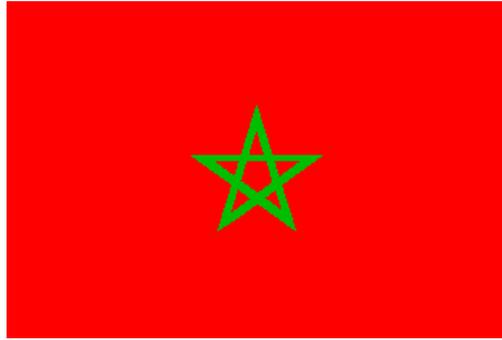




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Morocco



- ⦿ Morocco is the fourth most populous Arab nation and most of the 100,000 foreign residents are French or Spanish.
- ⦿ French is Morocco's unofficial second language, universally taught and primarily used for the nation's commerce and economy.
- ⦿ Moroccan cuisine is both diverse and outreaching. Couscous, for example, is a popular North African dish that is influenced and found in European countries, especially France.
- ⦿ France sought power of Morocco in the early 20th century. It minted and distributed its own currency, francs, throughout the territory. Francs were replaced in 1974 with the dirham, Morocco's current currency.
- ⦿ Morocco in Arabic means *The Western Kingdom*; however, Al Maghrib (*The West*) is commonly used. The name *Morocco* originates from its former capital, Marrakech.
- ⦿ Morocco has a de jure monarchy with a King who has vast executive powers. Oppositional parties have arisen in the past, but are rare.
- ⦿ Most of the population lives to the north of the Atlas Mountains that serve as the backbone for the country. To the south is the Sahara desert which is sparsely populated and underdeveloped.
- ⦿ The largest industry of Morocco is phosphate mining. Interestingly, the second greatest source of income for the nation is the transfer of money from relatives outside of Morocco. The third largest industry is tourism.

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Senegal



- ⊙ Although multiple languages are spoken throughout Senegal, French is the official language used by citizens and foreign residents.
- ⊙ About 500,000 Europeans reside in Senegal, most of which are French.
- ⊙ Senegal was colonized by France during the colonial era. During this time, many citizens referred to themselves as French rather than African. Most Senegalese people continue to adopt French culture.
- ⊙ The biggest, most recent trend in Senegal is hip hop. Senegalese-French rapper MC Solaar is internationally known for his catchy, original French and English music.
- ⊙ European influence remains prevalent in Senegalese society. Its reformed currency, the CFA franc is a fixed rate to the former French franc and now euor.
- ⊙ The Senegal Republic elects their president every 7 years. The current president is Abdoulaye Wade.
- ⊙ Dakar, the capital of Senegal, is located on the Cap-Vert peninsula. This is the westernmost point in continental Africa.



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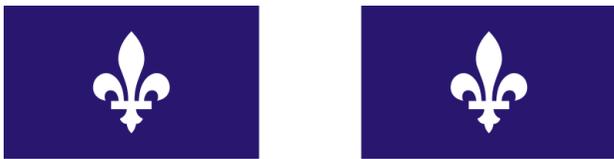
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Quebec



- ⦿ Quebec is the largest Canadian province and the second most populous.
- ⦿ French is the dominant language of Quebec. Quebec is the only Canadian province with English as a minor language. Along with New Brunswick, Quebec is the only province with French as a major language.
- ⦿ Quebec is three times the size of France.
- ⦿ The name *Quebec* comes from the Algonquin word meaning “strait” or “narrowing” which was originally referring to the narrowing of the St. Lawrence River at Quebec City.
- ⦿ The spelling of Quebec was once *Quebecq* and *Kébec*.
- ⦿ The first French explorer to reach Quebec was Jacques Cartier.
- ⦿ In government, the Lieutenant Governor represents Queen Elizabeth II and serves as the head of state.
- ⦿ Quebec is the world’s largest producer of maple syrup.
- ⦿ As the largest French-speaking society in the Americas, 80% of its citizens are French.
- ⦿ The slogan on the current French license plate is “Je me souviens” which is French for “I remember.” It is also the province’s motto.



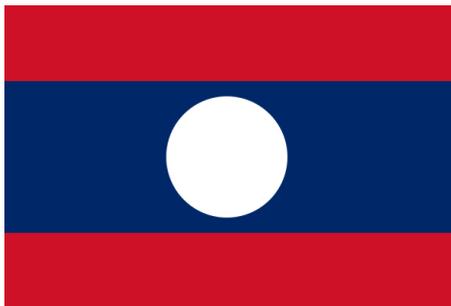
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Laos

- ⊙ France made Laos a part of French Indochina in 1893.
- ⊙ There is only one political party, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), with a president who is elected every 5 years.
- ⊙ This landlocked, Asian country is divided into 16 provinces.
- ⊙ In 1993, the nation set aside 21% of its land to be developed into a national park system. Known as National Biodiversity Conservation Areas, if completed, will be one of the most comprehensive, finest park systems in Southeastern Asia.
- ⊙ Many animal species have been recently discovered and rediscovered, such as the Annamite rabbit, to saola, and the Laotian rock cat.
- ⊙ The term Laotian is used to refer to people who are citizens of Laos. The term Lao is used to describe Laos's people, cultures, music, and cuisine.
- ⊙ The official and dominant language of Laos is Lao. French was once common in government and commerce, but has declined in usage.
- ⊙ All Lao newspapers are published by the government including the French newspaper, *Le Rénovateur*.
- ⊙ The staple food of the Lao is sticky rice.
- ⊙ There is a strong French influence on the cuisine in the capital city, Vientiane. For example, French baguettes are sold on the street and French restaurants are common.



