-communist nations in the west, supported by the United States of America. Europe became the centre of a power struggle between communist and non-communist countries. This was known as the Cold War. In the 1980's reforms in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe led to the collapse of communism there. New states emerged when the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia broke up. The Cold War ended, but conflict between ethnic groups and economic problems caused new tensions in eastern Europe.

Fifteen western European nations had joined the European Union by 1995. This organisation was first set up in the 1950's. Today it is working to unify the different countries of Europe politically and economically.

The vast majority of Europeans are descended from various tribal people who lived in the continent during ancient times. Many of these tribes roamed from place to place and mixed with other groups they met. For example, the ancestors of the British people included such groups as the Angles, Celts, Danes, Jutes and Saxons



Welicks Salt Mines: White cod and suffur are Polands most valuable resources, rock said is also spifficiant among the country's mineral deposits. Just southeast of Knikoliv is the Wellicks and mines, whose deposits were as prized in the 14th century that defense wells were Legard holds that the mines, which still operate body, were discovered by a Humparise princess whose lost ring was burnful in a block of said exhibited will Wellicks. Therefore, which were the said to provide body, were discovered by a Humparise princess whose lost ring was burnful in a block of said exhibited will Wellicks. The will will be a said to the said that the said to the said tou



Traversing a Rounited Berlin: A commuter train crosses a bridge over the Spree River, carrying passengers through a reurified Berlin. Only one section remains of the infamous wall that divided the city from 1981 until 1981, until 1981



Tower Bridge, London: Tower Bridge spans the River Thames in London. It was the only movable bridge crossing the Thames when it was completed in 1894. Sir Horaco Jones designed the bridge, and Sir John Wolfe Barry built 4.



Belgrade's Kalemegdan Fortress: The ancient Turkish fortressof Kalemegdan, Belgrade's most famous landmark, is now part of a park that overlooks the city at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers.



Hallgrimskirkja (chruch of Hallgrimur) is a Luthenin parisk chruch in Reykjaink, kaland AT 3 metes (244 ft), it is the largest chruch in Reykjaink, kaland AT 3 metes (244 ft), it is the largest chruch in losted and other size that falsel architectural structure in losted and serve under mast Hellssandru. the radio masts of US Navy at Girdavik, Edira royawe transmitter and Smalardgr tower. The chruch is named after the lostandropost and obergrams Hallgrimur Petausson (1444 to 1674), the view also in author of ut-7 has born fyhams, and the same design and the same designed file to resemble the basel have for lost and for have designed it for resemble the basel have flows of feelandr's landscape, it took 38 years to built the chruch.

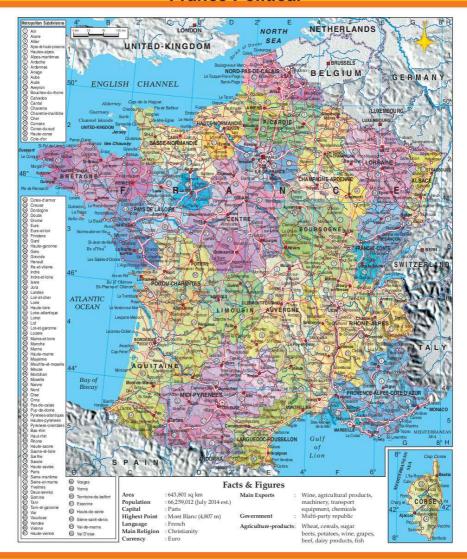


Spanish Gothic Architecture in Portugal: The Sonta Maria da Vitoria monastey in Baistha, near Pouhgal's central Allantic coast, provides evidence of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, royal tastes, and the national love of the sea, it is also a monument to the country's golden age of at 18 gay in 1388 by 30 young John I, the monastey, church, and categoral chaptel are outstanding examples of Spanish Gothic architects.



Monument to the Discoveries: The Monument to the Discoveries was exceled in 1980 in honour of the 50th anniversary of the death of Partugal's Prince Fearly the Navigate. Coaced in Lisbon's buye port at the mouth of the Tagus River, the monument is a gipantic sylided ship. On the prox a shattor of Prince Fearly leads a group of explorer, statesmen, and artists. Henry the Navigate reas a man of Set and great viscous and the state of the state of

France Political





France Political



France is the third largest country in Europe and one of the world's major economic and political powers. The French sometimes call their land L'Hexagone (The Hexagon) because of its six-sided shape. Seas or mountains form natural boundaries on all sides except the northeast. Within these boundaries is a country of varied and beautiful landscapes, modern industries, historic towns and great cities. It has helped to shape the history and culture of Western Europe as well as many other parts of the world. France has produced great thinkers, politicians, writers, painters, musicians, architects, scientists, film-makers and fashion designers. It is also famous for its fine wines and food, which are often said to be the best in the world. Enjoyment of these is an important part of life for most French people and for many visitors to the country.

The French Revolution of 1789 made France one of the first European nations to overthrow its king and set up a republic. The monarchy was restored for a time during the 1800's, but a republic was established once more in 1871. Since then France has been a democratic republic almost continuously. The government is headed by a president, who appoints a prime minister.

France, which also includes the Mediterranean island of Corsica, is divided into 22 regions. These include Brittany, which juts out to the far northwest, and Burgundy, the region around Dijon. In the past the capital, Paris, has been at the centre of power. However, the regions have maintained strong individual identities and today they also have a greater say in how the country is run.

The highlands of the Massif Central take up most of South-Central France. This is a sparsely populated region of ancient volcanoes with poor soils mainly grazed by sheep, goats and cattle. To the southeast France's longest river, the Loire, begins in the



West Entrance to the Louvre: The brilliant colcurs and formal symmetry of the Tulleries Garden provide a grand approach to the west entrance of the Musée du Louvre. A vast palace that has been continuously enlarged since its initial construction in 1546, the Louvre houses priceless art, including Leonardo de Vinci's famous Morna Lisa.



Vineyard in Burgundy: The Câte-d'Or, or 'Golden Slope' region of Burgundy produces some of the world's most distinguished wines. One of the most famous vineyards is located in the village of Vosne-Romanée. Its annual production is limited to 6,000 bottles of some of the most expensive wines in the world.



Snow-covered French Alps: In the southwast comer of France, the majestic peaks of the Alps begin just south of the Jun Mourtains and form the country's border with Italy. Above 2-400 metros (7.6.3 feet), a thick blanket of snow always covers the mountains, and at lower elevations there are dense woods and swift stress. Shown here is Savoie Tignes, part of the Haute-Savoie appiner again.



Vineyard in Bordeaux: Grape-filled wooden vals attest to the riches of a vineyard in Bordeaux. Recognised throughout the world as a premier wine producer, the Bordeaux region is especially renowned for its Médoc and Sauteme labels.



Exposition of 1889, offers a spectacular view of the entim City of Light.



Cathedral Notre-Dame, Reims: The city of Reims is the sile of the colerated Cathedral Notro-Dame. Most of this Gathe building went up during the 13th century, beginning in 1211, and it was the setting for the coronations of many French kings. One of the most momentus coronations took place in 1429, when, in the presence of Joan of Arc. Charles VII became king and established a unifed France.



Medieval Papal Palace: Strategically located on the Rhône, Avignon has a prominent history. Although its origins lie in pre-Roman times, the town acquired much greater prominence in the 14th century, when for more than 70 years it was the residency of the Papacy. Its Palais des Papes, or Papal Palace, is a legacy of that period.



Palsce of Versailles: Versailles is situated on a plateau just 16 kilomete's (about 10 miles) southwest of Paris. The city was designed around its renowned royal châbau, which stands on the original site of a hurting lodge built by Louis XIII in 1623. Louis XII. In 1623. Louis XIII. In 1623. Louis XIII. In 1623. Louis XIII. In 1624. Louis XIII. Louis XIII. Louis XIII. In 1624. Louis XIII. Loui

Germany Political





Germany Political



Germany lies at the heart of Europe. Surrounded by nine other countries, its natural boundaries are two stretches of coastline in the north, the River Rhine in the southwest and the Bavarian Alps in the southwest. It is a fertile land, with wide, flowing rivers and thick forests. Germany has rich natural resources, which have helped to make it one of the world's leading industrial nations. The German people have greatly influenced the culture of Western Europe, especially its music, literature and architecture. German scientists have made many important discoveries in chemistry, medicine and physics.

People have lived here since ancient times. For most of its history this has been a divided land made up of many small states. After World War II (1939-1945) Germany was separated into two parts—the Federal Republic of Germany in the west and the German Democratic Republic in the east. In 1990 the two parts were reunited amid great celebration from people of the East and the West

Germany is a federal republic made up of 16 states that are called Lander. Every state has its own regional government and sends delegates to the Bundesrat or Federal Council. Each state may make its own laws on education and local government, but national laws are passed by the Bundestag or Federal Assembly (parliament). The leader of the government is called the Chancellor and the head of state is called the President.

Germany's low, sandy coast, dotted with its many offshore islands, looks out onto the grey, stormy waters of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The two seas are linked together by the Kiel Canal, a busy shipping channel. Inland the landscape gently rises, reaching a wide, flat plain that stretches right across northern Germany.



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin: The Brandenburg Gate was completed in 1791, and for more than 150 years it symbolised Garmany's power. When Berlin became a divided city during the Cold War, the imposing structure stood isolated along the heavily quarted border between East and West Berlin. Today, the Brandenburg Gate symbolises are nouriled city and nation.



Black Forest of Germany: The Black Forest is a wooder mountain region in southerstern Germany, in the state of Baden-Wichtenberg. Its name refers to the heavy stands of fir on the upper slopes. Below are extensive forests of oak and beech, and logging is a major element of the regions accompt. With 22,900 known setment of the regions accompt. With 22,900 known por for outdoor activities such as riking, cycling horseback riding and cross-countly skilling.



German Fortress near Halle: Schloss Montzburg is situated on the outsivirts of Halle in northwest Germany. Built in the 15th century. His caste once contained a fine collection of German expressionist paintings. The art was labelled as "degenerate" by the Nazis during World War II and was subsequently removed.



Historical Munich: Munich, Germany's third largest city, traces its origins to an 8th-century monastery and has many fine examples of medieval architecture. Heavily damaged during World War II, Munich has been carefully rebuilt according to a master plan that included monastering in the munic process.



Great Cathedral: Cologne's Great Cathedral, overlooking the Rhine, is the largest Gothic structure in the world. Begun in 1248 on the site of a 9th-century church, the massive, omate structure took more than 500 years to complete and is considered to be one of the finnest symmiss of Gothic prochincture, anywhere.



Berlin Wall: The Berlin Wall will be remembered as the single most viable symbol of the Cold War. I stretched for 160 kilometres (100 miles) around the entire city of West Berlin Chr 9) November 1989, as East Germany's Communist regime collapsed, the Berlin Wall was opened at last As East Berlines crossed over into the western part of the city, people from both sides began smashing the despised Will. Today, only a few remarks linger as bitter reminders of the Cold Wilary years.



Seat of the Prussian Empire: Charlottenburg Palezo, mear the Spine River in northwest Berlin, was built by the Prussian leader Frederick! It for its queen. Sophie Charlotte, During the 17th and 18th cerumies, the ory ruled much of northern Germany and western Poland. In 1871 the Pussian united a runnello of rival singdoms into a single German state, but by the end of Ward War in 1919, the Pussian Empire had begun to collapse. Dumaged during World War it. Charlottenburg Paleso the first description of the Charlottenburg Paleso.

United Kingdom Political





United Kingdom Political

The United Kingdom (UK) is a union of four lands. England, Scotland and Wales take up the island of Great Britain, while the province of Northern Ireland consists of six counties in Ireland. The UK also has close economic and political links with self-governing territories such as the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, and the Channel Islands, off the coast of northwest France.

The UK is an industrial nation with a large population for its size. However, outside its crowded towns and cities there is dramatic and beautiful countryside, including the heather-covered glens (narrow valleys) of Scotland, the deep valleys and mountains of Wales and the rolling, grassy fields of England and Northern Ireland. A mild and wet climate makes much of the land green and fertile. The sea has played an important role in the history of this island nation. During the 1700's and 1800's the British Navy was the most powerful fleet in the world. British control of the seas enabled it to build a vast overseas empire and become a great trading nation. Today the UK is still a major industrial power, but its political influence on world affairs has declined. Although the UK is a monarchy, real political power lies with parliament. During recent years many people in Scotland and Wales have campaigned for separate parliaments. In Northern Ireland some of the inhabitants want to be part of the Republic of Ireland. Since 1969 this has caused a bitter civil conflict, but a cease-fire in 1994 brought hopes for peace.

