

MUN Part 1 Country Research

Part 1: Country Research

Learn about the country/organization your delegation will represent. Refer to the links at the **bottom** of this document for sources of information.

Basic MAP:	FLAG:
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Country Overview – find info about:	Answers (notes):	Sources (cut and paste URL):
<p>1. GEOGRAPHY: Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Population b. Languages c. Ethnic groups d. Religious groups e. Problems between religious/ethnic groups f. Health data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth rate • Infant mortality • Life expectancy • Population per doctor g. Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy rate • Expected years in school • GDP spent on education 		
<p>2. GEOGRAPHY: Physical</p> <p>Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Climate b. Topography c. Fresh water availability d. Ocean access e. Rivers f. Bordering countries g. Geo-political 		

<p>considerations</p> <p>h. Other physical advantages/disadvantages of topography</p>		
<p>3. ECONOMICS: What are the characteristics of your country's economy?</p> <p>a. What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?</p> <p>b. Per capita income?</p> <p>c. Population below the poverty line?</p> <p>d. Diversity of the economy (e.g. Does your country rely on income from agriculture? Tourism? Technology? etc)</p> <p>e. Taxes & government spending: What is the tax rate and how does that compare to other countries? What percentage of government spending goes to the military / education / social welfare programs?</p>		
<p>4. ECONOMICS: Human Development Index (health, education, and living standard info): http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/</p> <p>a. Your country's data: http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/profiles/</p> <p>b. How does this compare to other major countries?</p>		
<p>5. NATURAL RESOURCES: What are the country's natural resources? What resources are missing / do they rely on other</p>	<p><u>Natural Resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodities produced • Mineral resources • Oil/Petroleum resources 	

countries for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Water · Land · Natural environment (e.g. forests) <p><u>Resources In Demand:</u></p>	
<p>6. POLITICS: What sort of government does your country have?</p> <p>a. Formal name of country</p> <p>b. Name of political system (e.g. monarchy)</p> <p>c. Government positions (titles and names of people currently holding those positions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Head of state · Head of government · Cabinet · Legislative body · Internal administrative districts 		
<p>7. POLITICS: What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?</p> <p>a. List names of other important organizations within the country (political, religious, etc) and names of current leaders.</p> <p>b. Corruption perceptions index (www.transparency.org)</p>		
<p>8. POLITICS: Which countries share a border with your country?</p>	<p><u>Relations with neighbors:</u></p>	
<p>9. POLITICS: Which countries are considered allies / enemies / frenemies of your country? Why?</p>	<p><u>Allies:</u></p> <p><u>Enemies:</u></p> <p><u>Neutral:</u></p>	

	<p><u>International Contributions:</u></p> <p><u>International Criticisms/ Problems:</u></p>	
<p>10. POLITICS: Organizations/Alliances/Memberships:</p> <p>a. Independent sovereignty since...?</p> <p>b. Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)? When did your country become a member of the UN?</p> <p>c. Does your country belong to any <u>intergovernmental organizations</u> outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?</p> <p>d. Any other alliances or major treaties?</p>		
<p>11. POLITICS: Summary of national interests / domestic issues which might influence your country's foreign policy</p>		
<p>12. HISTORY: What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?</p> <p>a. General</p> <p>b. Last 50 years</p> <p>c. Very recent</p>		
<p>13. COOL STUFF:</p> <p>a. Things your country has</p> <p>b. Things your country has done</p>		

c. Things your country is proud of		
d. Famous people		

Resources for MUN Country Research and Current Events

Find out some basic facts about your country.

The first place to go for **basic** geographical information is to the library databases at your school, such as the *Lands and Peoples* database found in **Groliers**. Not only will this database and the other databases like **World Book** and **Britannica** provide you with most of the information you need, but they will also provide information on how to cite the pages you use.

Find out about your country and the UN.

What DOES your country officially think/say/do regarding the issues that the United Nations is dealing with?

From the list of [Member States of the UN](#), click on your country's website to find out more about its permanent mission to the UN. You can also call the mission directly to ask questions or request a position statement on an issue.

Or browse the [website specifically designed for UN delegates themselves](#) to find out about what is going on at the UN.

Find your country's voting records and read speeches on the [United Nations Bibliographic Information System](#) website.

More information on the nations of the world.

These web pages can provide more detailed information about different countries.

**** [BBC Country Profiles](#) ****

Full profiles provide an instant guide to history, politics and economic background of countries and territories, and background on key institutions. They also include audio and video clips from BBC archives.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles

**** [The World Factbook](#) ****

Provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 266 world entities. Reference tab includes: maps of the major world regions, as well as Flags of the World, a Physical Map of the World, a Political Map of the World, and a Standard Time Zones of the World map. The World Factbook is produced by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Would your country's government agree with the way your country is characterized in the World Factbook?