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Martinique

- ⊙ Martinique is an island located in the Eastern Caribbean Sea. It is one of the 26 *régions* of France.
- ⊙ Since French colonization in 1635, Martinique has remained under French rule except for three brief periods of foreign occupation.
- ⊙ From 1635 to 1946, this region served as exporters of tropical trade goods such as sugar cane, coffee, rum, and cocoa.
- ⊙ Despite the small size of the island, a large popular music industry has flourished. Zouk music has been successfully well-known in the 20th century, especially in France.
- ⊙ Carnival is an important music festival in which music plays a vital role. Bands march across the island celebrating culture through call-and-response songs and chants. These large bands known as *groups à pieds* perform music known as *beguine vide*.



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Lebanon



- Lebanon, officially the Lebanese Republic, a small largely mountainous country, is located in the Middle East bordering on the Mediterranean, about 0.7 times the size of Connecticut.

The word "Lebanon" is mentioned 71 times in the Old Testament.

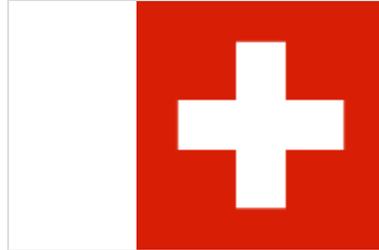
- Arabic is the official language of Lebanon. French, too, is widely spoken and was an official language during the French mandate (which lasted until 1943). English has become very popular in recent years as well, especially among university students, as a second or sometimes third language. Armenian is the native tongue of the many Armenian communities in Lebanon. It is common for Lebanese to use two or three languages in one sentence while speaking.
- Until the Lebanese Civil War, it was considered the banking capital of the Arab World and was widely known as the "Switzerland of the Middle East" due to its financial power. Lebanon also attracted large numbers of tourists, to the point that the capital Beirut became widely referred to as the "Paris of the Middle East."
- Lebanon has a moderate Mediterranean climate. In coastal areas, winters are generally cool and rainy whilst summers are hot and humid. In more elevated areas, temperatures usually drop below 0°C during the winter with frequent (sometimes heavy) snow; summers, on the other hand, are warm and dry.
- In ancient times, Lebanon housed large forests of the Cedars of Lebanon, which now serve as the country's national emblem.

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Switzerland



- Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a landlocked alpine country in Western Europe, made up of 26 cantons (states). This small multi-lingual country, of a little over 7 million people, has four national languages, German, French, Italian & Romansch.
- Switzerland has a strong economy in finance and banking, rates highly in international economic standards despite its small size, and maintains a long and strong tradition of political and military neutrality. This background allows Switzerland to host various international organizations, such as the United Nations, which, though headquartered in New York City, has many departments in Switzerland. The safety, security, and scenic beauty of the country, for walking, hiking, and skiing, give it a strong and robust tourism sector.
- With an area of 41,285 square kilometers, Switzerland is a relatively small country. The population is about 7.4 million.
- Switzerland comprises three basic topographical areas: the Swiss Alps, the Swiss plateau or "middleland", and the Jura Mountains along the northwest border with France. The most famous mountain is the Matterhorn (4478 m).
- The climate is moderate. From July to August the daytime temperature ranges from 18° C to 28° C (65°-82°F) and the January - February range is -2°C to +7° (28°-45°F). Depending on the altitude the temperature range may vary. There is no excessive heat or humidity. Southern Switzerland has sub-tropical vegetation and enjoys a year-round mild climate.

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Burkina Faso



- Formerly known as Republic of Upper Volta until 1984, Burkina-Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa, bordered by six countries.
- It is 105,792 square miles large (274,000 kilometer square), slightly larger than the state of Colorado and is classified as 74th largest country by its area.
- It has a population of 13, 228,000 people with 1.3 million living in the capital Ouagadougou (located at the center and biggest city of the country). The country hosts about 5000 Europeans,
- Burkina-Faso has a tropical climate with two major seasons: a dry season from November to February and a rainy season from May/June to October. Dry seasons are windy, especially when the windy Harmattan blows from the Sahara. The northern part is semi desert and the south is covered by the Savanna
- Colonized near the end of the nineteenth century by France, the country took its independence in 1960. However French remained the official language. Apart from French, 7 other languages are spoken that are all living languages and among them are Moore with about 4million speakers, Dyula (1 million speakers), Fulani...
- The country hosts two of the most important festivals in Africa, during odd number year, the FESPACO and during even number year the SIAO

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GABON



- The official **language** of **Gabon** is **French**, while 32% of the people speak Fang as a mother tongue. Outside Libreville, which is the capital, **French** is less commonly **spoken**, though it is used by those who have completed a secondary or university education. Bantu dialects is spoken include Bapounou, Miene and Bateke.
- *A spicy chicken dish (Poulet Nyembwe) is the national dish of Gabon. The word Nyembwe means palm oil in the Myene language which is spoken in Gabon. Essentially, Poulet Nyembwe is chicken cooked and flavored with palm oil. Smoked chicken is usually used to prepare it. People of Gabon usually serve hot rice, plantain or mashed yams with this dish.
- Gabon's rainforests are home to 777 species of bird.
- Traditional instruments like the *balafon*, harp, mouth bow, drums, rattles, and bells are believed to call on different spirits and each corresponds to a certain rite. The mouth bow, or *mougongo*, is for Bwiti Misoko, the harp is for Bwiti Dissoumba, while the balafon is mostly used by the Fangs to perform religious rituals. The currency is FCFA.

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