The Welsh Village of "Llanfairpwllgwyn lgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch", variously spelled with between 54 and 58 letters, is credited with possessing the longest place name in Great Britain, and one of the longest in the world. Often shortened to Llanfair P.G., the name translates roughly as "Saint Mary's church in the hollow of the white hazel near a rapid whirlpool by the red cave of Saint Tysilio."



Majestic Edinburgh Castle: Edinburgh, situated a few lationatives inland from the Firth of Forth, an inlet of the North Sea, is built on a series of hills that are actually extinct volcances. Edinburgh Castle sits on one of the capital city's many hilltoop.



York Minster: The pinnacled towers of the 700-yearold York Minster nee above the city of York in nother England. The largest Gothic cathedral north of the Aga, at lartiches 188 maters (354 feet) from end to end and features a central tower 56 metres (164 feet) high. The church houses many historical treasures, schilding of Finnach cathedrals; and objects made of ivory, alleer, sandalwood and gold.



Eisteddfod - A Welsh Tradition: Roberd musicians; posts, without, according to the spart of the annual Royal National Eisteddfod, a celebration of the inch cultumal traditions of Welse. Since its beginning the mid-19th century, the competitive lestion in an injurique to music, literature, dunce, drains, and an performance once a year and attracts and according to the properties of the spart of the properties of the propert



Making the Wax Portraits: For years, celebrities have been received in the private studio of Madame Tussaud's exhibition to have measurements and photographs taken that will be used to help create a malistic wax medica.



London's Westminster Abbey: The Islamous of London's great churches, West Founded about 730 and about or in the 11th century. The current structure of the Country consequented by Edward the Con Alb but two English monarchs have be Westminster Abbey since the connection 1066. The church also holds the tember on a country of the Country of Country



English Education: English children to of 5 and 16 are equired to attend school on maintained by the local government free education up to the age of 18. ¹ are, in fact, prizels institutions that che to attend. The quality of education in generally high, as demonstrated by an illeracy rails. The universities of Oxford are England's didest and best-known higher education, but the country himmineraties collopes and adult education mineraties collopes and adult education.



The History of Madame Tussaud: Me he Maie Gisholft, was born in Strash 1761. Her mather worked as house ke cartus, a doctor and wax modeller with the Main as traines. At the tender she was appointed art futor to the set XVI and stayed at the Palace of Versaller World was made to take death masks: was made to take death masks: A world was made to take death masks and the Main was made to take death masks and prisoners who had been guiletined. Curtus ded and left his wax model eath of prisoners who had been guiletined. Curtus ded and left his wax model can be also with the world was made to be a second to be a secon



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London's Westminster Abby: 1 The oldest and most famous of London's grand furches, Nestminster Abby was founded about 730 and rebuilt on a larger scale in the 11th century. The cument structure, however, is largely a 13th- and 14th-century rebuilding of the chunch consecrated by Echward the Confessor in 1056. All but the English manants have been cowned in Westminster Abbey since the connection of Hardolf in 1066. The church also holds the bmits of most English manants in the church also holds the bmits of most English manants in the church also holds the bmits of most English manants. Including Quene Etzabeth I and her select 10 the New York (1997) and 1997. The church also holds the bmits of most English manants, including Quene Etzabeth I and her select. The Charlest and this select. Armo of Scats, Henrys II. V, and VIII (1998) and



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Italy Political





Italy Political



Italy has played a major role in shaping the history and culture of Western Europe. Two thousand years ago this land was the heart of the Roman empire. It ruled much of Western Europe as well as territories all around the Mediterranean Sea. Latin, the language of the Romans, is at the root of several modern European languages. The influence of Roman architecture, laws, literature and road building can be seen right across Europe today.

During the 1400's and 1500's Italy was at the centre of a movement called the Renaissance. It was a time when artists and scientists experimented with many new ideas. Italian painters, sculptors, architects and writers were among the most influential in Europe. The towns and cities that the Italians built around this time are filled with world-famous paintings and sculptures.

Italy is also famous for the beauty and variety of its landscape. This ranges from the snowy peaks of the Alps to the green vineyards of Tuscany, an area northwest of Rome. Steep cliffs in the south overlook the island of Sicily, where a rugged landscape surrounds Etna, one of the largest active volcanoes in the world.

Italy became a united nation in 1861. Before that it was a collection of many different states. Rome became the capital and the last state to join in 1871. Until then it had been ruled by the Pope. Modern Italy is a democratic republic and a founder-member of the European Community. It is famous for its industrial design, fashion, food, cinema and opera.

Almost all the people of Italy speak Italian language, but in the north there are small groups of French, German and Slovenian speakers. The Sards of Sardinia speak a dialect that is close to the Latin language of ancient Rome.



Roman Forum: More than 2000 years old, the Forum Forum, or Foot Romano, use the political, economic and social centre of the Roman Empire. In its heyday, the massive structure was surrounded by the Roman government's most important buildings, including temples, the Senate building, and humerous admiratative offices. Originally a single building, the forum was expanded by the emperer Julia Cester and its successors. With the emperer Julia Cester and its successors. With the decline of Rome in the 6th contury, the forum fell sith delargeal and use eventually used as a quarty to buildingsia and use eventually used as a quarty to buildingsia of the Romano (Ref. and Cester) and the Romano (Ref. and Cester).



Rome's Imperial Amphtheatre: The Colosseum is probably one of the most universally recognised symbols of Rome. Built by the emperors Vespasian and Titus, it was completed in AD 82. The 50,000-sed amphitheatre had a retractable linen awning to protect crowds from rain and sun. Romans came here to watch games and other verefix, and among the most popular were the glidational



Architectural Wealth in Venice: \ Venice's paleoss, towers, domes, residences and commercial structures were designed in a remarkable variety of architectural styles. Including Italian, Arabic, Byzantine, Gottic, Remassiance, Mannerist, and Baroque. Called La Serrelasian, amering 'Most Serrel One', Venice has always been a conscious credion of Venedars, with nave previous transfer of the construction of the construction for the construction of the construction of the construction previous processing the construction of the construction previous processing the construction of the construction previous processing the construction of the con

Valcan City: Valcan City, or Holy See, is the home of the pape and the world headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Although it is surrounded by Rome, Valcan City is an independent state, the smallest in the world Inside the Valcan are some of the treasures of Western civilisation, including the Sisten Chapel, with its magnificant ceiling partied by Michalagelo over a period of flour years, and the Pinacoleca, which houses some of the great paintings by the mastes of the Remissione.



Milan's Duomo. The Duomo in Milan is one of thay's most important Gehic biddings. The catherall stands on the east side of the Plazza did Duomo. the geographical and conceptual focus of the city. Regun in 1386 and finally completed in 1809 at Napolikon's command, the catherdar has an unusual triangular figade that is perpetually under restoration. A staggening display of pines, turne, and statuse adome its extenor, with the highest pinnacle topped by a goldcovered status of the Viran Mary.



Majestic talian Alps: The tiny village of San Petro in Cardinar rests in the Villness Valley of the Treating-Ato Adge, also known as the South Tyno Alps. This segment of the wast mountain range extends south from the Austrian border into the Italian provinces of Bobzano and Treato. The Italian Alps span the nation's norther border, separating Italy from France, Switzerland, Austria and Skorenia.



Italian Towers: The Dolorniles, an eastern branch of the European Alps, rise as high as 3,342 metres (10,965 feet) and dominate five northern Italian landscape. The region is divided by numerous mountain ridges and steep river valleys. With mary meadows and crystalclear fakes, it is one of Europe's most popular vacation snots.



Scandinavia Political





Scandinavia Political



Scandinavia consists of the four countries of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, which are situated in northern Europe, and the island of Iceland, which lies in the North Atlantic Ocean.

The landscape of Scandinavia varies from country to country. Denmark is low lying, and much of the land is used for farming. Copenhagen, the capital and largest city of Denmark, is the largest island. About one-fourth of the people of Denmark live in the Copenhagen area and almost half of the country's industries are located here.

In contrast, almost all of Norway is mountainous and the country's coastline is dotted with long, narrow bays called Fiord, also spelled Fjord. Fiord is a Norwegion word, applied to deep bays and inlets along the ragged and mountainous coastline of Norway. Oslo is the capital and largest city of Norway.

Finland is a land of forests and lakes. Helsinki is the capital and largest city of Finland.

Sweden has an extremely varied landscape, which includes forest, farmland, mountains and lakes. Stockholm is the capital and largest city of Sweden. The central part of Iceland is a plateau of volcanoes, lava fields and glaciers, so most of the people live around the coast. The people of Scandinavia are the descendants of the Vikings, who lived there about 1,000 years ago. The Vikings are usually remembered as warriors and seafarers, but for most of the time they lived peacefully as farmers and fishermen.

Scandinavia has important natural resources, including the timber in its large forests, fish in the surrounding seas, iron ore in northern Sweden and oil and natural gas in the North Sea off the coast of Norway. Today, the Scandinavian countries all have successful industrial economies, and their people enjoy a high standard of living.



Denmark's Dairy Cows: In winter, Dairsh dairy cows Kronborg Castle: SX live indoors in ang barra, and in summer, they are moved out to pasture. The milk hely produce is processed not includes and batter, major apricultural products for Denmark, where about 80 per cent of farm revenue comes from Insectic Dannish famers commonly raise hogs as well as dairy cattle, using byproducts of dairying Stakespeer's Hamlet.



Kronborg Castle : Sixteenth-century Kronborg Castle dominates the waterfront at Helsingar, a Danish port of und not of Copenhagen. Historically, the castle was a toll-collecting station for ships crossing between Denmark and Sweden, and the strategic entrance to the Baltic Sea. It is also famous as Elsinore, the setting for William Phalmage and the Market.



Ice Fishing in Saamiland: Weering a fur hat and a colourful embouldered coat typical of traditional Saami attine, a fisher inspects his catch hauled up from a hole cut in the thick ice. Today, the Saami are a proud ethnic group whose ancestors occupied what is now northern Finland as early as 7000 BC. Fishing and reindeer herding are



Medieval Castle in Oslo. Part of Norway's tradition as a marachy, Merchas Sott (King). Gastle) is a medieval citade that was built in the early 14th centrury on a nocly pennisula ovardoxing the Oslo Forth. During World War II, when Germany occupied Norway, the castle beame the headquarters for the German amy and the side at which many resistance lighters were executed. Today it is used for state occasions.



Reindeer Herders of the Far North: The nomadic Saami of northem Sweden have survived as reindeer herders in this fingir deglon for more than 1,000 years. The reindeer is the only domestic animal that can survive north of the Arctic Circle. The Saami eat reindeer meat and use reindeer homs and leather to make hardicrafts.



Robots on a Swedish Assembly Line: Although robots are becoming more common in Sweden's automobile industry, final assembly of most Saabs and Volvos is still done by hand. Auto workers are highly paid in this Scandinavian country, which has an international reputation for craftsmanship, behnological skill, and the high qualify of its finished goods.



Landmarks in Helsinki: Helsinki's vast Sanata Square is surrounded by monuments, all designed by architect C. L. Engel after the city's great fire in 1608. Engel's designs include a domed cathedral, university buildings and the Council of State building.

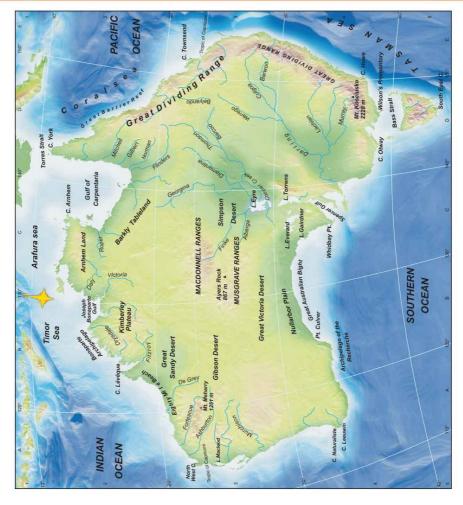


Savonlinna's Castle : Olavanlina Castle is the centerpice of Savonlinna, a small city in southeast Finland, and was built in 1475 on what was then the border between Sweden-Finland and Russia. Founded in 1639, the senic town of Savonlina boldy attracts thousands of visitors annually to a prestigious opera festival held in the ald castle.



