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	Country name and former names	Flag (Source: www.cia.gov)	Capital	Other major cities	Highest elevation/other peaks	Physical Features	Rivers	Independence from (Year)	Ethnic Groups	Religion(s)	Official Language(s)	Map (Source: www.cia.gov, World Factbook)	Bordering Countries	Currency	Major exports/ Economic facts
9	**Australia**		**Canberra** (a planned capital city designed by American architect Walter Burley Griffin; site of Canberra was selected for the location of the nation's capital in 1908 and established in 1913 as compromise between the competing claims of Sydney and Melbourne; Australia's largest inland city; located in the ACT; home to several attractions, among them the**Parliament House** with its Aboriginal mosaic and gleaming exterior and **Lake Burley Griffin**, used for recreation)	**Sydney** (largest city; site of the first European colony in Australia, established in 1788 at Sydney Cove by Arthur Phillip; tourist attractions are the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, The Rocks, Queen Victoria Building, and Kings Cross, and Bondi, Maroubra, Narrabeen, and Manly beaches), **Melbourne** (second-largest city; located at the mouth of the Yarra River on Port Phillip Bay), **Brisbane** (third-largest city; capital and largest city of Queensland; located between Moreton Bay to the east and the Great Dividing Range to the west; located on the Brisbane River), **Perth** (located on the Swan Coastal Plain between the Indian Ocean to the west and the bauxite-rich Darling Range to the east; its CBD and suburbs are situated on the Swan River;), **Adelaide** (fifth-largest city and capital of South Australia; situated on Gulf St. Vincent at the mouth of the Torrens River, which is its primary water source),	**Mount Kosciuszko** **Other notable peaks: Mount Townsend** (second-highest peak; only 3 miles north of Mount Kosciuszko; located in the Snowy Mountains), **Mawson Peak** (on Heard Island; summit of the Big Ben Massif; Australia's highest peak if external territories are included)	**Great Dividing Range**, **Flinders Ranges**, **Snowy Mountains** (contain mainland Australia's highest mountain,**Mount Kosciuszko**), **Macdonell Ranges**, **Hamersley Range**, **Lake Eyre** (deepest point and largest lake in Australia/Oceania), **Lake Torrens**, **Nullarbor Plain**, **Kimberley Plateau**, **Gibson Desert** , **Great Sandy Desert**, **Great Victoria Desert**, **Simpson Desert**, **Tanami Desert**, Arafura Sea, Timor Sea, Tasman Sea, Coral Sea, Gulf of Carpentaria, Great Australian Bight, Joseph Bonaparte Gulf,**Spencer Gulf**, Tasmania, **Fraser Island**, **Melville Island**, **Bathurst Island** , **Cape York Peninsula**, **Eyre Peninsula**, **York Peninsula** (seperates the Spencer Gulf from the Gulf St. Vincent), **Fleurieu Peninsula**, **Gulf St. Vincent**, **Bass Strait** , **Torres Strait** **Capes: Cape York** (northernmost point of mainland Australia), **Cape Leeuwin** (southwesternmost point), **Cape Byron** (easternmost point of continental Australia)	**Murray** (has its source in the Australian Alps; forms much of the Victoria-New South Wales border; flows into the Indian Ocean just southeast of Adelaide; along with its tributary, the Darling, it forms the longest river in Australia/Oceania), **Darling** (rises in the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales; tributary of the Murray River; forms part of the New South Wales-Queensland border), **Lachlan** (has its source in the Great Dividing Range near Canberra; tributary of Murrumbidgee River), **Murrumbidgee** (tributary of the Murray River; flows through New South Wales; has its source in the Australian Alps)	United Kingdom (1901)	White, Asian, Aboriginal	Christianity	English		Australia is an island country, hence it does not border any country.	Australian Dollar	**Major exports:Coal, Gold, Meat** (especially beef), **Wool**, **Alumina** **Climate of Australia: Sydney**, **Melbourne**, and all of **Tasmania** have a **marine west coast** (oceanic) climate, moderated by the oceanic breezes and currents with precipitation throughout the year. **Adelaide**and **Perth** have a Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.**Brisbane** and much of the **coast of Queensland** have a **humid subtropical** climate characterized by warm, humid summers and colder winters with increased distance from the coast.**Alice Springs**, close to the geographic center of Australia, possesses an **arid** (desert) climate which is the result of a high pressure area. And **Darwin**, on the northern tropical coast, has a **tropical wet and dry** climate with a cooler dry season and a warmer, very moist wet season.
