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The Arab World The African Arab Countries

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Egypt

Identity card:



Geography

The capital and largest city: Cairo.

Main cities: Giza, Alexandria and Port Said.

Area: 1,001,450 km².

Population: 81,713,520 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Nile River.



History

Independence Day: February 28, 1922 from Britain.

National Day: July 23, 1952 (Revolution Day).

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Oil, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum, lead, cotton, papyrus, owers, shing and tourism.

Currency: Egyptian Pound.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 94%, Coptic Christians 6%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 57.7%.

With its unique location that covers Northeastern Africa and Southwestern Asia, Egypt is a country that bridges the continents of Africa and Asia. The Sinai Peninsula, located in the eastern area of Egypt, is usually considered part of Asia and the only land bridge between the two continents. Egypt is historically known as “the gift of the Nile”. The Nile River flows from Sudan through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. The population is concentrated on less than one-tenth of the land area along the Nile Valley and the Delta.



Did You Know?

The Suez Canal connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

- In 988 A.D, Al-Azhar University was established, making it one of the oldest universities in the world and the leading institution of Islamic higher education today.

The climate of Egypt is characterized by a hot season in summer and a moderate season in winter. Along the Mediterranean coast it is also humid. Rainfall is moderate and it decreases in the southern areas of the country; and in many desert locations it may rain only once in several years.

For most of Egypt's history, the majority of the population was rural and agricultural. By 2008, 42 percent of the population lived in urban areas as a result of migration to the cities in search of work. There are also small communities in the oases of the Libyan Desert and in the oil-drilling and mining towns of the Arabian Desert, in addition to a small population of nomads.

Egypt is a Republic governed by a President nominated by the lower house, and is elected by popular referendum for a six-year term. The President names the Prime Minister and the council of ministers or cabinet to implement the governments' legislative decisions.

Sudan

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Khartoum.

Main cities: Omdurman and Port Sudan (the only seaport, located on the Red Sea).

Area: 2,505,810 km².

Population: 40,218,456 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Nile River.



History

Independence Day: January 1, 1956 from Britain.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Cotton , papyru s, yam s, wheat , date s, sugarcane, Arabic gum, rubber, timber, copper, chromium, iron, some oil and fishing.

Currency: Sudanese Dinar.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 70%, Christians 5% and others 25%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 61.1%

Sudan is a country in northeastern Africa. The major topographical features of Sudan are the Nile River, its headstreams the White Nile and Blue Nile, and the tributaries of these rivers. The country is divided into three separate natural regions, ranging from desert in the north, east and west of Sudan, through a vast semiarid region of steppes and low mountains in central Sudan, to a region of vast swamps and rain forest in the south. In addition to the Red Sea Hills which are located along the coast.



Sudan has a tropical climate except for the desert zones, where summers are hot and winters are cold and rainfall is rare. High temperatures also prevail in the central plains region with low humidity. Tropical climate conditions prevail in southern Sudan with high temperatures, humidity and rain throughout the year.

The population of Sudan is composed principally of Arabs in the north and Africans in the south. About 70 percent of Sudan's population derives its living from crop farming or grazing, but only 7 percent of the country's land area is cultivated.

Sudan is a Republic governed by a President elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The Prime Minister and the council of ministers or cabinet implement the governments' legislative decisions.



Did
You
Know?

Arabic gum, which is the major forest product of Sudan, is an ingredient in candy, processed food, perfumes, medicine and printing.

Sudan is the largest country of the African continent .

Libya

Identity card:



Geography

The capital and largest city: Tripoli.

Main cities: Banghazi, Al-Bayda, Misratah, Surt and Assidrah, the port.

Area: 1,759,540 km².

Population: 6,173,579 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: December 24, 1951 from Italy.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Petroleum, natural gas, gypsum, limestone, salt, potash, natron and fishing.

Currency: Libyan Dinar.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 97%, Christians and others 3%.