Australia Physical







Australia Physical



The mostly flat country of Australia is completely surrounded by water. All the wettest, most fertile areas are concentrated along the coastline. The northern coast is tropical and humid, with lush rainforests and mangrove swamps. A narrow, fertile strip along the east and southeast coasts rises to the rocky Great Dividing Range. The highest peaks of this range are known as the Australian Alps. The Murray River begins there and winds slowly westwards for more than 2,500 kilometres.

West of the Great Dividing Range lie vast, rolling plains broken by occasional rocky hills or low mountains. The landscape includes scrub, sparse pasture and dried-out riverbeds. Water from wells enables livestock to be grazed there. Beyond these plains a huge plateau covers the western two-thirds of Australia. Much of this interior is harsh desert, a baking hot wilderness of sand, stone and cracked clay. However, the southwest coast enjoys warm, dry summers and moist winters. In the southeast the mountainous island of Tasmania lies about 250 kilometres off the mainland, across the stormy waters of the Bass Strait.

Australia's geographical remoteness from other countries means that a number of unique plants and animals have developed here. The best known Australian animals are the marsupials, which include kangaroos, wallabies and koalas. The commonest trees include the extremely tall evergreen eucalyptus and the bright-flowered wattles.

Most of Australia's wealth has come from farming and mining. Although much of the country is too dry for growing crops, the vast grasslands that spread across all the states are ideal for grazing large numbers of sheep and cattle. Crops such as wheat, sugar-cane and fruit are only grown on about five per cent of the farmland, but this land is extremely productive because of modern farming methods.



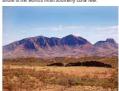
Eucalyptus Woodlands: More than 500 eucalyptus woodlands: More than 500 eucalyptus species grow in Australia, where they are known as guarteres. Hardy, flast-growing eucalyptus plants thrive in a variety of environments even in Australia's hottest with a manual formanders. The leaves of the plants contain an aromatic oil of that is usued in cold mendeles. Some species of eucalyptus are among the world's tallest trees, reaching heights of 91 metres (29) feet.



Lord Howe Island's Indigenous Treasures: The Norbik Island pine is one of many plant species found on Lord Howe Island, northeast of Sychey. The small volcanic island is known in its lucunant fourth small volcanic island is known in its lucunant found sustains 200 indeponous vascular plants and 70 animal species that are found nowhere else, and off its western shore is the world's most southerd you're in shore is the world's most southerd you're in the contract of the state of the contract of the shore is the world's most southerd you're in the contract of the shore is the world most southerd you're the contract of the shore the contract of the shore the contract of the shore shore



Australia's Bottle Tree : The baobab free is common in and northern Australia, especially on the Kimberlay Plateau and in the Northern Territory. Also known as the bottle free, the native plant stores water in its bubbous trunk. During times of drought, Australian farmers cut up the trunks of baobabs and feed them to livestock to keep the arimals from



Desert Mountains: The Flinders Ranges of Australia run northward from the Gulf Saint Vincent into the Outback Alfrough the climate is dry, there is a variety of vegetation, including widflowers that carpet the region in the spring. Brachina Gorge, one of the area's most scenic points, is located in Flinders Ranges National



Katherine Gorge of Australia: In 1862 John McDouall Stuart explored a stream arising in Arnhem Land and flowing southwest to the Daly River. He named it Katherine River, after the daughter of an acquaintance. The neer flows through sturning Katherine Gorge, the walls of which are coloured by red and brown quantitie.



Herding in the Australian Outback: A sheep worker musters or collects a herd in Australia's Outback, the and, sparsely vegetated interior of the continent. Each sheep requires many acres of land for grazing, and water for the animals is drawn from artesian wells.

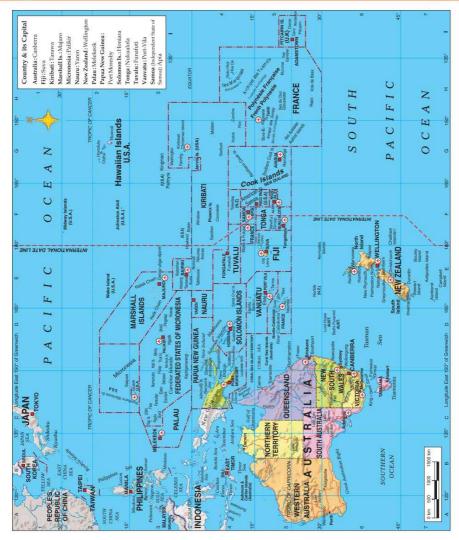


Rech Millions of Years in the Making. Parts of Australia's Grant Barrier Reof may be as much as 20 million years old. Most of the reof, however, has built up since the last loc Age, over the past 25 million years. The largest of liss kind and one of the world's most impressive natural wonders, the west stretches south from Cape York Pennisus about 2012 kindmerce about 1250 miles). Conditions for coal growth are ideal, and the water is usually crystal clear. Red and blue-green alspie near the surface give the meta distinctive cobur. Although much of it is prefected in national paris, increasing futurian, oil exploration, and immestone million pronethless threaten



Australia and the Pacific Region







Australia and the Pacific Region



Australia is a land of sunshine, open spaces and lively, modern cities. It is the sixth largest country in the world and the only country that is also a continent. Australia is divided into six states and two areas called territories. It includes the island of Tasmania. Each state has its own government, which controls aspects of daily life such as schools, hospitals and transport. Canberra is the capital of Australia.

Despite Australia's vast size it has a relatively small population. Most Australians live on a narrow strip of land extending along the east and south east coasts. The interior, known as the outback, is too dry and barren to support many people. Much of it is desert or scrubby grassland where it may not rain for years at a time. However, rich deposits of minerals and grazing for vast numbers of cattle and sheep make this region a major source of wealth for the country.

The first inhabitants of Australia were called the Aborigines, who originally came from Southeast Asia about 40,000 years ago. The country was discovered by Europeans in 1606, when a Dutch sea captain called Willem Jansz landed on its shores. It became a British colony in the 1700's and thousands of people who had committed crimes in Britain were given the choice of either going to prison or moving to Australia. As a result, many Australians are of British ancestry and the country has maintained strong links with the United Kingdom. The head of state is the British monarch, who is represented in Australia by a governor-general. In recent years, however, a movement to make the country a republic has continued to gather strength. Most Australians originally came from Europe. By far the greatest proportion of settlers came from Britain and Ireland, but large numbers of Greeks, Italians and Slavs also settled here. Until the 1950's the Australian way of life mirrored life in the United Kingdom.



Sydney's Towering Attractions: Towering buildings crowd Sydney's central business district, including sails of Sydney's Opera House grace Port Jackson, the Tower. The city's residential neighbourhoods spread across low hills toward the Blue Mountains. Australia's largest city and the first British settlement in the country, Sydney rests on a beautiful natural harbour.



Sydney's Modern Landmarks: The gleaming white city's superb natural harbour. The impressive cultural centre was designed by Danish architect Jøm Utzon and is recognised worldwide as a symbol of this thriving Australian city.



Skiing at Charlotte Pass: Built near the turn of the 19th Parliament House, Canberra: Canberra's broad century in Kosciusko National Park. Charlotte Pass is one of Australia's oldest and most isolated ski resorts. The highest pass in Australia at 1,780 metres (5,840 feet). Charlotte lies at the base of Mount Kosciusko in the country's Snowy Mountains.



avenue called Anzac Parade leads to Australia's former Parliament House, a colonial-style structure that now houses the National Library and National Gallery. The current Parliament House opened its doors in 1988.



Thorny Devil (or Moloch): Covered head to tail with thorn-like spines, this 20-centimetre (8-inch) lizard of Australia resembles a miniature dinosaur. Desoite its fearsome appearance, it is sluggish and harmless.



Golden Tubastrea: Tubastrea aurea. Common to the deeper portions of the Great Barrier Reef of Australia this anemone grows in clumps 10 centimetres (3.9 inches) across. When alive, the anemone consists of a polyp of stomach and tentacles encased in a hard

skeleton.



Taipan: The most poisonous snake of Australia and New inea, this 4 metre (13.1 feet) reptile kills 80 per cent of its human victims unless they are quickly treated with an antivenin. Even then, many people die. The venom of the taipan, which attacks the central nervous system and red blood cornuscies, can kill a horse within five minutes.



Snorkeling on the Reef: Snorkeling enthusiasts swim the warm crystalline waters around the Great Barner Reef. Among the numerous reefs and coral islands that make up the chain, snorkelirs can view thousands of living organisms, including starfish, sea turtles, sponges, and more than 400 varieties of spectacularly coloured coral.



Rugby Football: Grimacing players locked in a rugby football exhibit the fierce competition characteristic of Australia's favourite winter sport, popularly called 'foots."



New Zealand Political







New Zealand Political



New Zealand is a beautiful country in the southwest Pacific Ocean. It is made up of two large islands called North Island and South Island and a number of smaller islands, some of which lie far away in the South Pacific. Its nearest large neighbour, Australia, lies about 1,600 kilometres away.

This spectacular land has towering mountain ranges, lush forests, rolling grasslands and long, sandy beaches. On North Island there are several active volcanoes and many hot springs and geysers. Unique species of birds, reptiles and plants have developed in New Zealand, cut off from the rest of the world by hundreds of kilometres of sea.

It is believed that the country was first settled by the people called the Maoris during the AD 800's. They sailed here in large canoes from islands farther north, crossing vast distances of the Pacific Ocean. Europeans first visited New Zealand in 1642 and started to settle in the late 1700's. Between 1840 and 1907 this country was a British colony and today most of its people are of British descent. Wellington is the capital of New Zealand. Auckland is the largest city.

New Zealand is now an independent country, although the British monarch remains head of state. It has a high standard of living and a strong tradition of equality. In 1893 it became the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote.

A temperate climate and plentiful rainfall make New Zealand a good farming country. Although there is some industry, its economy is largely dependent on agriculture. The meat, wool and dairy products produced by sheep and cattle reared on New Zealand's green pastures are exported all over the world.



Tasman Sea Mountain: Mount Egmont stands atop Cape Egmont, where the western coastline of New Zealand's North Island juts into the Tasman Sea. The Maon of New Zealand call the mountain Taranak, also the name of the region in which the domant volcano resides.



Thermal Wonders on North Island: Bathers false advantage of the roaning Pohutu Geyser in the north central section of New Zealand's North Island. Central around the old Maon town of Rotona, the thermal region displays spounting eyess, boiling mud pools, and mineral-inch hot springs. Geothermal springs generate more than 7 oer entol of the country's electricity.



Merino Rams: None of the menino sheep that the explorer Captain Cook introduced to New Zealand in 1773 survived, but they were successfully entiroduced 80 years later. This is an important breed in New Zealand's high country, where its extraordinantly line wool is woven into worsted fabric for dothing.



Brown Kiwi: This flightless, hen-sized bird of New Zealand is named for its call, which sounds like "keewee." Its 5-centimetre wings are hidden undermeath its hair-like feathers. The nocturnal kiwi spends its days hurmwed in pine finests.



Emperor Penguin: This flightless bird of Antarcica dives to depths of 200 metres (656 feet) in search of squid and fish. The largest penguin at 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) tall and weighing 45 klograms (99.2 pounds), the Emperor Penguin makes no nest and defends no temtory.



Maori Boys: Maori means "normal" or "usual" in the Maori language. After the arrival of Europeans to New Zealand, who were viewed by the Maori as "different", the Maori referred to themselves as tangeta maori or "ordinary men."



Quenatown by the Lake: New Zealand's Quenatown had its first boom when gold was discovered in the nearly Shotover River, which gold prospections called "the inheat river in the world." Today Quenatown thives as a tourist centre in a region of lakes, rivers, and sis areas. The city spraws along the shere of Lake Walstopu. a watery level 378 memos (1,239



Fiords of New Zealand: Milford Sound in Fiordland National Park is the best known of the many flords that Indent New Zealand's South Island. The Sound was carved by glaciers and then flooded by the Tasman Sea.

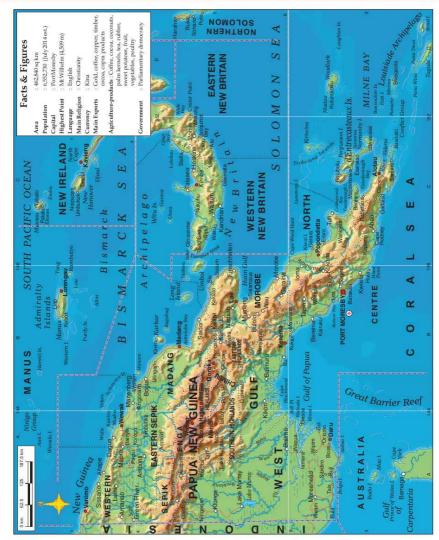


The Wellington Cable Car: The Wellington Cable Car's a function alway in Wellington, New Zeeland between Lambton Quay, the main shopping street and Kelburn, as suburb in the hills overlooking the central city, rising 120 m (394 ft) over a length of 612 m (2,008 l) with a maximum normal speed is 18 km/h passenger load of around 100 (30 sealed, 70 standral) passengers.