24	**Brazil**		**Brasília** (the entire city is a WHS; laid out in the shape of an airplane; replaced Rio as the capital in 1960; located in the Federal District, surrounded by the state of Goias; home to the National Congress, the Brazilian parliament building; designed by Oscar Niemeyer, an internationally famous Brazilian architect)	**Sao Paulo** (largest city; attractions include Avenida Paulista, Liberdade, Sacred Art Museum and MASP Museum, along with the beach resort of Guaruja; most populous city in the southern and western hemispheres), **Rio De Janeiro** (second-largest Brazilian city; famous landmarks are Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountains, Ipanema, Copacabana, Leblon, Arpoador, Gavea and Flamengo beaches, Tijuca Forest, Flamengo Park, Maracana Stadium, Cristo Redentor, Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, Guanabara Bay, Copacabana Palace Hotel and of course Carnival; once the capital of Brazil from 1763-1960 and of the Portuguese Empire from 1808-1821; residents of the city are called Cariocas ; served by Galeao International Airport; the **Sepetiba Terminal**located to the west of the city is an important port facility for shipping),**Salvador** (center of Brazil's African culture), **Belo Horizonte** (capital of Minas Gerais), **Fortaleza**, **Curitiba**, **Manaus** (largest city of the Amazon Basin), **Recife**, **Belem**, **Porto Alegre**	**Pico Da Neblina** (on the Brazil-Venezuela border, it forms the core of Pico da Neblina NP; located in the Guiana Highlands)	Brazilian Highlands, Guiana Highlands, Sierra Do Espinhaco, Sierra Do Mar, Serra da Mantiqueira, Mato Grosso plateau, Amazon Rainforest, Atlantic Ocean, Lagoa Dos Patos lagoon, **Lagoa Mirim** (extends into Uruguay), **Marajo** (island at the mouth of the Amazon; its southern border is marked by the Para River), **Pantanal** (situated mostly in Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul states of Brazil; the world's largest wetland),**Itaipu Reservoir** (formed by the Itaipu Dam), **Iguacu Falls** (the Devil's Throat is the most spectacular of the falls; the Hotel das Cataratas offers the only falls-view rooms on the Brazilian side), **Pakaraima Mountains** (on the border with Venezuela), **Kanuku Mountains** (on the border with Guyana), **Serra dos Parecis** (on the border with Bolivia), **Serra de Tumucumaque** (on the border with Suriname and French Guiana), **Selvas** (hot, humid region of the Amazon Rainforest with broadleaf, evergreen trees), **Sertao** (a semiarid region in northeastern Brazil), **Yungas** (a humid region occupying much of eastern Bolivia and south central Brazil)	**Amazon** (largest and second-longest river in the world; drains almost all of the northern South American continent), **Sao Francisco** (has its source in the Brazilian Highlands; flows into the Atlantic Ocean at the Alagoas-Sergipe border), **Parana** (second-longest river in South America; formed by the confluence of the Rio Grande and Paranaiba Rivers), **Iguacu** (flows through Curitiba; forms part of the Brazil-Argentina border; tributary of the Parana), **Tocantins** (originates in Goias; has its confluence with the Amazon at Belem),**Araguaia** (longest tributary of the Tocantins), **Xingu** (tributary of the Amazon), **Tapajos** (joins the Amazon at Santarem), **Teles Pires** a.k.a. **Rio Manoel** (longest tributary of the Tapajos), **Madeira** (longest tributary of the Amazon; formed by the confluence of the Mamore and Beni Rivers from Bolivia; flows through Porto Velho), **Purus** (rises in Peru; tributary of the Amazon), **Jurua** (rises in Peru; tributary of the Amazon; flows through the Selvas), **Negro** (extends into Venezuela and Colombia; flows through Manaus	Portugal (1822)	European	Roman Catholic (the largest Roman Catholic nation in the world)	Portuguese		French Guiana (overseas department of France), Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay **Note:** Brazil borders all countries in South America except Ecuador and Chile.	Real	**Coffee, Iron Ore, Soybeans, Transport equipment** 1) **Petrobras** is a Brazilian oil company headquartered in Rio de Janeiro. On the continental shelf off of Campos, northeast of Rio, are large petroleum and natural gas reserves, which are being exploited by Petrobras. **Marlim** (the largest) and **Albacora** are two major oil fields located off the coast in the Campos Basin. 2) Brazil shares its longest border with Bolivia and Venezuela. 3) Brazil has a larger area and population than any other country in South America.