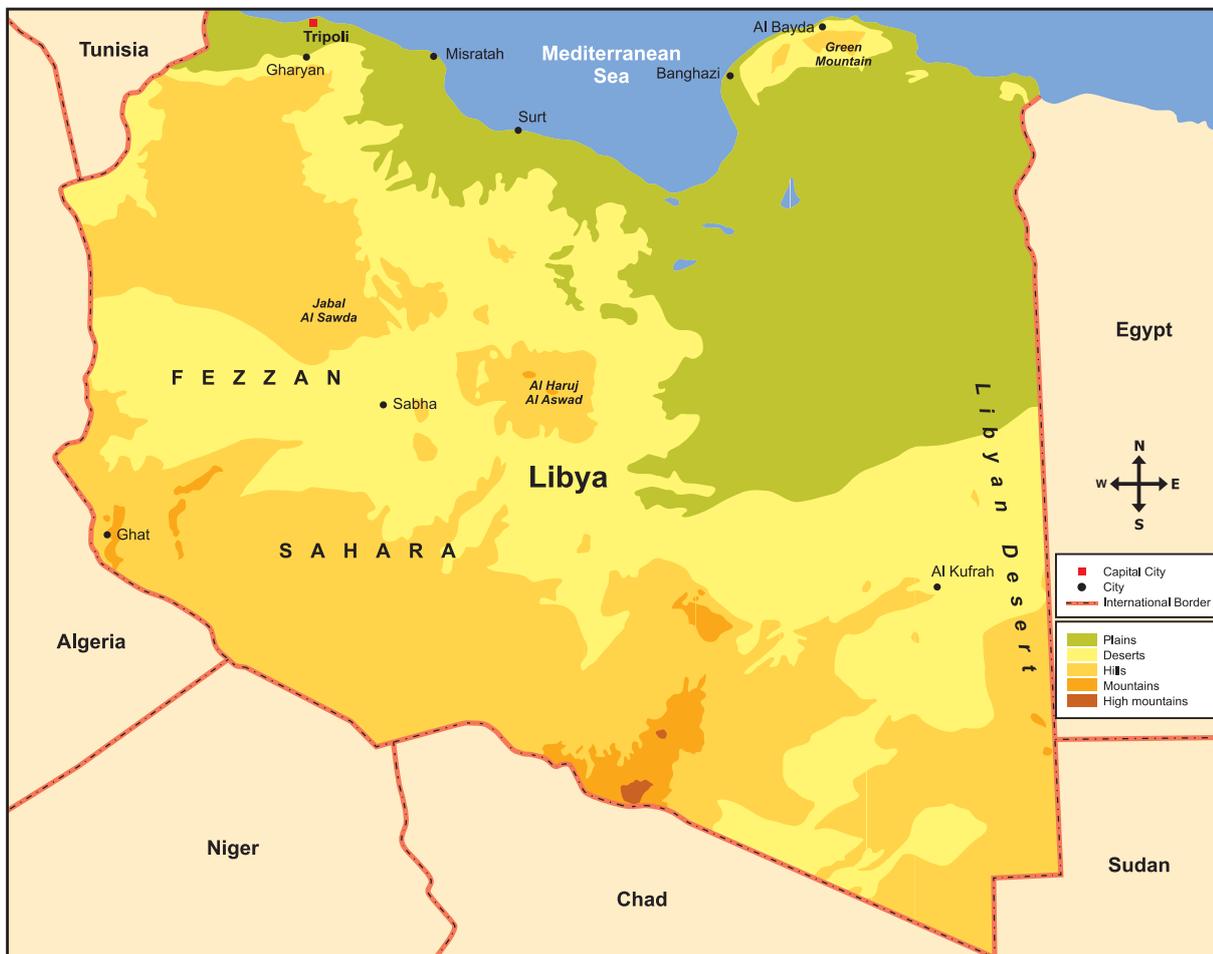
Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 82.6%.



Did You Know?

Since Libya is mainly a desert with no permanent rivers, the Libyan government constructed the Great Man-Made River (GMMR) to convey water from underground aquifers beneath the Sahara Desert through wide pipes to the cities.



Libya is a country in northern Africa that borders the Mediterranean Sea. It is one of the largest countries in Africa. Despite its size, Libya is thinly settled because of the Sahara, the vast desert of northern Africa, which covers much of the country. Much of the country's land consists of barren, rock-strewn plains and sand sea. Two small areas of hills rise in the northwest and northeast, and the Tibesti massif rises near the southern border. The coastline is indented near the center by the Gulf of Sidra, where barren desert reaches the Mediterranean Sea.

Most of Libya has an arid, desert climate year-round. Along the coast, however, there are areas with a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

About 97% of Libyans are of Berber and Arab descent. Workers from other countries make up the remainder of the inhabitants. 87% of the population live in urban areas, mostly on the coast. A small number of Libyans still live in nomadic or semi-nomadic groups in the plains and desert.

Libya is governed as a Jamahiriya "state of the masses" governed by a President under a constitution adopted in 1977 by the General People's Congress (GPC), the national legislature in the country.

Tunisia

Identity card:



Geography



The capital: Tunis.

Main cities: Sfax, Susah, Al-Qayrawan and Bizerte, which is the main port.

Area: 163,610 km².

Population: 10,383,577 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Medjerda River.



History

Independence Day: March 20, 1956 from France.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Tourism, vegetables, fruits, fishing, petroleum, phosphates, iron, zinc, lead and salt.