Papua New Guinea Political







Papua New Guinea Political



The country of Papua New Guinea lies on the eastern half of New Guinea, the second largest island in the world. The western half of the island is part of Indonesia. Papua New Guinea also includes many small islands, such as the Bismark Archipelago and the northern Solomon Islands.

Papua New Guinea is a land of mountains, fast-flowing rivers and dense forests. Its fertile soils support vast plantations of coconuts, coffee, tea, palm-oil and rubber. Grassy lowlands and marshes are home to crocodiles and tortoises. Other wildlife includes giant butterflies, large flightless birds called cassowaries and marsupials such as possums. Port Moresby is the capital and largest city of Papua New Guinea.

Most people live in rural areas, often in remote valleys that are inaccessible by road. This has meant that a huge variety of customs languages have developed-more than 700 languages are spoken. Over recent decades a network of airstrips has been built, making mountain towns and villages more accessible. Traditional way of life is still strong in the rural part of the country, with communities growing their own food and hunting animals. However, life in the modern towns and on the huge plantations is more like urban life elsewhere in the world. The earliest inhabitants probably reached Papua New Guinea from Asia at least 30,000 years ago. European explorers arrived in the 1500's and in the 1800's European traders and missionaries settled here. Germany and Britain controlled different parts of Papua New Guinea until 1920 when Australia took over. The people of Papua New Guinea speak more than 700 languages. To communicate with one another, the people use several widely understood languages called lingua francas. Most 98 percent of the population of Papua New Guinea are Melanesians, a dark skinned people with black, woolly hair.



Sepik River System: The Karawari River and other tributaries of the Sepik River system provide an important means of transport for the remote villages of northeastern Papua New Guinea. Flowing north, the Karawari joins the Korosameri, which moves into the approximately 966 kilometre-long (approximately 600 mile-long) Sepik.



Storytellers of Papua New Guinea: These Papuan storytellers, who depict spirit beings, delight in the tales of ancestors and the powers of nature. The elegant culture of the Papuans resounds with vocalizations and exacting mimicry, which reflect life amid dense forests,



Capital City of Port Moresby: Port Moresby, the capital and largest city in Papua New Guinea, sits on the hot, humid southeastem coast of the main island of New Guinea. The city's population more than doubled during the 1980's and new spones's 195,000.



Spirit House on the Sepik River: About half of the people in Papua New Gurnea practice ancient religious beliefs that include rhusia celebrating ancestors and spirits. This spirit house, in which no women are allowed, is typical of a longhouse serving one or more villages on the Sepik River.



Stick Insect: Remarkably well-camouflaged the stick insect. Sipploides sipplus, of New Guinea resembles a heig particularly during its daytime hyprodic state, in which it remains perfectly motionless. A female drops her eggs anywhere, and so many legs can fall in one section of the forest that it sounds like rain. The eggs can remain dormant for up to a year.

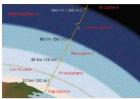


Rainbow Lorikeet: As its name suggests, this pands parts nearly every colour of the niinbow in its plumage. Resident from Indonesia to New Caledonia and Austraia, the nainbow lonkeet. Thindopsia haematodis, moves swiffly in flooks, feasing on the honey of europhysio biosoms. Unlike a hummingbird, which sucks the nectar out, the rainbow to fewed custies to the nectar.



Papuan Nations: The Dari is one of 257 Papuan nations that has liked on the island of Papuan New Guines and those near by for more than 40,000 years. The nich and varied cultures of the more than 800,000 Papuan people in litan Juya are a testimony to human tenactly, despite increasing immigration of non-Papuans from the island of Juwa.

Geographical Terms



Atmosphere: An atmosphere is a layer of gases (mostly nitrogen and oxygen on earth) that surrounds a celestial body. It is most dense near the surface of the celestial body and thins with altitude. The force of gravity holds the atmosphere against the celestial body.

Troposphere: The troposphere, which extends up to 16 kilometres (10 miles), is the part of the atmosphere closest to the earth. It can vary in height, however, according to season and latitude. The troposphere contains almost all the moisture in the atmosphere, and it is where most weather changes occur. Temperatures here decrease with altitude until they reach approximately -60°C (-75°F).

Ozone layer: The ozone layer is located within the stratosphere, about 24 kilometres (15 miles) above the earth's surface. It contains ozone gas molecules, which form as sunlight reacts with oxygen. These molecules protect life on the earth by filtering the sun's dangerous ultravioler radiation. Pollution by chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons depletes the protective ozone layer. It is believed that this causes an increase in the incidence of skin cancer and cataracts, and may damage agricultural and aquatic ecosystems.

Stratosphere: The stratosphere extends to about 48 kilometres (30 miles) about 48 kilometres (30 miles) about 48 kilometres within this layer of the atmosphere is the ozone layer, where the sun's rays react with oxygen to form the barrier that shields life on the earth from ultraviolet radiation.

Mesosphere: The mesosphere extends up to about 80 kilometres (50 miles) above the earth. Temperatures here fall to -90°C (-130°F), making this the coldest level of the atmosphere.

Thermosphere: The thermosphere extends from about 80 kilometres (50 miles) to about 483 kilometres (300 miles) above the earth's surface. Most of the ionosphere lies here—an electrified layer in which solar radiation ionizes atmospheric gases; these gases are concentrated into bands used by radio broadcasters to reflect radio signals.

The auroras also occur in the ionosphere. Temperatures in this layer are extremely hot, the result of solar-radiation absorption by atoms and molecules.

Exosphere: The exosphere, or outer region of the atmosphere begins about 483 kilometres (300 miles) above the earth's surface and gradually merges with interplanetary space. Here the air is extremely thin; its few atoms of hydrogen and helium are so far apart that they rarely collide.



Cirrus: Cirrus clouds form at high altitudes and have a wispy, delicate, feathers appearance (the word cirrus means "curl" in Latin). These feathers or curls are falling ice crystals being whipped away by winds. Cirrus clouds reveal the presence of moisture at great heights and may indicate an approaching storm or warm front.

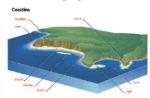
Clouds: Clouds are created when moist air rises and cools, and water condenses around dust particles to form tiny water droplets or ice crystals. The ten main types of clouds are classified on the basis of their shape and the height in the atmosphere at which they form. The types of clouds provide clues to atmospheric conditions.

Cumulus: Cumulus clouds are fluffy white clouds with rounded tops and flattened bases. These clouds form at low levels on warm sunny days and usually signal the continuation of fair weather. They can develop into cumulonimbus clouds or thunderheads.



Monsoon: A monsoon is a type of tropical wind that blows strongest in India and Southeast Asia. During winter, a cool and dry wind blows from the land to the sea.

In the summer, the wind shifts direction and blows from the sea onto land, bringing heavy rains that break the drought. This wind reversal results from the differential heating of the continents and oceans during the seasons. The monsoon can be beneficial as well as devastating. After six months of drought, the rains are welcome. After several months of the monsoon, however, extensive flooding may occur.



Coast: The coast is the land that borders the sea. Some coasts are made up of broad sandy beaches while others form rocky cliffs or low-lying wetlands. The shape of the coastline is determined by factors such as the types of rocks present, the forces of erosion and sea level changes.

Beach: A beach is a strip of land that lies along the edge of a body of water. Some beaches are small and rocky while others are wide bands of sand. The material that forms beaches is composed of whatever type of sediment is brought to the shore. It may be sediment carried to the land by rivers, sediment eroded from coastal rocks or offshore material brought by waves. Therefore, beaches may be made up of brown sand brought from distant mountains, black sand eroded from a volcano or white sand from nearby coral reefs.

Cliff: A cliff is a steep, vertical rock, earth or ice face, formed by erosion from weathering or by the action of water or ice.

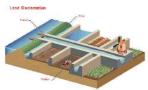
Sandbar: A sandbar is a ridge-like deposit of sediment, usually sand, that has built up in a river channel or at the mouth of a river. As a current slows around a river bend or as the river enters the ocean, sediment is deposited. Sandbars also occur near beaches, where beach sand is carried offshore by waves.

Spit: A spit is a long, narrow sandbar that is attached to a shore at one end. It is deposited and shaped by currents flowing along the shore.

Canal: A canal is a straight, usually artificial, waterway used for navigation, irrigation or drainage.

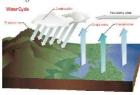






Polder: A polder is an area of low land that has been drained of water or reclaimed from the sea.

Dyke: A dyke is an artificial wall of soil or rock that is built along a river or ocean to prevent low-lying areas of land from flooding.

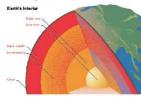


Condensation: Condensation is the process by which water vapour cools and changes from a gas to a liquid.

Precipitation: Precipitation occurs when water vapour in the atmosphere condenses and falls as rain, snow, sleet or hail.

Evaporation: Evaporation is the process by which a liquid warms and changes to a gas.

Transpiration: Transpiration is the process by which plants release water vapour into the atmosphere from their leaves.



Crust: The crust is the rigid, outermost layer of the earth. It is thin compared to the other layers and varies in thickness from about 20 to 40 kilometres (12 to 25 miles) beneath a continent to about 6 to 15 kilometres (4 to 9 miles) beneath the oceans. The continental crust is made up mostly of granite and rocks of similar chemical composition. The oceanic crust,

which forms the ocean floor, is composed mainly of basalt.

Inner core: The earth's inner core, the planet's innermost part, is about 1,600 kilometres (994 miles) thick and is made up of solid iron and nickel. Temperatures of the inner core may reach 5,500°C (9,932°F).

Upper mantle: The earth's upper mantle is about 650 kilometres (404 miles) thick and features two distinct layers. Directly beneath the crust is a solid layer that, combined with the crust, forms the lithosphere, which makes up the earth's plates. Beneath this layer is the asthenosphere, where semi-molten rock flows slowly like hot tar. It is believed that convection currents, which move within this area like boiling water, drive the overlying plates.

Lower mantle: The rest of the mantle between the upper mantle and the core is known as the lower mantle. It is about 2,300 kilometres (1,429 miles) thick. It is denser and hotter than the upper mantle.

Outer core: The earth's liquid outer core is about 1,800 kilometres (1,119 miles) thick. As a result of extremely high temperatures, this region is made up of molten iron and nickel. This liquid material helps produce



Solar system: The solar system formed more than 4 billion years ago and consists of the sun, its eight orbiting planets and their moons. These planets are in order from the sun Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. The solar system probably formed from a cloud of gas and dust that broke away from a larger cloud. Gravitational forces caused the cloud to spin and contract. The centre, becoming densely packed and extremely hot, formed the sun.

The outer material formed a disk, which clumped into bodies that collided and cooled to form the planets.

Mercury: Mercury is the planet nearest to the sun. From Mercury's hot, dry surface, the sun appears twice as large as it does from earth. Mercury's surface temperatures, which have the widest range in the solar system, can reach 427°C (800°F) at middlay, falling to -184°C (-300°F) in the middle of the night. Mercury's surface is covered with craters from the bombardment of meteors and comets. Mountain ridges have resulted from shock waves and the slow cooling of the planet.

Mercury seems to be made mostly of iron, and much of its outer rocky material is believed to have been blasted away by an asteroid. Because of its iron core, the planet has a gravitational field, but it is small and too weak to hold more than a thin atmosphere of sodium vapour and helium.

Venus: Venus is the second planet in order from the sun. Although it is twice the distance from the sun as Mercury, it is the hottest planet in the solar system. A thick, cloudy atmosphere of carbon dioxide traps the sun's heat and bathes the planet's surface in a drizzle of sulphuric acid caused by volcanic eruptions.

The surface of Venus consists of low-lying plains and highland regions shaped by volcanoes and lava flows. It is believed that volcanoes continue to crupt on Venus, as sulphur dioxide levels vary and unusually hot regions have been recorded. Except for three features, all of Venus's landmarks are named after women. A map of Venus shows a crater named Cleopatra, a canyon called Diana, and a plain named Guinevere.