40	**Congo, Democratic Republic of the** **Former Names:** Congo Free State, Belgian Congo, Zaire, Congo/Kinshasa		**Kinshasa** (formerly) **Leopoldville**; located on the Congo River directly opposite Kinshasa; **La Gombe**, bordered by the Congo, is the business/administrative district; together, the conurbation of Kinshasa- Brazzaville has a population of 9 million, with Kinshasa having 7 million; ties with Johannesburg for the status of the second largest city in sub-Saharan Africa and the third largest in the whole continent after Cairo and Lagos; also the second largest francophone city in the world after Paris; the **Academie des Beaux Artshas** a fascinating collection of art)	**Lubumbashi** (capital and largest city of Katanga, second largest in the DRC as a whole, and hub of the southeastern part of the country; an important commercial and industrial center, close to vast cobalt, copper, tin, uranium, and diamond deposits), **Kolwezi** (third-largest city in the country; an important mining centre for copper and cobalt; located in the province of Katanga), **Mbuji-Mayi** (a centre of diamond mining), **Kisangani** (located at Boyoma Falls on the point where the Lualaba River becomes the Congo River), **Mbandaka** (located on the Congo River), **Kananga** , **Kalemie** (chief port on Lake Tanganyika; connected to the Indian Ocean via ferry across the lake to Kigoma, and rail to Dar es Salaam),**Goma** (lies between Nyiragongo volcano to the north and Lake Kivu to the south; one of the locations Hutu Rwandans fled to after the genocide of 1994; lavas from Nyiragongo continually destroy the city),**Matadi** (DRC's chief seaport; located on the Congo River; serves as a major import and export point for the whole nation)	Margherita Peak on **Mount Stanley** (located on the DRC-Uganda border; between Lakes Albert and Edward; third highest peak in Africa after Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya) **Other major mountains: Kartsimbi** (highest of the Virunga Mountains on the border with Rwanda), **Nyiragongo** (about 20 kms north of Goma and just west of the border with Rwanda), **Nyamuragira** (situated about 25 km north of Goma and Lake Kivu; along with Nyiragongo, responsible for 40% of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions and a large portion of the sulfur dioxide released into the atmosphere), and **Mount Kahuzi** and **Mount Biega** (centerpieces of Kahuzi-Biega National Park)	**Congo Rainforest** (extends into the Republic of the Congo), **Ituri Rainforest** (located in northeastern DRC; famed for its okapis, animals closely related to the giraffe but who look like zebras), **Mitumba Mountains** (extends into Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Zambia),**Ruwenzori Range** (extends into Uganda; between Lakes Albert and Edward; nicknamed the 'Mountains of the Moon'; highest point is Mount Stanley on the border with Uganda), **Bleus Mountains** (extend into Uganda; located along the western coast of Lake Albert), **Lake Edward** (extends into Uganda; bordered by the Mitumba Mountains to the southwest; located in the Great Rift Valley),**Lake Albert** (on the edge of the Bleus Mountains in the Great Rift Valley), **Lake Kivu** (located on the border with Rwanda; in the Great Rift Valley),**Lake Tanganyika** , **Lake Mweru**, **Congo River Delta**, **Great Rift Valley**, **Atlantic Ocean**, **Livingstone Falls**, **Boyoma Falls** a.k.a. **Stanley Falls**, **Maiebo Pool**	**Congo** (forms part of the border with Republic of the Congo and Angola; has its delta on the border with Angola; second-longest river in Africa), **Lualaba** (flows through eastern DRC; tributary of the Congo River), **Kasai** (tributary of the Kwa River; forms part of the DRC-Angola border; extends into Angola), **Kwilu** (tributary of the Cuango River), **Ubele** (tributary of the Ubangi River), **Mbomou** (tributary of the Ubangi River; forms part of the border with Central African Republic), **Luapula** (forms part of the border with Zambia; flows through Lake Mweru into the Lualaba River), **Kwa** (flows into the Congo River), **Ubangi** (forms part of DRC's border with ROC and Central African Republic), **Aruwimi** (tributary of the Congo River)	Belgium (1960)	**Three major tribes:** Mongo, Luba, Kongo	Christianity, **Kimbanguism** (a Christian sect and independent African church founded during the time of the Belgian Congo)	French, **Lingala** (primarily in the north-central region; a lingua franca trade language; chief language of Kinshasa), Kingwana		Central African Republic, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Republic of the Congo	Congolese Franc	**Diamonds, copper, crude oil, cobalt** 1) The Congo River has the second largest discharge of water and the second largest watershed in the world after the Amazon. It is also the second-longest river in Africa after the Nile. 2) The DRC is the twelfth largest country in the world by area and the third largest in Africa (after Sudan and Algeria). 3) The DRC is known for its national parks and wildlife reserves. The most popular of them are: **Virunga NP** (mountain gorillas are found in the park),**Okapi Faunal Reserve** (contains a part of the **Ituri Rainforest** of northeastern DRC), **Kahuzi-Biega NP** (wildlife, especially the endangered mountain gorilla; also includes its two signature volcanoes, Kahuzi and Biega), **Upemba NP**, and **Kundelungu NP**.