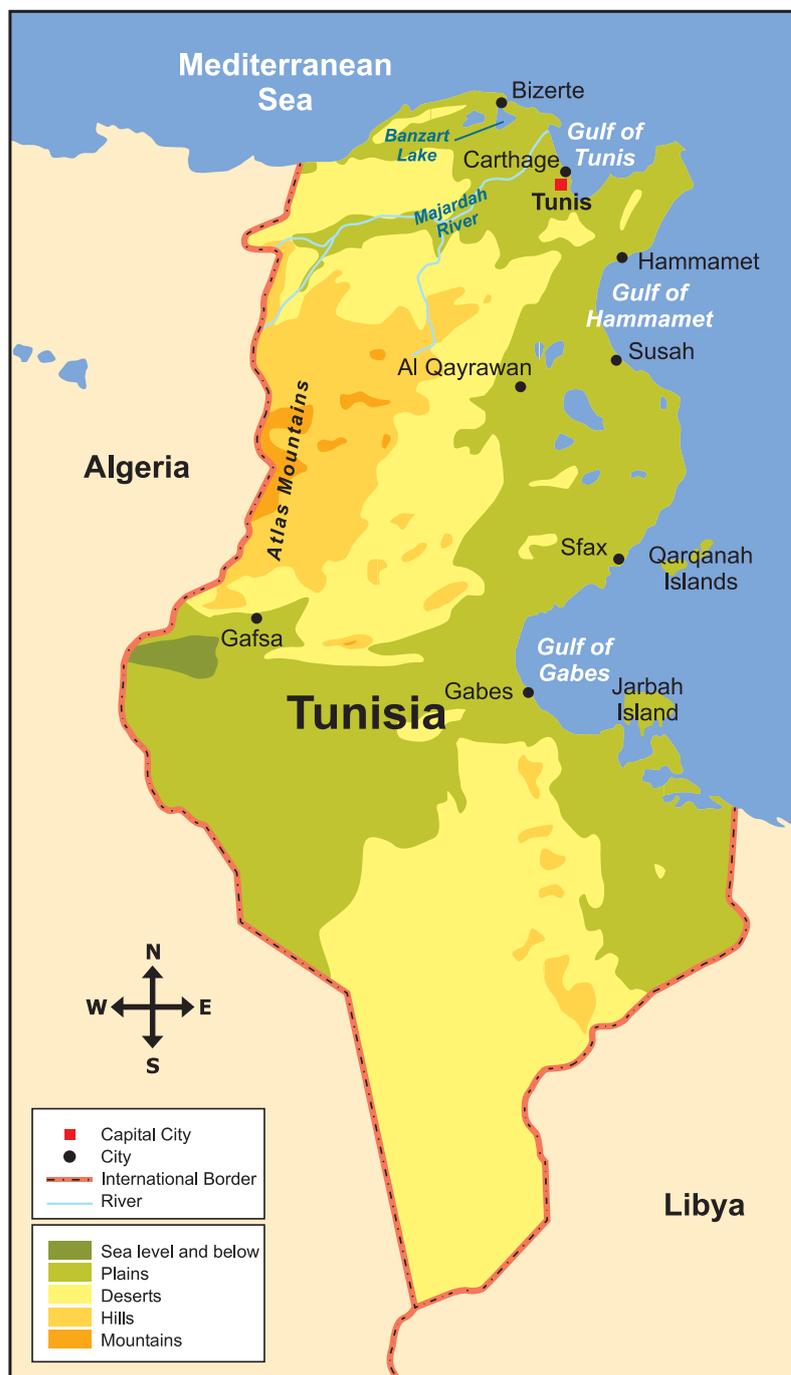
Currency: Tunisian Dinar.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 98%, Christians and others 2%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 74.3%.



Tunisia is a country on the north coast of Africa. It has a long coastline that extends along the Mediterranean Sea where its largest cities are located. A narrow region of plains skirts Tunisia's northern and eastern coasts. The Atlas Mountains lie behind the plains on the north, extending from Tunisia's western border with Algeria to northeastern Tunisia.

Fertile valleys and plains are interspersed among the mountains, whereas forests of evergreens and oaks blanket the mountain slopes. To the south, the mountains give way to a plateau covered by coarse grass and to the Sahara which covers about two-fifths of the country's total land area. Northern Tunisia has a Mediterranean climate, with mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. Toward the south, the climate becomes progressively hotter and drier.

The population of Tunisia is a mixture of Berber and Arab stock. About two-thirds of the country's people live in urban areas. They are concentrated mainly in the coastal plain and the hilly north, but the arid plateau, basin, and south are thinly settled.

Tunisia is a Republic governed by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the army. The president is popularly elected to a five year term. He also appoints a council of ministers, headed by a Prime Minister. Legislative power in Tunisia is vested in the Chamber of Deputies, which comprises 182 members.