Earth: The Earth is the third planet in order from the sun, the presence of a protective atmosphere, and a correct mixture of organic chemicals, the Earth is the only planet in our solar system that can sustain life. It is also the only planet on which the same substance (such as water) can exist in gaseous, liquid, and solid forms. The Earth is an extremely dynamic, active planet whose crust is constantly recycling itself by the constant motion of its plates.

Mars: Mars is the fourth planet in order from the sun. It is half the size of the Earth, its day is almost exactly the same length as the Earth's and like the Earth it tilts on an axis, which results in seasons. These changing seasons probably give the planet its 161-kilometre-per-hour (100-mile-perhour) winds, which cause its raging dust storms. Mars has two moons, which are possibly captured asteroids.

The planet's southern hemisphere is an old, stable surface with many craters. Its northern hemisphere, however, holds vast lava flows and gigantic volcanoes that are the largest in the solar system. A huge rift valley called the Valles Marineris is large enough to swallow up the Rocky Mountains. Thousands of branching channels snake across plains that are concentrated near the Equator. These

channels resemble river systems found on the earth and may have been formed when conditions on Mars were much different from what they are today.

Jupiter: Jupiter is the fifth planet in order from the sun. It is the largest planet in the solar system. It is more than twice the size of all the other planets combined. Surrounded by its 16 moons, Jupiter resembles a miniature solar system. Like a star, it is made mostly of gases and generates its own heat. Scientists believe that if Jupiter had about 70 to 100 times more matter, it would be a star. Jupiter's atmosphere is made up of bands of moving gases. The dominant Great Red Spot, three times the diameter of the earth, is a huge storm that has existed at least as long as telescopes have been viewing Jupiter.

A speedy rotation—once every 10 hours—gives Jupiter the shortest day of any planet and helps support its powerful magnetic field, which is thousands of times the strength of the Earth's. Night time on Jupiter is far from dark; the sky is lit up by its many moons, a shimmering aurora caused by its magnetic field, and flashes from gigantic lightning bolts.

Saturn: The planet, Saturn is the sixth in order from the sun. It is surrounded by thousands of rings made up of small particles of ice and rock. These may be debris from a former moon that was shattered in a collision with another celestial body. Saturn has at least 24 moons, and some of them show evidence of such collisions.

Saturn's density is so low that this gigantic planet could float on water, a clue that it consists mostly of hydrogen and helium gases. Saturn generates its own heat, probably because gases are separating in its interior, similar to the action between oil and vinegar. This separation enables gases to change some of their movement or kinetic energy into heat energy. Saturn has a strong magnetic field whose poles match its geographical poles.

Uranus: The planet, Uranus, is the seventh in order from the sun. Its most characteristic feature is that it spins on its side, with one pole facing the sun. One theory suggests that Uranus was struck by a large object and knocked onto its side. The intruder was pulverised, and its debris formed clouds of water vapour and rocky debris around Uranus. This debris later settled to form the 15 moons and 11 thin rings that surround the planet.

Another theory holds that the rings may have formed from debris created when some of Uranus's moons were smashed by small meteors. Like Neptune, most of Uranus is a dirty ocean of water laced with ammonia and methane and underlain by a rocky core. A hydrogen and helium atmosphere holds a trace of methane that gives the planet its blue-green colour.

Neptune: Neptune is the eighth planet in order from the sun. With huge storms that blow at up to ten times the force of a hurricane, almost enough to break the sound barrier, Neptune is the solar system's windiest planet. One of its great mysteries is what drives these ferocious winds.

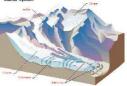
Four times the size of Earth and slightly smaller than Uranus, Neptune probably has no definite boundaries between its layers. It has a small core of molten rock surrounded by an ocean mixed with rocky material and mud. The top of the ocean gradually grades into an atmosphere composed of hydrogen and helium. A little methane gives Neptune its blue-green colour.

Pluto: Poor Pluto is no longer considered a planet in our Solar System. It was classified as a dwarf planet in 2006; before that it was considered to be a planet, the smallest planet in our Solar System. It is about 2,274 kilometres (1,413 miles) in diametre.

Pluto has one large moon named Charon; two small moons called Nix and Hydra and a recently discovered small moon named P4

Pluto's atmosphere is gas. It consists of nitrogen with some methane and carbon monoxide. When it is farthest from the sun, its atmosphere freezes and falls like snow. The sky is so dark on Pluto that a person would be able to see stars even during the day. No spacecraft has ever visited Pluto. However, the spacecraft New Horizons, which was launched in 2006, is scheduled to fly by Pluto in 2015.

Blacial System

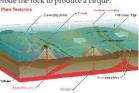


Glacier: A glacier is a mass of ice that forms usually in mountainous areas where more snow accumulates in winter than it melts during the summer. As the snow is being compacted into ice, the area is called an ice field. When the ice begins to move downhill under the force of gravity and its own weight, it is called a glacier.

Crevasse: A crevasse is a deep, nearly vertical crack in a glacier. It results from the stresses produced as a glacier moves over uneven ground.

Moraine: A moraine is a jumbled mass of rocky material that has eroded from land and is carried along and deposited by a glacier. A lateral moraine is the line of rocks carried along the edges of a glacier. A medial moraine runs down the middle of a glacier and results from the joining of two lateral moraines from two glaciers higher up the valley. A terminal moraine is dumped at the end of a glacier as it melts and retreats.

Cirque: A cirque is a steep-sided semicircular basin on a mountain that contains or has previously contained a glacier. The snow and ice in the glacier erode the rock to produce a cirque.



Hot spot: A hot spot is a thin area in the earth's crust where magma, or molten rock material rises from the mantle. The magma may reach the surface and forms a volcano or remains within the crust and causes hot springs and geysers. Because the plates that make up the earth's crust are constantly moving, a volcano formed by a hot spot will eventually move away from the hot spot. Therefore, when the hot spot again becomes active, it will form a volcano in a different part of the crust. The Hawaiian Islands were formed in this manner.

Subduction zone: According to the theory of plate tectonics, a subduction zone is the area in the earth's crust where a plate made of heavier oceanic material collides with a plate made of lighter continental rocks. The oceanic plate is pushed, or subducted, under the continental plate and descends into the mantle.

Trench: A trench is a long, narrow depression in the seafloor; it marks the point at which an oceanic plate is being subducted under a continental plate. The depth of a trench can reach about 11 kilometres (7 miles).

Seafloor spreading: Seafloor spreading relates to the theory of plate tectonics and proposes that oceanic plates pull apart at mid-ocean ridges. Temperature differences in the mantle of the earth create convection

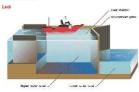




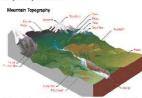
currents that force the seafloor apart. This allows magma from the mantle to escape and be grafted onto the plate edges. As the molten rock material cools, magnetic particles within the rock align in the same direction as the Earth's magnetic field. When the magnetic field periodically reverses, these reversals are recorded in the rocks.



Lake: A lake is an inland body of water that is located in a depressed spot on the earth's surface. The water in a lake can be fresh or salty. Many lakes in northern latitudes were formed by glaciers during the last Ice Age. As they advanced, the glaciers dug out depressions in the ground, and water from the retreating glaciers filled the hollows.



Lock: A lock is a section of a waterway enclosed by gates at either end to allow ships to be raised or lowered to a different water level. In this example, a ship enters the upper level and the gates close behind it. The water is then allowed to drain into the lower level, lowering the water level of the lock and the ship. When the water level of the lock equals the level of the lower canal, the lower gates will open and the ship can proceed.



Mountain: A mountain is a part of the Earth's surface that is much higher than the

land surrounding it; it has relatively steep sides and a summit area. A mountain can be formed by volcanic action, erosion or movements deep within the Earth. A chain of mountains is called a range.

Summit: A summit is the highest point.

Divide: A divide is a ridge of high ground that separates two drainage basins. The region on one side of the divide is drained by a completely separated river system than drains the other side.

Ridge: A ridge is a long, narrow area of elevated land, usually with steep sides. A ridge commonly connects mountain peaks.

Talus: Talus is the accumulation of weathered rock fragments that lie at the base of a steep slope.

Timberline: Timberline is the boundary at a certain high elevation or latitude beyond which the summer is too short to permit the growth of trees.

Waterfall: A waterfall is a place in a river where the water descends abruptly. It forms where the river flows from a resistant rock layer onto a less resistant layer. The softer rock is eroded by the water, creating a drop in the riverbed. A waterfall may also flow from a cliff or a hanging valley, where a small glacier once fed into a larger glacial valley.

Piedmont: A piedmont is a gently rolling plain at or near the base of a mountain.

Gorge: A gorge is a narrow valley with steep sides. Usually smaller than a canyon, it commonly forms when a river cuts downward into its channel more quickly than it erodes the valley walls.

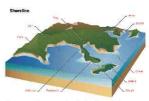
Plain: A plain is a large area of nearly level land that usually lies at a lower elevation than the land surrounding it. Plains can result from erosion or deposition. They are named according to their location and how they were formed. For example, a coastal plain or a floodplain.

Foothill: A foothill is a low hill at the base of a mountain.

Snow line: The snow line on a mountain marks the dividing line between the area in which snow remains year round and the area in which snow melts in the summer. The location of the snow line depends on conditions such as elevation, latitude, proximity to the sea, climate, wind direction, exposure, and the steepness of the slope.

Peak: A peak is the summit or highest part of a mountain. It is usually steep-sided. The term peak is sometimes used to mean mountain. Slope: A slope is that part of the land that rises or falls gradually in the same general direction.

Pass: On land, a pass is a low place in a mountain range that is used as a route of transport. In water, a pass is a narrow channel between two areas of land.



Ocean: The ocean is the body of salt water that covers the earth. It usually describes one of the four large connecting bodies of salt water: the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian and the Arctic oceans. These oceans play a major role in determining the earth's weather and climate.

Cape: A cape is an area of land that extends into a large body of water. It is generally larger than a point.

Gulf: A gulf is an area of the ocean that is partly surrounded by land. It is usually larger than a bay.

Bay: A bay is a part of an ocean or lake that is partially surrounded by land. It forms when water fills land that has sunk because of movement in the earth's crust or because of a rise in sea level. A bay is usually smaller than a gulf. Because their waters are relatively calm and protected, bays often make excellent harbours.

Arm: An arm is a narrow inlet that extends from a larger body of water into the land.

Sound: A sound is a large inlet of the ocean that generally runs parallel to the coast. It is also a long, narrow body of water, wider than a strait, that connects two larger bodies of water or separates an island from its mainland.

Island: An island is an area of land that is smaller than a continent and completely surrounded by water.

Strait: A strait is a narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water.

Peninsula: A peninsula is an area of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.

Isthmus: An isthmus is a narrow strip of land that bridges two larger areas of land. Canals are sometimes cut through isthmuses.



River: A river is a large natural stream that drains a large area of land and eventually flows into another river, a lake or an ocean.

Hill: A hill is a rounded elevation of land that is higher than the land surrounding it but lower than a mountain.

Floodplain: A floodplain is the flat plain that borders a river. It builds up over time by sediment deposited by the river as it overflows its banks and floods the area. The soil of a floodplain is usually very fertile. However, it is unwise to build structures or settle on a floodplain, because eventually the river will flood the area again.

Valley: A valley is a low area between hills or mountains that often contains a stream. It is generally formed from erosion by streams or glaciers or by movements in the Earth's crust.

Headwaters: The headwaters of a stream are where a stream originates. They are usually located in a topographic high spot, such as on a mountain.

Tributary: A tributary is a small stream or river that flows into a larger stream, river or lake.

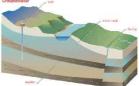
Source: A source is a thing from which something originates. For example, it describes the point at which a stream begins.

Junction: A junction is the point at which two or more streams, railroads or other routes of transport meet.

Oxbow lake: An oxbow lake is the abandoned loop of an old river meander.

Rapids: Rapids are a stretch of a river where the water flows fast and usually over or around rocks. The usually swift current results from a slight steepening of the stream bed or a narrowing of the channel.

Meander: A meander is a bend in a river. It is created by the normal action of a mature stream as it snakes over time across its floodplain. The river deposits sediment on the inner part of the meander, where the current is the slowest. On the outer curve, where the current is the strongest, the river banks erode. Eventually, the meander may develop into such a long loop that the river cuts across it to follow a shorter course. When this happens, an oxbow lake is left behind, which is the cutoff loop of the old meander.

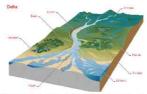


Well: A well is a deep hole drilled in the ground to tap water, oil or gas.