65	**Germany** **Official Name:** Federal Republic of Germany		**Berlin** (at the confluence of the Spree and Havel Rivers; sights include the Reichstag building, Museum Island, Pergamon Museum, Kurfurstendamm, Unter den Linden, Brandenburg Gate, Tiergarten, Pergamon Museum, Schloesplatz, Alexanderplatz, Potsdamer Platz, Sony Center, and the German State Opera)	**Hamburg** (located at the delta of the Elbe River), **Munich** (on the Isar River), **Cologne** (on the Rhine River), **Frankfurt** (on the Main River), **Essen** (on the Ruhr River), **Dortmund** (on the Ruhr River), **Stuttgart**, **Dusseldorf** (on the Rhine River), Bremen, Hannover, **Duisburg** (has the largest inland port in Europe; located at the confluence of the Ruhr and Rhine Rivers), **Leipzig** (most commonly associated with Johann Sebastian Bach),**Dresden** (on the Elbe River, a beautifully restored and preserved city), **Magdeburg** (on the Elbe River; capital of Saxony-Anhalt), **Heidelberg** (known for its castle, Alte Brucke bridge, and the Neckar River), **Mannheim** (the Wasserturm is the city's symbol), **Mainz**, **Wiesbaden**, **Koblenz**, **Bonn** (once capital of West Germany), Erfurt, **Nuremberg** (scene of the WWII war crimes trials), **Kiel** (located on the Bay of Kiel at the eastern terminus of the Kiel Canal; one of the country's main naval bases),**Rostock** (the neighborhood of **Warnemunde** is a major cruise port)	**Zugspitze**, on the border with Austria and in the Bavarian Alps. The town of **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**, a noted ski resort, lies at the foot of the mountain.	Alps, Ore (Erzebirge) Mountains, **Schwabische Alb** (east of the Schwarzwald), **Black Forest** (Schwarzwald), **Thuringer Wald** (southeast of Erfurt in Thuringia), **Harz Mountains** (between the cities of Erfurt, Magdeburg, and Hannover), Bavarian Alps, Helgolander Bay, Pomeranian Bay, Kiel Bay, Mecklenburger Bay, Strettiner Haff lagoon, Jutland Peninsula, Baltic Sea, North Sea, **Lake Constance** (Bodensee), **Eifel** (a volcanic, mountainous region of western Germany, in southwestern North-Rhine Westphalia and northwestern Rhineland-Palatinate),**Teutoburg Forest** (a range of low, forested mountains in the German states of Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia), East Frisian Islands, North Frisian Islands (extend into Denmark), Rugen, Helgoland (archipelago in its namesakebucht) **Historic regions: Pomerania** (along the Baltic coast extending into Poland), **Franconia** (north Bavaria), **Friesland** or **Frisia** (coast along Helgolander Bay), **Swabia** (southern Germany)	**Rhine** (flows through the cities of Mannheim, Worms, Mainz, Wiesbaden, Koblenz, Bonn, Cologne, and Dusseldorf), **Elbe** (flows through Dresden, Magdeburg, and Hamburg), **Oder** (forms part of the Germany-Poland border; flows into the Lagoon of Szczecin, and ultimately into Pomeranian Bay and the Baltic Sea), **Weser** (flows through Bremen and Bremerhaven into Helgolander Bay), **Danube** (the port of Passau is the launch point for cruises into Eastern Europe), **Main** (Frankfurt, largest city in Hesse, is located on this river), **Ruhr** (flows through the Ruhr Area cities of Dortmund, Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, Essen, Oberhausen, Mulheim and Duisburg), **Mosel** (forms the Saarland-Luxembourg border), Neckar, **Spree** (tributary of the Havel), Havel, **Ems** (flows into the Waddenzee in Lower Saxony) **Tributaries of the Danube: Lech** (flows through Augsburg), **Isar** (river of Munich), Inn (forms part of the Austria-Germany border; tributary of the Danube)	**None** (German unification in 1871 by Otto von Bismarck)	German	Christianity (Roman Catholic in the south, Protestant in the north)	German		Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark	**Euro** (formerly Deutsche Mark)	**Iron and Steel, Motor Vehicles, Machinery** 1)Germany has more neighbors than any other European country (9). 2) Germany is the most populous nation entirely in Europe. 3)Germany is the world's third largest economy after the United States and Japan and is followed by the PRC and UK. 4) The **Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan area** is one of the largest in the world with over 12 million people and is centered at the confluence of the Rhine and Ruhr Rivers.