Algeria

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest main port: Algiers.

Main cities: Oran, which is a trading center; Constantine; Skikda (the petroleum region); and Annaba.

Area: 2,381,740 km².

Population: 33,769,668 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Cheleef River.



History

Independence Day: July 5, 1962 from France .

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphate, uranium, lead, zinc, coal, tobacco, and fishing.

Currency: Algerian Dinar.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 99%, Christians and Jews 1%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 70%.



Did You Know?

- Algeria is one of the wealthiest nations in Africa.

- The Sahara Desert covers more than 90% of Algeria.

- About 1 million Algerians live in France.

Algeria is a country in northwestern Africa that borders the Mediterranean Sea. It is the second largest country on the African continent. It has four main geographic regions which extend east to west across the country in parallel zones. In the north, a narrow plain spreads along the Mediterranean coast. The mountains of the Tell Atlas rise behind the plain, parallel and close to the sea. Numerous valleys in this region contain most of Algeria's

arable land. South of the Tell Atlas is the High Plateau, a highland region of level terrain. The third region is the Saharan Atlas which receives more rain than the High Plateau and is well-suited for grazing. The fourth region is a great expanse of desert. The Algerian portion of the Sahara makes up more than 90% of the country's total area. The coastal plain and Tell Atlas in the north have a typical Mediterranean climate, with warm, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. This is the most humid area of Algeria. To the south the climate becomes increasingly dry.

The population consists almost entirely of Berbers, Arabs, and people of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry. Approximately 90% of the population is concentrated in the coastal region. The rural population, lives in villages and on small farms. A few thousand Tuareg live in the south, in Algeria's part of the Sahara, speaking a Berber language and maintaining their tribal traditions.

Algeria is a Republic governed by a President who is popularly elected to a five-year term and may serve no more than two terms. The president appoints a Prime Minister as head of government. The Prime Minister in turn appoints a council of ministers to help carry out the functions of government.

Algeria has a parliament which is comprised of the Council of the Nation as the upper house and the National People's Assembly as the lower house.

Morocco

Identity card:



Geography



The capital: Rabat.

Main cities: Casablanca, which is the largest city and main seaport; Marrakesh; Fes; Tangiers, which is a seaport on the bay of the Strait of Gibraltar; and Agadir.

Area: 446,550 km².

Population: 34,343,220 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Moulouya River, Sebou River, Umm Al-Rabi' River and Wadi Al-Sous River.



History

Independence Day: March 2, 1956 from France.

Government System: Constitutional Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Iron ore, phosphate, silver, coal, lead, zinc, salt, cereals, fruits, vegetables, fishing and timber.

Currency: Moroccan Dirham.



Social Information

Religion: Muslims 98.7%, Christians and Jews 2.3%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 51.7%.

Morocco is a country of northwest Africa on the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Morocco has the broadest plains and the highest mountains in North Africa. The country has four main natural regions. An area of highlands, called El Rif, runs parallel to the Mediterranean coast in the north. The Atlas Mountains, the second region, extend across the center of the country from the southwest to the northeast. Broad coastal plains along the Atlantic Ocean form the third region. Finally, plains and valleys south of the Atlas Mountains merge with the Sahara along the southeastern border of Morocco.

Along the Mediterranean, Morocco has a subtropical climate. An ocean current tempers the climate and gives the coastal cities moderate temperatures and heavy rainfall. Toward the interior, winters are colder and summers warmer. Mountain peaks are covered with snow during most of the year, whereas it's hot in summers and cold in winters in the Sahara.



The population of Morocco consists almost entirely of Berbers, Arabs, and people of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry. There is also a small French community in Morocco. Most Moroccans inhabit the Atlantic coastal plain. More than half the population lives in urban areas. Whereas only 41 percent of the country's total live in rural areas.

Morocco is a constitutional monarchy, with a king as head of state and a Prime Minister as head of the government. In addition to a parliament which is comprised of the Chamber of Representatives and the Chamber of Advisers.

Mauritania

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Nouakchott .

Main cities: Kaedi; Nouadhibou, which is a fishing center and seaport; Fderik; and Rosso.

Area: 1,030, 700 km² .

Population: 3,364,940 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Sénégal River.



History

Independence Day: November 28, 1960 from France .

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Large deposits of iron ore, phosphate, sulfur, copper, gypsum, gold, diamonds, oil, livestock, and fishing.

Currency: Mauritanian Ouguiya.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 100%.

Language: Arabic.

Literacy rate: 41.7%.



Mauritania is a country in northwestern Africa. The country lies entirely within the Sahara except for a narrow strip in the south along the Sénégal River. Most of Mauritania has an arid, desert climate, where summers are hot and winters are cold and rainfall is rare.