Water table: The water table is the upper region of the area of the ground that is saturated with water.

Spring: A spring is a source of groundwater flowing naturally from soil or rock. Its existence depends on the location of the water table, the topography and certain properties of the rock.

Aquifer: An aquifer is an underground rock layer, usually sandstone, that holds freshwater and also allows freshwater to flow through it. Gravity causes rain to seep down into the soil until it reaches the water table. Below this level, groundwater fills the tiny spaces that lie within the soil and rock layers. The water in an aquifer can be tapped for use.



Stream: A stream is a natural body of running water.

Channel: A channel is the deepest part of a river and often has been dredged for navigational purposes. A channel in the sea is a narrow stretch of water, usually wider than a strait, that connects two larger bodies of water.

Bank: The bank of a river is the ground on both sides that holds the river's main channel. During flooding, a river may overflow these banks. A bank in the ocean is a relatively flat part of the ocean floor that is higher than the floor surrounding it and that forms an area of shallow water. These shallow waters are often good fishing grounds.

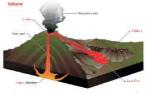
Levee: A levee is a ridge of sediment on either side of a river channel that is gradually deposited as the river periodically floods and overflows its banks. Sometimes artificial levees are built along rivers to protect land from flooding.

Marsh: A marsh is a wetland in which grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants predominate. The water that inundates the marsh may be fresh or salty.

Swamp: A swamp is a wetland in which trees or shrubs are the dominant form of vegetation. The water that inundates the ground may be fresh or, as in mangrove swamps, salty.

Estuary: An estuary is the area in which the mouth of a river meets the ocean. This unique environment mixes the fresh water of the river with the salt water of the sea, providing a home for many forms of life. The effects of the tides are typically strong in an estuary.

Mouth: The mouth of a river is the area in which the river enters a larger body of water. The mouth of a cave is the place at which the cave opens to the surface, and the mouth of a canyon is where the canyon empties onto a plain.



Volcano: A volcano is an opening in the crust of a planet from which lava flows. A volcanic mountain forms when magma from the planet's mantle forces its way through the crust in the form of lava or ash and then forms a cone on the planet's surface. On the Earth, volcanoes form near hot spots within the Earth's crust or in regions over subduction zones at the boundaries of tectonic plates.

Magma: Magma is molten rock material that exists within the Earth in its lower mantle and crust. Magma that flows onto the Earth's surface through volcances and rifts in its crust is called lava and forms extrusive igneous rocks. Magma that cools below the Earth's surface forms intrusive igneous rocks such as granite.

Lava flow: A lava flow is a deposit of rock material that flows out of the vent





of a volcano. Lava is molten rock, or magma, that originates within the mantle of a planet. Typically, the magma contains many gases and is ejected forcefully. This type of material settles to become an ash flow.

Caldera: A caldera is the collapsed crater of a volcano. It forms when an eruption empties the magma chamber that lies under the crater and the top of the volcano collapses under its own weight.

Crater: A crater is the bowl-shaped depression at the top of a volcano through which lava and/or ash and hot gases are ejected when the volcano erupts. A meteorite crater is the depression formed in the ground by the impact of a meteorite.



Winds: Winds are the movement of air in the atmosphere. They result when air heated by the sun expands and rises, allowing cooler air to move in and take its place. A global system of winds moves warm air from the equator to the poles and cold air from the poles toward the equator. Winds blow where there is a difference in air temperature and pressure, always flowing from high-pressure areas to low-pressure areas. Because of the earth's rotation, winds bend to the right north of the equator and to the left in the south; this process is called the Coriolis effect.



Cave: A cave is an underground hollow formed by water. Most caves occur in limestone rock that is slowly being dissolved by rainwater and underground streams. Caves may form along the coastlines as a result of wave erosion.

Sinkhole: A sinkhole is a depression in an area caused by the collapse of underground dissolved limestone rock. Sinkholes commonly capture streams, which then flow underground into cave systems.

Karst topography: Karst describes areas where the bedrock can be dissolved by the weak acid naturally contained in rainwater and soil water. Most karst terrains occur in limestone but also may occur in dolomite and even salt. Dissolution of the rock creates caves and conduits through which groundwater may flow. Karst topography is characterised by sinkholes, caves, springs, and disappearing streams.



Topography: Topography is the shape of the earth's surface, including the relief and the position of its landforms.

Contour line: A contour line is a line on a map that connects points of equal value, usually those having the same elevation above sea level.



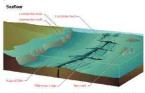
Alluvial fan : An alluvial fan is a fanhaped mass of sediment that is deposited when a mountain stream flows out of a canyon onto a plain. It is basically a delta that is deposited on land instead of in water. As rain and meltwater run down a steep mountain slope, they form a stream that erodes particles of rock or sediment, that are carried along with the current. When the stream emerges onto the plain at the base of the mountain, its current slows. Because this slower current cannot carry as much sediment as before, much of the sediment is deposited. An alluvial fan is generally found in dry regions.

Alluvial plain: An alluvial plain is a plain formed from the deposition of river sediments.

Canyon: A canyon is a deep narrow valley with steep sides that are usually wider and longer than a gorge. Canyons usually form in arid mountainous regions and are the result of erosion caused by rivers and heavy rains. Canyons are also found on the continental shelf and slope, formed where large rivers empty into the ocean or by powerful ocean currents. Some submarine canyons were previously carved on land by rivers when the sea level was lower and the continental shelf was above water.



Currents: An ocean current is a largescale movement of seawater. It is caused by the rotation of the earth, by winds and by temperature and density differences in the ocean. Other types of currents include wind currents (caused by air moving from an area of high pressure to one of low pressure) and river currents.



Continental shelf: The continental shelf is the seawater-covered edge of a continent. The most shallow part of the ocean, it extends outward from the coast for a few miles to several hundred kilometres. Most shelves are broad, gently sloping plains that are sometimes cut by canyons. Because of their access to sunlight and nutrients, they contain most of the sea's plants and animals.

Continental slope: The continental slope is the usually steep slope that connects the shallow continental shelf with the deeper ocean floor.

Transform fault: A transform fault is a strike-slip fault that offsets a mid-ocean ridge. A strike-slip fault forms when two pieces of land, each located on opposite sides of a fault, slide past each other laterally.

Seamount: A seamount is a volcanic mountain that rises from the seafloor but does not emerge above the water's surface. Seamounts can occur alone or in a group.





Mid-ocean ridge: A mid-ocean ridge is a part of the chain of mountains that lies on the floor of the ocean. According to the theory of plate tectonics, a mid-ocean ridge forms when two oceanic plates spread apart. As the plates separate, magma, or molten rock material, oozes up from the mantle and is grafted onto the edges of the receding plates.

Abyssal plain: An abyssal plain is a large, flat area on the ocean floor. These plains typically lie in the deepest parts of the ocean, far from land.



Globe: A globe is a spherical model of the Earth.

North Pole: The North Pole is the northernmost geographical point on the Earth.

South Pole: The South Pole is the southernmost geographical point on the Earth.

Latitude: Latitude measures the distance of a point on the earth's surface in relation to the equator. Imaginary lines of latitude called parallels run in an east-west direction around the globe. The Equator is at 0° latitude, the North Pole is at 90° north and the South Pole is at 90° south.

Longitude: Longitude measures the distance of a point on the earth's surface in relation to where it lies east or west of the prime meridian. Imaginary lines of longitude called meridians run from pole to pole in a north-south direction around the globe. The prime meridian is 0° longitude. Points can reach up to 180° longitude. The line of longitude at 180° west coincides with the line of longitude at 180° east with the line of longitude at 180° east longitude.

Arctic Circle: The Arctic Circle is the parallel of latitude located approximately 66° 30′ north of the Equator. Portions of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Russia and the Arctic Coean lie within the Arctic Circle.

Antarctic Circle: The Antarctic Circle is the parallel of latitude located approximately 66 ½° south of the Equator.

Tropic of Cancer: The Tropic of Cancer is the parallel of latitude located 23°27'

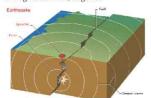
north of the Equator. This line marks the northernmost point at which the sun is directly overhead.

Tropic of Capricorn: The Tropic of Capricorn is the parallel of latitude 23°27′ located south of the Equator. This line marks the southernmost point at which the sun is directly overhead.

Equator: The Equator is an imaginary line of latitude that circles the globe in an east west direction exactly halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole. It forms a plane that runs perpendicular to the earth's axis. The latitude of the Equator is 0° and it is the point from which all other latitudes are measured.

Location: Location can be defined in terms of absolute or relative location. The intersection of a line of longitude with a line of latitude provides a unique or absolute, location for any place on the Earth. Relative location is the position of a place in relation to other places.

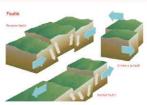
Prime meridian: The prime meridian is the meridian of longitude 0°, from which all other longitudes are measured. It runs from the North Pole to the South Pole through Greenwich, England.



Earthquake: An earthquake is a sudden shaking or vibration in the earth's crust. The crust is divided into sections, called plates, which continually move in relation to each other and are bordered by faults. When plates suddenly move past each other, the built-up strain is released along the fault, and the rock fractures. An earthquake also can be triggered by molten rock moving up into the chamber of a volcano before eruption.

Focus: A focus is the point within the earth at which an earthquake originates. From this point, shock waves spread in all directions.

Epicentre: An epicentre is the point on the earth's surface directly above the underground source or focus of an earthquake. The impact of the earthquake is usually strongest near the epicentre.

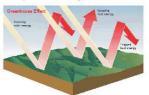


Fault: A fault is a fracture in the earth's crust that allows the rock layers on either side of the fault to move.

Reverse fault: A reverse fault forms when two pieces of land are pushed together, and one section of land rides upward onto the other.

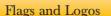
Normal fault: A normal fault forms when the land is pulled apart and gravity causes one section of land to move downward in relation to the other.

Global Warming: It is the increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere due to the greenhouse effect.



Greenhouse effect: The greenhouse effect is the process whereby the sun's energy is trapped in the earth's atmosphere by certain naturally occurring gases, notably carbon dioxide and water vapour.

When sunlight reaches the earth, some of it is reflected back into space, but much is absorbed by the earth's surface, where it changes into heat energy. Some of this converted heat energy stays in the atmosphere and is reflected back to the earth. Some sunlight is also absorbed directly by the gases in the atmosphere. Most of the earth's trapped heat travels back into space at night and during the winter season; however, properties in the atmosphere that allow sunlight to pass through to the earth's surface make it difficult for the converted heat energy to escape back into space. Thus, the atmosphere acts like the roof of a greenhouse, causing the earth



ASIA

Facts and Figures



















Afghanistan

Area (sq. km): 652,230 Population: 31,822,848 Capital : Kabul Currency: Afghani



Area (sq. km): 29,743 Population: 3,060,631 Capital : Yerevan Currency: Dram

Azerbaijan

Area (sq. km): 86.600 Population: 9,686,210 Capital: Baku Currency: Manat

Bahrain

Area (sq. km): 760 Population: 1,314,089 Capital: Manama Currency : Bahraini dinar

















Bangladesh

Area (sq. km): 143,998 Population: 166,280,712 Capital: Dhaka Currency: Taka

Bhutan

Area (sq. km): 38,394 Population: 733,643 Capital: Thimphu Currency: Ngultrum

Brunei

Area (sq. km) : 5.765 Population: 422,675 Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan Currency: Brunei dollar (ringgit)

Cambodia

Area (sq. km): 181,035 Population: 15,458,332 Capital: Phnom Penh Currency: Riel









Area (sq. km): 14,874 Capital: Dili







China

Area (sq. km): 9,596,961 Population: 1,355,692,576 Capital: Beijing Currency: Renminbi (yuan)



Area (sq. km): 9,252 Population: 1,172,458 Capital: Nicosia Currency: Euro

East Timor

Population: 1,201,542 Currency: US dollar (USD)

Georgia

Area (sq. km): 69,700 Population: 4,935,880 Capital : Tbilisi Currency: Lari

India

Area (sq. km) : 3,287,590 Population: 1,236,344,631 Capital : New Delhi Currency: Indian rupee







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Indonesia

Area (sq. km) : 1,904,569 Population: 253,609,643 Capital : Jakarta Currency: Rupiah



Iran

Area (sq. km): 1,648,195 Population: 80,840,713 Capital: Tehran Currency : Rial

Iraq

Area (sq. km): 438,317 Population: 32,585,692 Capital: Baghdad Currency: Iraqi dinar



