

FACTS ABOUT NATIONS

Here are basic facts about the world's independent nations. The color of the heading for each country tells you what continent it belongs in. The population is an estimate for 2013. The area includes both land and inland water. The language entry gives official languages and other common languages.

Afghanistan



Capital: Kabul

Population: 31,108,077

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

Language: Afghan Persian (Dari), Pashtu

Did You Know? Afghanistan has both high mountains and desert valleys. Summer temperatures in some areas may hit 120°F. Winter temperatures in the mountains can fall to -15°F.

Albania



Capital: Tirana

Population: 3,011,405

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

Language: Albanian, Greek

Did You Know? In Albania, when you agree to something out loud and seal the agreement with a handshake or a hug, it is considered more binding than any written contract.

Algeria



Capital: Algiers (El Djazair)

Population: 38,087,812

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

Language: Arabic, French, Berber dialects

Did You Know? Turkey ruled Algeria for more than 300 years, until France took control in 1830. But the Algerian people revolted against French rule and won independence in the early 1960s.

Andorra



Capital: Andorra la Vella

Population: 85,293

Area: 181 sq mi (468 sq km)

Language: Catalan, French, Castilian

Did You Know? Tiny Andorra lies in the mountains between France and Spain. Visitors from around the world go there to enjoy outdoor activities.

Angola



Capital: Luanda

Population: 18,565,269

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

Language: Portuguese, African languages

Did You Know? Luanda was first settled by Portuguese colonists back in 1576. Every year on January 25, people celebrate its founding with traditional food, music, and dancing.

Antigua and Barbuda



Capital: St. John's

Population: 90,156

Area: 171 sq mi (443 sq km)

Language: English

Did You Know? Snorkelers in the waters off Antigua may brush up against a wide range of marine life, from colorful reef fish to moray eels, sea turtles, barracudas, and the occasional nurse shark.

COLOR KEY

Africa

Asia

Australia

Europe

North America

Pacific Islands

South America

ENGLISH HARBOUR,
ANTIGUA



Argentina

Capital: Buenos Aires

Population: 42,610,981

Area: 1,068,302 sq mi
(2,766,890 sq km)

Language: Spanish, English,
Italian, German, French

Did You Know? Mount Aconcagua, in western Argentina, is 22,831 feet high, making it the tallest mountain in the western hemisphere. Every year, thousands of people brave the cold, wind, and altitude to climb to the summit.



Armenia

Capital: Yerevan

Population: 2,974,184

Area: 11,484 sq mi (29,743 sq km)

Language: Armenian, Russian

Did You Know? On September 21, 1991, Armenians voted overwhelmingly to drop out of what was then the Soviet Union. This day is now known in Armenia as Independence Day. It is celebrated each year with parades and other festive events.



Australia

Capital: Canberra

Population: 22,262,501

Area: 2,967,909 sq mi (7,686,850 sq km)

Language: English, Aboriginal languages

Did You Know? Uluru, or Ayers Rock, in central Australia, is the biggest monolith, or single rock, in the world. It is over 2 miles long and about 1.5 miles wide.



Austria

Capital: Vienna

Population: 8,221,646

Area: 32,382 sq mi (83,870 sq km)

Language: German, Slovene, Croatian,
Hungarian

Did You Know? Austria is one of the few countries where people can vote when they reach the age of 16.



Azerbaijan

Capital: Baku

Population: 9,590,159

Area: 33,436 sq mi (86,600 sq km)

Language: Azeri, Russian, Armenian

Did You Know? Former world chess champion Garry Kasparov was born and raised in the city of Baku, where he first learned to play the game.



The Bahamas

Capital: Nassau

Population: 319,031

Area: 5,382 sq mi (13,940 sq km)

Language: English, Creole

Did You Know? There are about 700 islands in the Bahamas, but only 30 of these have people living on them.



Bahrain

Capital: Manama

Population: 1,281,332

Area: 257 sq mi (665 sq km)

Language: Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu

Did You Know? Most of the people in this small island kingdom in the Persian Gulf are Shiite Muslims. However, Sunni Muslims have most of the power in the government.



ULURU (AYERS ROCK), AUSTRALIA