Two-fifths of Mauritania's people are of mixed Moor and African heritage. About 30% of the population are Moors (of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry), many of whom lead nomadic existences. Another 30 percent of the people are African farmers, who are settled in the Sénégal Valley.

More than 90% of the population lives in the southern quarter of the country.

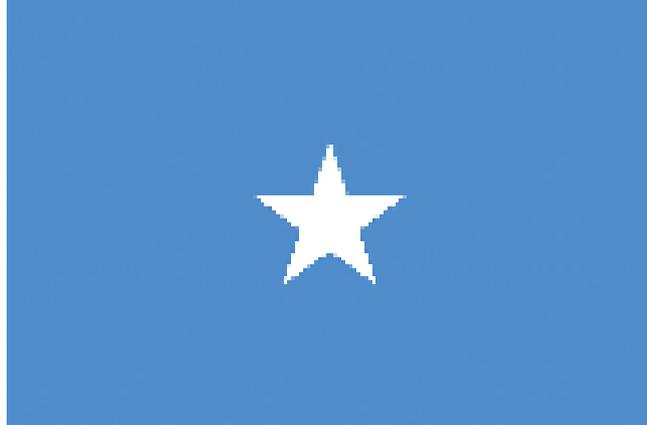
Mauritania is a Republic governed by a President who is popularly elected to a five-year term and may serve no more than two terms. In addition to a council of ministers which consists of 22 members including the Prime Minister, Mauritania has also a legislature with two chambers, the National Assembly and the Senate.

Somalia

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Mogadishu.

Main cities: Hargeysa, Kismayo and Marka.

Area: 637,657 km².

Population: 9,558,666 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Genale and the Shebele.



History

Independence Day: July 1, 1960 from Britain.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Livestock; cereal grains and sorghum, including maize; fruits, such as bananas and sugar cane; copper, uranium, frankincense, myrrh, timber and fishing.

Currency: Somali Shilling.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 100%.

Languages: Arabic and Somali.

Literacy rate: 37.8%.



Did You Know?

As a result of drought, famine and civil war, Somalia is considered one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.

Somalia is a country in east Africa, occupying the tip of the African Horn. The country has a long coastline, but it has few natural harbors. In the north, it has a sandy coastal plain which borders on the Gulf of Aden, along with a series of mountain ranges. The central part of the country consists of a rugged plateau. Whereas a wide coastal plain, with many sand dunes, borders the Indian Ocean in the south.

The climate of Somalia ranges from tropical to sub-tropical and from arid to semi-arid. The monsoon winds bring a dry season in winter and a rainy season in spring.

The vast majority of the population consists of Somali with a small minority of Bantu-speaking people who live in the southern part of the country. Other minority groups include Arabs, Indians, Italians, and Pakistanis. Some 70% of the people are nomadic or semi-nomadic. The rest are either crop farmers or inhabitants of the few urban centers.

Before 1991 Somalia was governed by a President elected to a seven-year term by direct universal vote. Legislative power was vested in the members of the People's Assembly who were popularly elected for five-year terms. The overthrow of the central government in January 1991 left Somalia in a state of civil war, with no clear central governmental authority, and a number of clans fighting each other for territory.

Djibouti

Identity card:



Geography



The capital, main port and only city: Djibouti.

Area: 23,000 km².

Population: 506,221 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: June 27, 1977 from France.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Gold, clay, granite, limestone, livestock, transport and communications.

Currency: Djibouti Franc.