Israel

Area (sq. km): 20,770 Population: 7,821,850 Capital : Jerusalem Currency: Shekel













Japan

Area (sq. km): 377,915 Population: 127,103,388 Capital: Tokyo Currency: Yen



Area (sq. km): 89,342 Population: 7,930,491 Capital: Amman Currency: Jordanian dinar

Kazakhstan

Area (sq. km): 2,724,900 Population: 17,948,816 Capital: Astana Currency: Tenge

Kuwait

Area (sq. km): 17.818 Population: 2,742,711 Capital : Kuwait Currency: Kuwaiti dinar















Kyrgyzstan

Area (sq. km): 199,951 Population: 5,776,500 Capital: Bishkek Currency: Som

North Korea

Area (sq. km): 120,538 Population: 24,851,627 Capital : Pyongyang Currency: North Korean Won (KPW)

South Korea

Area (sq. km): 99,720 Population: 49,039,986 Capital : Seoul Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)



Area (sq. km): 236,800 Population: 6,803,699 Capital : Vientiane Currency : Lao Kip















Maldives

Area (sq. km): 298

Population: 393,988

Capital: Male

Currency: Rufiyaa

Oman

Area (sq. km): 309,500

Population: 3,219,775

Capital: Muscat

Currency : Omani rial







Lebanon

Area (sq. km): 10,400 Population: 5.882,562 Capital : Beirut Currency: Lebanese pound







Malaysia

Area (sq. km): 329,847

Population: 30,073,353

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Currency: Malaysian ringgit

Nepal

Area (sq. km): 147,181

Population: 30,986,975

Capital: Kathmandu

Currency: Nepalese rupee









Mongolia

Area (sq. km): 1,564,116

Population: 2.953.190

Capital: Ulaanbaatar

Currency: Tögrög

Pakistan

Area (sq. km): 796.100

Population: 196,174,380

Capital : Islamabad

Currency: Pakistani rupee



Myanmar

Area (sq. km): 676,578 Population: 55,746,253 Capital: Naypyidaw Currency: Kyat















Philippines

Area (sq. km): 300,000 Population: 107.668,231 Capital: Manila Currency: Peso



Area (sq. km): 11,586 Population: 2,123,160 Capital : Doha Currency: Qatari riyal

Sri Lanka

Area (sq. km): 65,610

Population: 21.866.445

Capital : Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte Currency: Sri Lankan rupee



Area (sq. km): 17,098,242

Russia Population: 142,500,482 Capital: Moscow Currency: Ruble

Saudi Arabia

Area (sq. km) : 2,149,690 Population: 27,345,986 Capital: Riyadh Currency: Riyal (SAR)

Taiwan

Area (sq. km): 36,180

Population: 23,359,928







Syria

Area (sq. km): 185,180 Population: 17,951,639 Capital : Damascus Currency: Syrian pound







Singapore

Area (sq. km): 697 Population: 5,567,301 Capital: Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar



Tajikistan

Area (sq. km): 143,100

Population: 8,051,512

Capital : Dushanbe

Currency: Somoni

Thailand

Area (sq. km): 513,120 Population: 67,741,401 Capital : Bangkok Currency : Baht





Turkey Area (sq. km): 783,562 Population: 81,619,392 Capital : Ankara Currency: Turkish lira





Turkmenistan

Area (sq. km): 488,100 Population: 5,171,943 Capital : Ashqabat Currency: Manat











United Arab Emirates

Area (sq. km): 83,600 Population: 5,628,805 Capital : Abu Dhabi Currency: Dirham



Uzbekistan Area (sq. km): 447,400

Population: 28,929,716 Capital: Tashkent Currency: Som (UZS)



Area (sq. km): 331,210 Population: 93,421,835 Capital: Hanoi Currency: Dong



Yemen

Area (sq. km): 527,968 Population: 26,052,966 Capital: Sana'a Currency: Rial



AFRICA



















Algeria

Area (sq. km): 2,381,741 Population: 38,813,722 Capital: Algiers Currency :Algerian dinar



Area (sq. km): 1,246,700 Population: 19,088,106 Capital: Luanda Currency : Kwanza



Area (sq. km): 112,622 Population: 10,160,556 Capital : Porto-Novo Currency: CFA Franc

Botswana

Area (sq. km): 581,730 Population: 2.155.784 Capital : Gaborone Currency : Pula















Burkina Faso

Area (sq. km): 274,200 Population: 18,365,123 Capital : Ouagadougou Currency : CFA Franc

Burundi

Area (sq. km): 27,830 Population: 10,395,931 Capital: Bujumbura Currency: Burundian franc

Cameroon

Area (sq. km): 475,442 Population: 23,130,708 Capital: Yaounde Currency: CFA Franc (XAF)

Cape Verde

Area (sq. km): 4.033 Population: 538,535 Capital: Praia Currency: Escudo

















Central African Republic

Area (sq. km): 622,984 Population: 5,277,959 Capital : Bangui Currency : CFA France



Chad

Area (sq. km): 1,284,000 Population: 11,412,107 Capital: N'Djamena Currency : CFA Franc



Comoros Area (sq. km): 2,235 Population: 766,865 Capital: Moroni Currency: Comorian franc



Congo

Area (sq. km): 342,000 Population: 4,662,446 Capital : Brazzaville Currency: CFA Franc









Area (sq. km): 2,344,858 Population: 77,433,744 Capital : Kinshasa











Côte D'Ivoire

Area (sq. km): 322,463 Population: 22,848,945 Capital: Yamoussoukro Currency: CFA Franc



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Currency: Congolese franc (CDF)

Djibouti

Area (sq. km): 23,200 Population: 810,179 Capital : Djibouti Currency: Diiboutian franc



Egypt

Area (sq. km) : 1,001,450 Population: 86,895,099 Capital: Cairo Currency: Egyptian Pound





















Equatorial Guinea

Area (sq. km): 28,051 Population: 722,254 Capital: Malabo Currency: CFA Franc



Area (sq. km): 117,600 Population: 6.380.803 Capital : Asmara

Currency: Nakfa (ERN)

Ethiopia

Area (sq. km): 1,104,300 Population: 96.633.458 Capital : Addis Ababa Currency: Ethiopian birr

Gabon

Area (sq. km): 267,667 Population: 1,672,597 Capital : Libreville Currency: CFA Franc















Gambia

Area (sq. km): 11,295 Population: 1,925,527 Capital : Banjul Currency : Dalasi



Area (sq. km): 238,537 Population: 25,758,108 Capital : Accra Currency: Cedi



Area (sq. km): 245,857 Population: 11,474,383 Capital: Conakry Currency: Guinean franc



Guinea-Bissau

Area (sq. km): 36,125 Population: 1,693,398 Capital : Bissau Currency : CFA franc (XOF)





















Kenya

Area (sq. km): 580,367 Population: 45.010.056 Capital : Nairobi Currency: Kenyan shilling



Area (sq. km): 30.355 Population: 1,942,008 Capital : Maseru Currency: Loti

Liberia

Area (sq. km): 111,369 Population: 4.092,310 Capital: Monrovia Currency: Liberian dollar

Libya

Area (sq. km): 1,759,540 Population: 6.244,174 Capital : Tripoli Currency: Libyan dinar

















Madagascar

Area (sq. km): 587,041 Population: 23,201,926 Capital: Antananarivo Currency: Malagasy ariary

Malawi

Area (sq. km): 118,484 Population: 17,377,468 Capital : Lilongwe Currency: Kwacha (MWK)

Mali

Area (sq. km): 1,240,192 Population: 16,455,903 Capital: Bamako Currency: CFA Franc

Mauritania

Area (sq. km): 1,030,700 Population: 3,516,806 Capital: Nouakchott Currency: Ouguiya

















Mauritius

Area (sq. km): 2,040 Population: 1,331,155 Capital : Port Louis Currency: Mauritian rupee



Area (sq. km): 446,550 Population: 32,987,206 Capital: Rabat Currency: Dirham (MAD)

Mozambique

Area (sq. km): 799,380 Population: 24,692,144 Capital: Maputo Currency : Metical



Namibia

Area (sq. km): 824,292 Population: 2,198,406 Capital: Windhoek Currency: Namibian dollar (NAD)















Niger

Area (sq. km): 1,267,000 Population: 17,466,172 Capital: Niamey Currency : CFA France

Population: 177,155,754 Capital : Abuja

Nigeria

Area (sq. km): 923,768 Currency: Naira

Rwanda

Area (sq. km): 26,338 Population: 12,337,138 Capital: Kigali Currency : Rwandan franc

Sierra Leone

Area (sq. km): 71,740

Population: 5,743,725

Capital : Freetown

Currency: Leone



Sao Tome & Principe

Area (sq. km): 1,001 Population: 190,428 Capital : Sao Tome Currency: Dobra













Senegal

Area (sq. km): 197,161 Population: 13,635,927 Capital : Dakar Currency : CFA Franc

Seychelles

Area (sg. km): 455 Population: 91,650 Capital: Victoria Currency: Seychellois rupee

Sudan Area (sq. km): 1,861,484

Population: 35,482,233 Capital: Khartoum Currency: Sudanese pound





Somalia

Area (sq. km): 637,657 Population: 10,428,043 Capital: Mogadishu Currency: Somali shilling





Area (sq. km): 1,219,090 Population: 48.810.427 Capital: Pretoria, Cape Town Currency: Rand



South Sudan Area (sq. km): 644,329

Population: 11,562,695 Capital: Juba (Planned Future capital Ramdel) Currency: South Sudanese pound



Swaziland

Area (sq. km): 17,364 Population: 1,419,623 Capital: Mbabane Currency: Lilangeni





Tanzania

Area (sq. km): 945,300 Population: 49,639,138 Capital : Dodoma Currency: Tanzanian shilling







Togo

Area (sq. km): 56,785 Population: 7.351.374 Capital : Lome Currency: CFA Franc



Tunisia

Area (sq. km): 164,150 Population: 10.937,521 Capital: Tunis



Area (sq. km)





Zimbabwe

Area (sq. km): 390,757 Population 13,771,721 Capital : Harare Currency : Multiple*

Currency: Tunisian dinar

Uganda

Area (sq. km): 241,040 Population: 35.918.915 Capital: Kampala Currency: Ugandan shilling

Zambia

752,618 Population 14,638,505 Capital: Lusaka Currency : Kwacha

* Due to inflation multiple currencies are used for transactions in Zimbabwe

NORTH AMERICA





Area (sq. km): 442.6 Population: 91.295 Capital: St John's Currency: East Caribbean dollar



Bahamas

Area (sq. km): 13,939 Population: 321,834 Capital: Nassau Currency: Bahamian dollar







Barbados Area (sq. km): 430 Population: 289,680 Capital: Bridgetown Currency: Barbadian dollar





Belize

Area (sq. km): 22,966 Population: 340,844 Capital: Belmopan Currency : Belize dollar



Canada

Area (sq. km): 9,984,670 Population: 34,834,841 Capital: Ottawa Currency: Canadian dollar



Costa Rica

Area (sq. km): 51,100 Population: 4.755.234 Capital : San Jose Currency: Costa Rican Colon



Cuba

Area (sq. km): 110.860 Population : 11,047,251 Capital : Havana Currency: Cuban peso





Dominica

Area (sq. km): 751 Population: 73,449 Capital : Roseau Currency : East Caribbean dollar



Dominican Rep. Area (sq. km): 48,670 Population: 10,349,741 Capital : Santo Domingo Currency : Peso (DOP)



El Salvador

Area (sq. km): 21,041 Population: 6,125,512 Capital: San Salvador Currency :US dollar



Greenland

Area (sq. km) : 2,166,086 Population: 57,728 Capital: Nuuk (Godthab) Currency: Danish krone





Grenada

Area (sq. km): 344 Population: 110.152 Capital : St George's Currency: East Caribbean dollar



Guatemala

Area (sq. km): 108,889 Population: 14.647.083 Capital: Guatemala City Currency: Quetzal



Haiti

Area (sq. km): 27,750 Population: 9,996,731 Capital : Port-au-Prince Currency : Gourde



Honduras

Area (sq. km): 112,090 Population: 8,598,561 Capital: Tegucigalpa Currency: Lempira



Jamaica

Area (sq. km): 10,991 Population: 2.930,050 Capital: Kingston Currency: Jamaican dollar



Mexico

Area (sq. km) : 1,964,375 Population: 120,286,655 Capital: Mexico City Currency: Mexican peso



Nicaragua

Area (sq. km): 130,370 Population: 5,848,641 Capital : Managua Currency: Cordoba



Panama

Area (sq. km): 75,420 Population: 3,608,431 Capital : Panama City Currency : Balboa





