

Introduction & Directions:

The goal of this project is to research and understand different countries throughout Central and South America. The project has the following parts:

- 1) First, you will prepare a ten minute presentation to the class describing the regions, languages, culture, government, economy, geography, etc. of your nation/territory.
- 2) Secondly, you will create a Google Maps presentation linking key places around your nation and embedding video or pictures to make a travelogue. (Don't worry as we will show you how to do this and give you time in class to assist you).
- 3) Lastly, you will write an 3-5 page essay that describes your nation's geography, culture, economy and government.

The following categories are to guide you along with your Presentation and Essay:

- Name of your country
- Location (Latitude & longitude coordinates, as well as relative location)
- Physical geography (What kind of plants, bodies of water, animals, and land features does your country have? Does it have mountains? Is it an island? Is it landlocked or does it touch water on three sides?)
- Weather & Climate (What kind of weather does your country normally have? Is it cold and snowy? Hot and dry?)
- Natural Resources (Do the people in your country have abundant energy resources, or do they have to import resources from other areas? Does your country mine for gold, diamonds, or other resources?)
- Popular tourist destinations
- Brief history of the country or region
- Population & People (How many people live in your country? How do they travel and move around? Is your population growing? Why or why not? Are there different types of races and ethnicities represented in your country? What kinds of food do the people in your country eat? What holidays do they celebrate? What languages do they speak? Do they practice any religion? How do people communicate and exchange information and ideas?)
- Culture (Music: genres, artists, importance in celebration and instruments unique to the region, Food: discuss the influence of cultural diffusion on the food, Language: what is the official language, Popular vs. Folk Culture)
- Political System (What kind of political system does your country have? Is it a monarchy, democracy, or dictatorship?)

You should create a map of your country that contains the following elements:

- Title, legend, scale, compass rose, major physical features, major cities or towns, capital city, latitude & longitude grid
- Show any borders with other countries
- Colorful and creative

What to include in your presentation:

- Tell us why you are interested in that country.
- Where in the world is your country? What neighbors do they have?
- Tell us a few things that you found out about it
- Tell us one thing that is the same as our country
- Tell us one thing that is different from our country
- Tell us one surprising or interesting fact about your country

Possible Presentation/Essay Outline

Introduction- Introduce your country. You can grab the reader's attention by stating interesting facts about your country.

Location- Describe your country's absolute and relative location. Be as specific as possible.

Place- What is it like there? Include the physical and human characteristics.

Region- Can include physical characteristics such as climate and landforms and human characteristics such as **culture**, language, religion, government, etc.

Human-environment interaction- What is the relationship between humans and their environment? How have humans adapted to the environment? How do they use the land?

Movement- Refers to the movement of human beings, their goods, and ideas from one place to another. This can include immigration, emigration, trading goods, exchange of cultures, exchange of technology, etc.

Research Worksheet

1. Chosen Country:

2. Capital City:

3. Is this a democratic government?

3a. Circle one of the following options:

Consolidated Democracy (a country with a long-standing and stable democratic tradition)

Emerging Democracy (a new and unstable democracy)

Authoritarian Government (a government where the people do not get to choose their leaders or representatives.)

3b. Explain what makes this government either a consolidated democracy, emerging democracy or authoritarian government.

4. Date of current constitution:

5. Type of Government (i.e. Federal Parliamentary Republic, Presidential Republic, Constitutional Monarchy, etc.):

6a. Party System (Single, two, multi-party):

6b. Name and place the major parties on this political spectrum.

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Liberal Moderate Conservative

7. Structure of Executive, Legislative, Judicial Branches

7a. Name and structure of Executive Branch:

7b. Name and structure of Legislative Branch:

-how many houses?

-name and structure of each house?

7c. Name of the highest court and structure of the judicial branch?

8. What position is the head of state and/or the head of government? Is there more than one?

9. Who is the current Head of State/Head of Government?

10. When did this person/s come to power? How did they come to power? When is their term up?

11. Type of Economy (Traditional, Command, Market):

12. Form of Economic Organization (Communism, Socialism, Capitalism, Mixed):

13. Explain three current issues that are being debated in this country's government.

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14. Look up your country on Human Rights Watch (hrw.org) Describe at least one human rights problem facing your country. Most countries have several so feel free to describe a few that you find important.

Additional Notes

Latino-American Studies Nation/Territory Research Project

Name: _____