Social Information

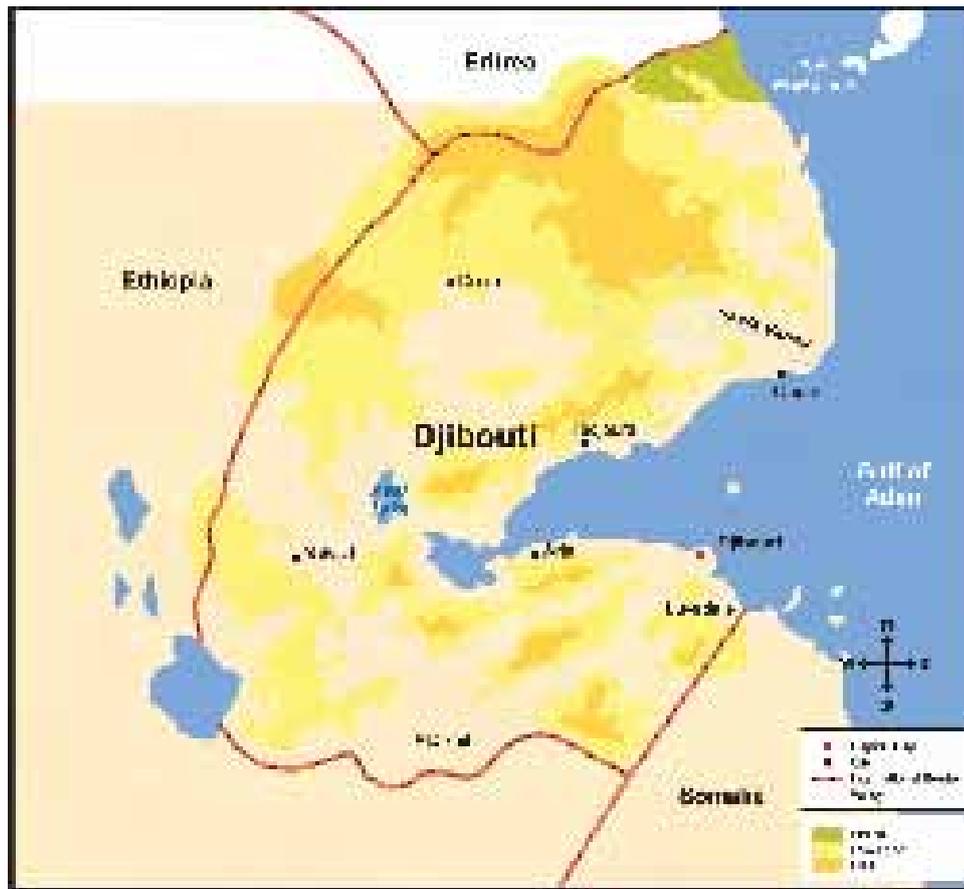
Religion: Muslims 94%, Christians 6%.

Languages: Arabic and French.

Literacy rate: 67.9%.

Djibouti is a country in northeastern Africa, strategically located at the strait of Bab el Mandeb, which links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden. As a result of being located at the intersection of trade routes connecting the Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea, and Africa with the Middle East, Djibouti has long been a cultural and commercial crossroads.

Djibouti is a desert with depressions containing several salt lakes. To the north and south of the Gulf of Aden, there are several plateaus and mountains that rise above narrow coastal plains. The country has a climate that is hot and dry year-round, but it is especially hot and dry in the summer, when winds blow from the inland desert. Djibouti's soil is poor, and there are regular droughts. Less than half of the population has easy access to safe drinking water.



Around 60 percent of the population is ethnic Somali, the predominant group in the south, and about 30 percent are Afar, the main group in the north. Arab, French, and other minorities make up the remaining population. The population of Djibouti is 85 percent urban. The capital, principal port, and only sizable city is Djibouti.

Djibouti is a Republic with a strong central government and a democratic constitution, which was adopted in 1992. Principal executive power lies with the President, who is popularly elected for a six-year term and is limited to two terms. The President appoints a cabinet, headed by a Prime Minister. The legislature consists of a single house, the Chamber of Deputies, whose members are popularly elected to five-year terms.

Comoros

Identity card:



Geography



The capital: Moroni.

Main cities: Njazidja, Nzwani and Mwali.

Area: 2,170 km².

Population: 731,775 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: July 6, 1975 from France .

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____.



Economy

Main resources: Bananas, fishing, hunting, tourism and perfume.

Currency: Comorian Franc.

Social Information

Religion: Muslims 98%, Christians 2%.

Languages: Arabic, French and Shikomoro.

Literacy rate: 56.5%.



Comoros is an independent state comprising three islands in the Indian Ocean. It is located on the eastern coast of Africa at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel.

Comoros has been a self-governing state since 1975, when three of the four islands of the Comoros archipelago broke away from French rule. The three islands are Njazidja, Nzwani and Mwali. The capital city, Moroni, is located on Njazidja.

The islands, which are subject to monsoons, have dry summers and heavy tropical rains with cyclones in winter. Njazidja has virtually no topsoil, but the volcanic rocks nevertheless support a dense rainforest on the slopes of the Karthala volcano. The other islands have soils that are rich in minerals and are very fertile.

The descendants of people who are originally from Madagascar, Mayotte, Mwali and Mozambique constitute the majority of the Comorian population. Some 64% of the population lives in rural areas.

According to a 2001 constitution, the three islands of Comoros constitute a union. Each island elects its own legislature and president. On the national level, legislative power is vested in the Assembly of the Union, whose 30 members serve five year terms. Half of the members are selected by the individual islands' legislatures, and the other half is popularly elected.

The head of state is a President, who is popularly elected to a four-year term. The presidency rotates among the three islands. Two vice presidents, representing the other two islands, assist the President.

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (2)

- **Independence:** Freedom from control by another country.
- **Republic:** A country whose government or political system is that of a republic.
- **Literacy:** The ability to read and write.
- **Arid:** Too dry to support vegetation.
- **Monarchy:** A form of government in which one person has the inherited right to rule as head of state during his or her lifetime.