Puerto Rico

Area (sq. km): 9,104 Population: 3,620,897 Capital: San Juan Currency: US Dollar







St Christopher (St Kitts)-Nevis

Area (sq. km): 261 Population: 51,538 Capital : Basseterre Currency : E.C. Dollar



Grenadines Area (sq. km): 389 Population: 103,220 Capital: Kingstown Currency : East Caribbean dollar



St Lucia





Trinidad & Tobago

Area (sq. km): 5,128 Population: 1,223,916 Capital: Port of Spain



United Nations

leadquarters: New York Official Languages : English, French, Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Spanish Present Membership: 185 Aims and objects : Security, Welfare and Human Rights



United States of America Area (sq. km): 9,826,675 Population: 318,892, 103 Capital: Washington, D.C. Currency : US Dollar

Capital : Castries Currency : East Caribbean Dollar Currency: Trinidad & Tobago dollar SOUTH AMERICA

















Argentina

Area (sq. km): 2,780,400 Population: 43,024,374 Capital : Buenos Aires Currency: Peso



Area (sq. km): 617

Population: 163,362

Area (sq. km): 1,098,581 Population: 10.631.486 Capital : La Paz/Sucre Currency: Boliviano



Brazil

Area (sq. km): 8.514.877 Population: 202,656,788 Capital: Brasilia Currency: Real



Chile

Area (sq. km): 756,102 Population: 17,363,894 Capital: Santiago Currency: Chilean peso

















Colombia

Area (sq. km): 1,138,910 Population: 46,245,297 Capital: Bogota Currency: Colombian peso



Ecuador

Area (sq. km): 283,561 Population: 15.654,411 Capital: Quito Currency : US dollar



French Guiana

Area (sq. km): 83,535 Population: 250,109 Capital: Cayenne Currency: Euro



Guyana

Area (sq. km): 214,969 Population: 739.903 Capital: Georgetown Currency : Guyanese dollar













Uruguay

Area (sq. km): 176,215 Population: 3,332,972 Capital: Montevideo Currency: Uruguayan peso



Venezuela

Capital: Caracas

Paraguay

Area (sq. km): 406.752 Population: 6,703,860 Capital: Asuncion Currency : Guarani

Population: 30,147,935 Capital: Lima

Peru

Area (sq. km): 1,285,216 Currency: Nuevo sol

Area (sq. km): 163,820 Population: 573,311 Capital: Paramaribo Currency: Surinamese dollar

Suriname

Area (sg. km): 912,050

Population: 28,868,486 Currency: Bolivar fuerte

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC REGION

















Australia

Area (sq. km): 7,741,220 Population: 22,507,617 Capital : Canberra Currency: Australian dollar



Area (sq. km): 18,274 Population: 903,207 Capital: Suva Currency : Fijian dollar

Kiribati

Area (sq. km): 811 Population: 104,488 Capital : Tarawa Currency: Kiribati dollar



Area (sq. km): 181 Population: 70,983 Capital : Majuro Currency : U.S. dollar









Micronesia

Area (sq. km): 702 Population: 106,104 Capital: Palikir Currency: US dollar





Papua New Guinea

Area (sq. km): 462.840 Population: 6,552,730 Capital: Port Moresby Currency: Kina

Albania

Area (sq. km): 28,748 Population: 3,020,209

Capital: Tirana

Currency : Lek

Belgium

Area (sq. km): 30,528

Population: 10,449,361

Capital: Brussels

Currency: Euro (EUR)



Nauru

Area (sq. km): 21 Population: 9,488 Capital: Yaren Currency : Australian dollar



Samoa lent State of Sa Area (sq. km) : 2.831

Population: 196,628 Capital : Apia rrency : Samoan tala

Tonga

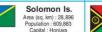
Area (sq. km): 748 Population: 106,440 Capital: Nuku'alofa Currency: Pa'anga





Palau

Area (sq. km): 459 Population: 21,186 Capital: Melekeok Currency: US Dollar





Capital : Honiara



New Zealand

Area (sq. km): 267,710

Population: 4,401,916

Capital: Wellington

Currency: New Zealand dollar











Vanuatu

Area (sq. km): 12,190 Population: 266,937 Capital : Port-Vila Currency: Vatu

EUROPE













Austria

Area (sq. km): 83.871 Population: 8,223,062 Capital : Vienna Currency : Euro (EUR)





Belarus Area (sq. km): 207,600

Population : 9,608.058 Capital: Minsk Currency : Belarussian ruble (BYR)







Bosnia and Herzegovina

Area (sq. km): 51,197 Population: 3,871,643 Capital : Sarajevo Currency: Mark (BAM)

Andorra

Area (sq. km): 468

Population: 85,458

Capital: Andorre la Vella

Currency: Euro (EUR)



Bulgaria

Area (sq. km): 110,879 Population: 6,924,716 Capital: Sofia Currency : Lev (BGN)



Croatia

Area (sq. km): 56,594 Population: 4,470,534 Capital : Zagreb Currency : Kuna (HRK)





Czech Republic Area (sq. km): 78,867

Population: 10,627,448 Capital: Prague Currency: Czech Koruna (CZK)



Denmark Area (sq. km): 43.094

Population: 5,569,077 Capital : Copenhagen Currency: Danish krone (DKK)



Estonia

Area (sq. km): 45,228 Population: 1,257,921 Capital: Tallinn Currency: Euro





Finland

Area (sq. km): 338,145 Population: 5,268,799 Capital : Helsinki Currency : Euro (EUR)





Area (sq. km): 640,680

Population: 66,259,012 Capital: Paris Currency: Euro, CFP franc (EUR, XPF)



Germany

Area (sq. km): 357.022 Population: 81,147,265 Capital : Berlin, Bonn Currency: Euro (EUR)



Greece

Area (sq. km): 131,957 Population: 10,775,557 Capital: Athens Currency: Euro (EUR)







Hungary

Area (sq. km): 93,028 Population: 9,919,128 Capital: Budapest Currency: Forint (HUF)





















Kosovo Area (sq. km): 10,887 Population: 1,859,203 Capital : Pristina

Currency: Euro and Serbian Dinar



Area (sq. km): 103,000 Population: 317,351 Capital : Reykjavík Currency: Icelandic krona (ISK)



Area (sq. km): 70,273 Population: 4,832,765 Capital : Dublin



Italy Area (sq. km): 301,340

Population: 61,680,122

Capital: Rome



Latvia Area (sq. km): 64,590 Population: 2,165,165 Capital: Riga Currency: Latvian lats (LVL)













Liechtenstein

Area (sq. km): 160 Population: 37,313 Capital: Vaduz Currency: Swiss franc (CHF)



Area (sq. km): 65,300 Population: 3,505,738 Capital: Vilnius Currency : Litas (LTL)

Luxembourg

Area (sq. km) : 2,586 Population: 520,672 Capital: Luxembourg Currency: Euro (EUR)



Macedonia

Area (sq. km): 25,713 Population: 2,091,719 Capital: Skopje Currency : Denar













Population: 30,508 Capital: Monaco Currency: Euro



Malta

Area (sq. km): 321 Population: 452,515 Capital : Valletta Currency: Euro



Area (sq. km): 33,851 Population: 3,619,925 Capital : Chisinau Currency: Moldovan Leu (MDL)



Montenegro

Area (sq. km): 13,812 Population: 653,474 Capital : Podgorica Currency: Euro

Netherlands

Area (sq. km): 41,543 Population: 16,877,351 Capital: Amsterdam Currency : Euro (EUR), US dollar

Area (sq. km): 238,391

Population: 21,790,479

Capital: Bucharest

Currency: Leu

















Norway

Area (sq. km): 385,178 Population: 5,147,792 Capital : Oslo Currency: Norwegian krone

Poland

Area (sq. km): 312,685 Population: 38,383,809 Capital: Warsaw Currency: Zloty (PLN)

Area (sq. km): 49.035

Population: 5,488,339

Capital: Bratislava

Currency: Euro

Portugal

Area (sq. km): 92,090 Population: 10,813,834 Capital : Lisbon Currency : Euro (EUR)



Romania

San Marino

Area (sq. km): 61.19 Population: 32,742 Capital: San Marino Currency: Euro (EUR)





Slovenia

Area (sq. km): 20,273 Population: 1,992,690 Capital : Ljubljana Currency : Euro



Sweden

Area (sq. km): 450,295 Population: 9,723,809 Capital : Stockholm Currency: Swedish krona



Serbia

Area (sq. km): 77,474 Population: 7,243,007 Capital: Belgrade Currency: Serbian dinar







Spain Area (sq. km): 505,370

Population: 47,737,941 Capital: Madrid Currency: Euro (EUR)



Switzerland Area (sq. km): 41,277

Population: 8,061,516 Capital : Bern Currency: Swiss franc















Ukraine

Area (sq. km): 603,550 Population: 44,573,205 Capital: Kiev Currency: Hryvnia (UAH)



Area (sq. km): 243,610 Population: 63,742,977 Capital : London Currency: British Pound (GBP)

Vatican City (Holy See)

Area (sq. km): 0.44 Population: 839 Capital: Vatican City Currency: Euro (EUR)



Area (sq. km) : 21,506 Population: 1,931,809 Capital: Novi Sad Currency: Serbian dinar

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India—Facts & Figures

Sr.	State	Capital	Area (In Sq. Km.)	Population	Density (per sq. km)	Literacy (In %)	No. of I (2001)	Districts (2011)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	160,205	4,93,86,799	308	67.66	13	13
2	Telangana (New)	Hyderabad	114,840	3,51,93,978	310	66.50	10	10
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	88,743	13,82,611	17	66.95	13	16
4	Assam (Asom)	Dispur	78,438	3,11,69,272	397	73.18	23	27
5	Bihar	Patna	94,163	10,38,04,637	1,102	63.82	37	38
6	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	1,35,133	2,55,40,196	189	71.04	16	18
7	Goa	Panaji	3,702	14,57,723	394	87.40	2	2
8	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	1,96,024	6,03,83,628	308	79.31	25	26
9	Haryana	Chandigarh	44,212	2,53,53,081	573	76.64	19	21
10	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	55,673	68,56,509	123	83.78	12	12
11	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar (Jammu)	2,22,236	1,25,48,926	124	68.74	14	22
12	Jharkhand	Ranchi	79,714	3,29,66,238	414	67.63	18	24
13	Karnataka	Bengaluru	1,91,791	6,11,30,704	319	75.60	27	30
14	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	38,863	3,33,87,677	859	93.91	14	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	3,08,346	7,25,97,565	236	70.63	45	50
16	Maharashtra	Mumbai	3,07,690	11,23,72,972	365	82.91	35	35
17	Manipur	Imphal	22,327	27,21,756	122	79.85	9	9
18	Meghalaya	Shillong	22,429	29,64,007	132	75.48	7	7
19	Mizoram	Aizawl	21,081	10,91,014	52	91.58	8	8
20	Nagaland	Kohima	16,579	19,88,636	120	80.11	8	11
21	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	1,55,707	4,19,47,358	269	73.45	30	30
22	Punjab	Chandigarh	50,362	2,77,04,236	550	76.68	17	20
23	Rajasthan	Jaipur	3,42,239	6,86,21,012	201	67.06	32	33
24	Sikkim	Gangtok	7,096	6,07,688	86	82.20	4	4
25	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	1,30,058	7,21,38,958	555	80.33	30	32
26	Tripura	Agartala	10,486	36,71,032	350	87.75	4	4
27	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	2,38,566	19,95,81,477	828	69.72	70	71
28	Uttarakhand	Dehra Dun	55,845	1,01,16,752	189	79.63	13	13
29	West Bengal (Poschim Bongo)	Kolkata	88,752	9,13,47,736	1,029	77.08	18	19
		NATI	ONAL CAPITA	AL REGION				
	NCT. of Delhi	Delhi	1,483	1,67,53,235	11,297	86.34	9	9
		L	INION TERRI	TORIES				
1	Andaman & Nicobar Is.	Port Blair	8,249	3,79,944	46	86.27	2	3
2	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	114	10,54,686	9,252	86.43	1	1
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa	491	3,42,853	698	77.65	1	1
4	Daman & Diu	Daman	112	2,42,911	2,169	87.07	2	2
5	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	32	64,429	2,013	92.28	1	1
6	Puducherry	Puducherry	492	12,44,464	2,598	86.55	4	4
1	INDIA	Delhi	32,87,263	1,23,63,44,631	382	74.04	595	640

