

# FACTS

## About NATIONS

Here are basic facts about each of the 195 independent nations in the world. The color of the heading for each country tells you what continent it belongs in. The population is an estimate for mid-2009. The language entry gives official languages and other common languages.

### COLOR KEY

● Africa

● Asia

● Australia

● Europe

● North America

● Pacific Islands

● South America

### Afghanistan

**Capital:** Kabul

**Population:** 33,609,937

**Area:** 250,001 sq mi (647,500 sq km)

**Language:** Afghan Persian (Dari), Pashtu

**Did You Know?** The national sport *buzkashi* is played on horseback and literally means "goat grabbing."



### Andorra

**Capital:** Andorra la Vella

**Population:** 83,888

**Area:** 181 sq mi (468 sq km)

**Language:** Catalan, French, Castilian

**Did You Know?** The average life expectancy of people in Andorra in 2009 was about 83 years, the highest of any country in the world.



### Albania

**Capital:** Tirana

**Population:** 3,639,453

**Area:** 11,100 sq mi (28,748 sq km)

**Language:** Albanian, Greek

**Did You Know?** The double-headed eagle on Albania's flag was a symbol of the Byzantine Empire, to which Albania once belonged.



### Angola

**Capital:** Luanda

**Population:** 12,799,293

**Area:** 481,354 sq mi (1,246,700 sq km)

**Language:** Portuguese, African languages

**Did You Know?** Angola is the second largest oil-producer in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria.



### Algeria

**Capital:** Algiers (El Djazair)

**Population:** 34,178,188

**Area:** 919,595 sq mi (2,381,740 sq km)

**Language:** Arabic, French, Berber dialects

**Did You Know?** Algeria's desert region contains large "sand seas" called *ergs*, which feature constantly shifting dunes up to 2,000 feet high.



### Antigua & Barbuda

**Capital:** St. John's

**Population:** 85,632

**Area:** 171 sq mi (443 sq km)

**Language:** English

**Did You Know?** On Aug. 1, 1834, Antigua became the first of the British Caribbean colonies to free its slaves.





## BEACH IN AUSTRALIA



## Argentina

- ▶ **Capital:** Buenos Aires
- ▶ **Population:** 40,913,584
- ▶ **Area:** 1,068,302 sq mi (2,766,890 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** Spanish, English, Italian, German, French
- ▶ **Did You Know?** About 90% of Argentina's population is urban; one-third of the total population lives in the capital alone.



## Austria

- ▶ **Capital:** Vienna
- ▶ **Population:** 8,210,281
- ▶ **Area:** 32,382 sq mi (83,870 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** German, Slovene, Croatian, Hungarian
- ▶ **Did You Know?** Austria's Hohe Tauern National Park is one of Europe's largest protected natural areas.



## Armenia

- ▶ **Capital:** Yerevan
- ▶ **Population:** 2,967,004
- ▶ **Area:** 11,506 sq mi (29,800 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** Armenian, Russian
- ▶ **Did You Know?** Armenia considers itself the first country to have formally adopted Christianity as a state religion, in the year 301.



## Azerbaijan

- ▶ **Capital:** Baku
- ▶ **Population:** 8,238,672
- ▶ **Area:** 33,436 sq mi (86,600 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** Azeri, Russian, Armenian
- ▶ **Did You Know?** Although Nagorno-Karabakh, a region in Azerbaijan whose population is mostly Armenian, declared its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan does not recognize its claim.



## Australia

- ▶ **Capital:** Canberra
- ▶ **Population:** 21,262,641
- ▶ **Area:** 2,967,909 sq mi (7,686,850 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** English, Aboriginal languages
- ▶ **Did You Know?** The world's biggest rock—Uluru (also called Ayers Rock)—is located here, a monolith that stands more than 1,000 feet tall.



## The Bahamas

- ▶ **Capital:** Nassau
- ▶ **Population:** 309,156
- ▶ **Area:** 5,382 sq mi (13,940 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** English, Creole
- ▶ **Did You Know?** About two-thirds of the population lives on New Providence, one of The Bahamas' nearly 700 islands.



## Bahrain

- ▶ **Capital:** Manama
- ▶ **Population:** 727,785
- ▶ **Area:** 257 sq mi (665 sq km)
- ▶ **Language:** Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu
- ▶ **Did You Know?** Groundwater and treated seawater are the only sources of freshwater in Bahrain.