Chapter 3

Living Together Democracy

Lesson 1: History of Democracy

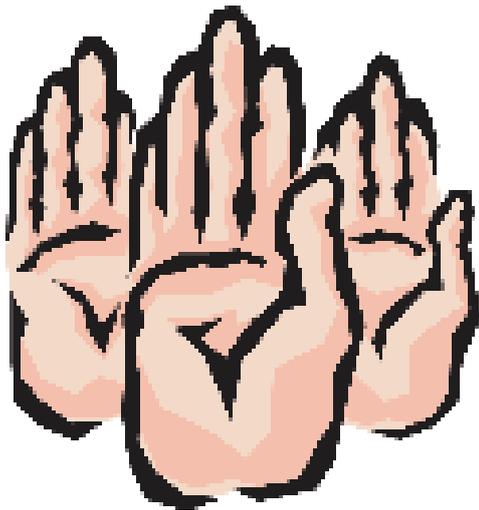
Lesson 2: Types of Democracy

Lesson 3: Rights and Responsibilities

History of Democracy

Democracy is a political system in which the people of a country govern themselves through any form of government they choose to establish.

The word democracy is derived from the Greek “demos,” which means the people, and “kratein,” which means to rule.



An example of democracy is a teacher who consults the whole class to choose one of two dates for a trip. Students vote for each of the dates. If more than 50% of the students choose a certain date, it will be the fixed date of the trip.

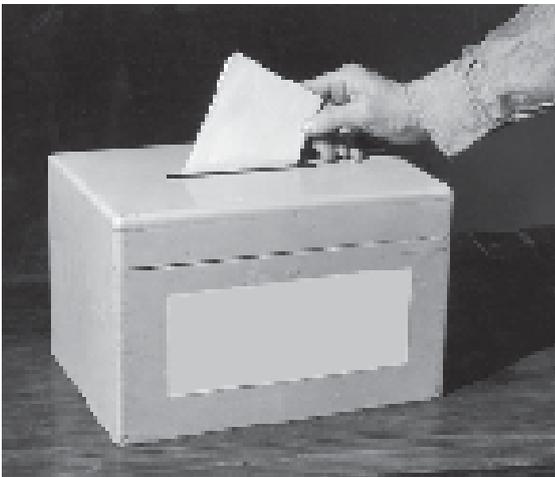
We refer to more than 50% of the votes of people as the **majority**, while less than 50% is referred to as the **minority**.

The policy in any democratic institution or country is decided by the preference of the majority, since the decision-making process is usually opened to all or most citizens through elections or referenda.

Election is the action of choosing by vote one or more of the candidates for a position.

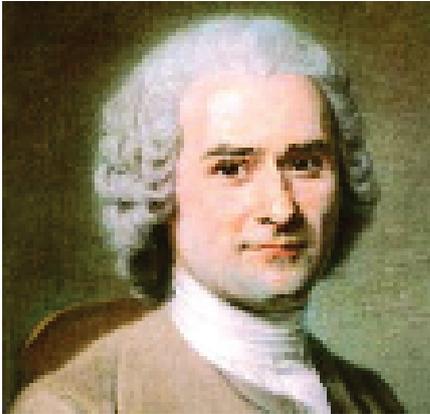
Referenda are votes taken on important issues by all the people of a country.

The word democracy was coined in Athens in the 5th century BC. Ancient Greece's democracy, however, was limited to native-born citizens. Women and slaves did not have any political rights at that time. This democracy did not presuppose equality of all individuals.



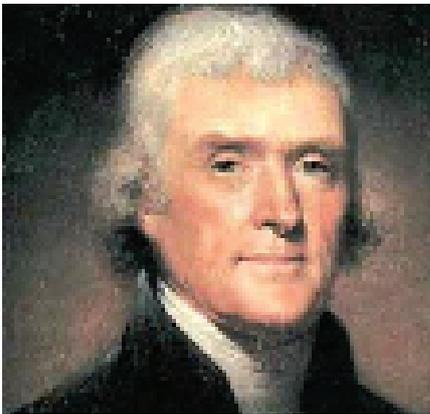
In the year 1642 and as a result of the first popular rebellion against the monarchy in England, a democratic government was established in the European countries.

Lesson 1



Jean Jacques Rousseau

Philosophers, such as the French nationals Montesquieu and Jean Jacques Rousseau, in addition to the Americans Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, inspired and guided the democratic trend.



Thomas Jefferson

Before the end of the 19 th century, every western European monarchy had adopted a constitution limiting the power of the crown and giving a considerable share of political power to the people.

