

KUNA Country Research Guide

Directions: This optional country research guide is a wonderful tool to help your students learn about their country as they prepare their proposal, Global Village booth, cultural attire, and country sign and flag. These questions will also help prepare your delegation for debate.

Some questions may require some research; so, start this guide as early as possible to ensure that your students have enough time to complete the document to aid them in their KUNA preparations. Please note that some questions may not apply to specific countries.

We hope you find this guide useful and productive in your preparations for the KUNA conference. Again, this is an optional tool and does not need to be submitted to the Kentucky YMCA. It is for your use only. Thank you.

Country Name:

I. Geography

1. On what continent is your country located?
 - i. Name the capital of the country.
2. What is the size of your country (sq/mi). Provide a comparison--(Similar in size to Ohio. Twice the size of the U.S.)
3. If applicable, name the countries surrounding the country.
4. Is the country landlocked or near an ocean?
5. List the natural resources of this country--Gold? Oil?
6. Describe the climate. Does the country experience seasonal weather changes?
7. List 3 or 4 major environmental issues in the country.

II. History

1. When was the country founded? When did the country gain independence? Think of the U.S. It was colonized in the 16th century, but did not declare independence until 1776. Consider the change in control over the last one hundred years.
2. List any major conflicts in the last 50 years. How did those conflicts change the country?

3. List three major events that have occurred in the last 50 years.
4. List the most important event in the history of the country. Briefly explain the event.
5. List two interesting fact about the country that many people might not know.

III. Government

1. Who is the current leader of the country? How long has this leader been in power? Is this leader affiliated with a particular political party? If so, which one?
2. Briefly explain the organization of the government. Is there a legislative branch? Do checks and balances exist? Is it a democracy? Is there a constitution?
3. Who has the right to vote in the country? Are elections considered fair?--For more information regarding free and fair elections, go to <http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/154-free.htm>
4. List the major political parties in the country and briefly describe the platform of the top two.
5. Who were the most influential political leaders in the history of the country?
6. Is the current government considered stable? If not, explain some of the issues facing the government.

IV. Population

1. What is the total population of the country?
Provide the percentages for the following
 - i. Males
 - ii. Females
 - iii. A breakdown by age groups (the age divisions will vary by country)
 - v. Unemployed
2. List the major ethnic groups.
 - i. Do conflicts exist between any of these ethnic groups? If so, explain.
3. List the top 2-5 religions in the country.
 - i. Does the government allow people to freely practice any religion?

4. What is the average income in the country? Attempt to convert that amount to U.S. dollars.
5. What percentage of the country is considered to be living in poverty?
6. What is the average income of the upper class? What percentage of the population are considered wealthy?
7. What city has the highest population density?

V. Education

1. Does the country provide education to all citizens? If not, who has access to education?
2. List the literacy rate of the country.
3. Are male and females granted equal access to education? If not, explain.
4. What percentage of the population completes primary school? Secondary school? University?
5. According to PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), what is the ranking of the literacy and math scores? (Not all countries are ranked, therefore, some countries may skip this question) <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011004.pdf>

IV. Current Issues

1. What percentage of the population in this country has access to the internet? For more information go to <http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Describe the condition of the infrastructure. Are roads and bridges well maintained? Are buildings earthquake proof? Is this country prepared for a natural disaster?
3. Describe the current healthcare system. Are the hospitals well-equipped to handle an emergency? Do they have enough beds? Are doctors accessible in all parts of the country?
 - i. Has the country experienced a major health crisis in the last 10 years?
 - ii. What percentage of the population is HIV positive?
 - iii. List the infant mortality rate.
 - iiii. Life expectancy

4. List the top three greatest issues facing this country.
5. What are the major exports and imports of this country?
6. List any human rights violations. For more information, go to the Center for Economic and Social Rights website: <http://www.cesr.org>

V. Strategic Alliances

1. Who are considered the allies of the country?
2. Which countries are considered a threat to this country?
3. Does this country receive any aid (financial or otherwise) from other countries? If so, provide specifics.
4. In the event that this country is attacked as an act of war, which country is most likely to come to its aid?
5. In what year did this country join the U.N.
6. Does this country have a military? Are citizens required to join the military?

VI. In 50 words or less, describe this country.