Types of Democracy

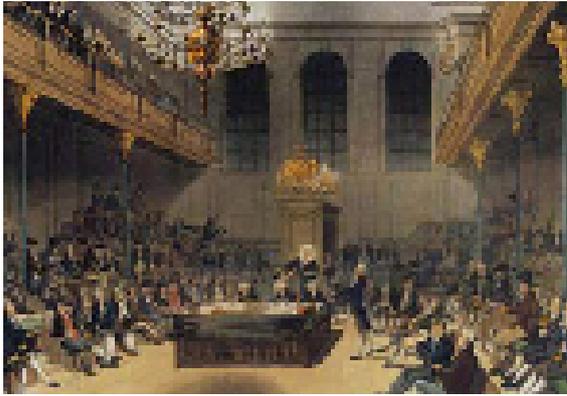
There are two types of democracy: direct and indirect democracy.

In a direct democracy, all of the people meet at a specific place, and they discuss their viewpoints. People then vote on different viewpoints. Viewpoints that receive the majority of the votes are accepted.

The democracy in Ancient Athens and Rome was direct since all citizens could meet, speak and vote in assemblies. Their city-States were small and never more than 10,000 citizens.

However, today, people choose representatives to take their places. The representatives are responsible to the people who choose to elect them. You can change your representative by electing another one. We refer to this kind of government as representative democracy, which is one type of indirect democracy.

Indirect democracy came into being as a result of the increasing number of people who were unable to meet at one place to make decisions. Representatives are chosen by the people and should represent people from different



A parliament

geographic, economic and social backgrounds. They represent people living in cities and countrysides, and those working in industry and agriculture.

They also represent the rich as well as the poor.

Why do people around the world seek democracy?

Modern democracy entitles all citizens to liberty and responsibility for shaping their own careers and conducting their own affairs. It caters to individual freedom and equality before the law. It ensures social justice, universal suffrage and education.

Such democratic features are proclaimed in the United States Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of Rights. Both declarations assert the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as well as civil rights and equality before the law.

Democracy gives people freedom of beliefs and freedom of expression, including speech, assembly and protest, as well as freedom of the press, associations and political parties.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every individual living in a country has basic rights as a citizen. In order to enjoy our rights, we have certain duties and responsibilities toward our country and other citizens living in it.

As a student, you have the right to be educated and respected by your teacher. On the other hand, you are responsible for respecting your teacher and classmates by listening to them and doing your homework.

So, your teacher respects your rights and in return you respect his/her rights.

A **citizen** is a resident of a particular country who holds its **nationality**.



What document do you hold that indicates your nationality? _____.

This basic right for all citizens is that all of them are equal in dignity and rights. According to equality, all people are treated the same even if they are different in color, religion, race or social status.

Lesson 3

Some citizens' rights are:

- The right to have a decent life.
- The right to own property.
- The right to free education.
- The right to life, liberty and security.
- The right to express free speech.
- The right to vote and be elected to a governmental office.
- The right to be protected from discrimination.

Discrimination is unfair treatment of people because of their religion, nationality, color, gender or age.

In order to enjoy such rights, you have certain responsibilities, such as:

- Be a good citizen.
- Protect your country.
- Keep your country clean.
- Vote in your country's elections.
- Inform yourself by reading newspapers and listening to news broadcasts.
- Volunteer in activities that are beneficial to your community.
- Pay **taxes**.



Classify the following statements as either rights or responsibilities.

- I own a house in Tripoli.

- I like the platform of this candidate, so I will vote for him.

- Although the taxes on clothes are high, I have to pay my share.

- I have to participate as a volunteer in cleaning the streets of my neighborhood.

- Elementary education is free in my country.

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (3)

- **Democracy:** A political system in which the people of a country govern themselves through any form of government they choose to establish.
- **Majority:** More than 50% of the votes.
- **Minority:** Less than 50% of the votes.
- **Election:** The action of choosing by vote one or more of the candidates for a position.
- **Referenda:** Votes that are taken on important issues by all the people of a country.
- **Montesquieu:** (1689-1755), French writer and jurist, born in the Château of la Brède .
- **Jean Jacques Rousseau:** (1712-1778), French philosopher, social and political theorist.
- **Thomas Jefferson:** (1743-1826), third president of the United States (1801-1809) and author of the Declaration of Independence.
- **James Madison:** (1751-1836), fourth president of the United States (1809-1817) and one of its founding fathers.

- **Direct Democracy:** All of the people vote at the same place at the same time.
- **Indirect Democracy:** Representatives are chosen by the people to vote on their behalf because not everyone can meet at the same place at the same time.
- **Citizen:** A resident of a particular country.
- **Nationality:** Citizenship to a particular nation.
- **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment of people because of their religion, nationality, color, gender or age.
- **Taxes:** An amount of money levied by a government on its citizens and used to run the government and the country or State.