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> Here is [a list of intergovernmental organizations](#) that will help you understand the acronyms CIA World Factbook uses.

**** [US Department of State Background Notes](#) **** Another excellent resource provided by the US - this time the Department of State. Click on your country and then on "Background Notes" > Scroll through the usual encyclopedia-style information (Profile, People, History) to the excellent summaries of **current issues** (Government

and Political Conditions) and **relationships with other nations** (Foreign, Bilateral, Regional Relations and US Relations), plus lots more. **Note:** Background Notes are no longer being updated or produced. They are being replaced with Fact Sheets focusing on U.S. relations with countries and other areas and providing links to additional resources. For [archived versions](#) of Background Notes, visit <http://www.state.gov/outofdate/bgn/>.

[UN Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights/Country Profiles](#)

****** Times Topics - search for *New York Times* articles by country ******

The place for the most up to date news on any country. The articles can be challenging but you can still find a lot of information including charts, maps, photos, video, and interactive media. Use the search box (right hand side of the webpage) to find any country in the world.

You can also use the pull down menu or click on the many topics presented.

[Times Topics - Africa](#)

[Times Topics - Asia](#)

[Times Topics – Middle East](#)

[Times Topics – Europe](#)

[Times Topics – North and South Americas](#)

[HEADLINE SPOT](#) is a good way to quickly locate current news from different countries and regions. It has a very simple but efficient search system and will really come in handy during caucusing.

[InfoPlease Country Profiles](#)

Each Country Profile provides information on: Geography · Maps · Flag · History · Current ruler · Area · Population · Capital · Largest cities · Languages · Ethnicity/race · Religion · Literacy rate · Economy · Government

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0198161.html>

[InfoPlease World Statistics](#)

General World Statistics, Population Statistics, Health and Social Statistics, Economic Statistics, Political Statistics, Worldwide Conflicts and Wars

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004372.html>

****QUICK TIP:** Do a simple [Google](#) Search for “foreign ministry” and “[your country’s name]” to find

your **Foreign Ministry Website** which will issue info about your country’s stance on various issues and allies, and other great info.

Current news on the nations of the world.

These webpages can provide more detailed information about different countries.

Check out [**news and media**](#) sources for recent developments in your country.

Here's [Google World News](#) which tracks virtually every news source on the web!!

Also, if you monitor a couple of news sites each day like [Time](#) or the [BBC](#) or [CNN](#) or the [NYTimes](#) you'll find useful articles. In fact, [HillaryClinton](#) said that the [Al Jazeera](#) site was one of the best places to be getting news about the Middle East and the world.

Click [here](#) for an in-depth analysis and review of some of the most current and hotly debated issues around the globe, courtesy of Global Security. Extremely easy and informative from reliable sources, you may even want to sign up for their newsletter to be informed of current events.

Organizations watching and helping the nations of the world.

****BONUS FEATURE:** the [BBC Country Profiles](#) also has a drop-down menu for international organizations. Learn more about institutions like: *African Union, Arab League, ASEAN, Commonwealth, European Union, G8, IAEA, IMF/World Bank, NATO, OPEC, Red Cross, WTO and, of course, the United Nations!*

- [Statistics of the Human Development Report](#): You can access statistical data from the Human Development Report (HDR) and resources to help you better understand this data. You will also find helpful information about the human development index (HDI) and other indices, links to other background materials, data resources and on-going debates and discussions on human development statistics. **This is a complicated database used by governments when they make decisions about aid and economics. The charts can give you a snapshot of issues in your country.** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>
- [UNICEF information by region and country](#): Learn about the issues children face around the world. <http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/>
- Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/en/home>
- Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org/>
- World Wildlife Fund: <http://www.panda.org/>
- Environmental News Network: <http://www.enn.com/>
- [AlertNet](#) is a free humanitarian news service run by [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) covering crises worldwide: natural disasters, conflicts, refugees, hunger, diseases and climate change.

And a few more links to try:

- [Collecting Country Information](#)
- [Research Conference Topics](#)
- [Researching the UN System](#)
- [How to Find UN Documents in Five Steps or Less](#)
- Try the [Official UN Documents System Search](#) so you can search with key words to **find resolutions** and voting records from the current and previous years. Or go straight to the [UN's Documentation Research Guide](#) for lots of **QUICK LINKS!**
- Through the [United Nations Documentation Center](#) and/or [Official UN Documents System Search](#) you can find resolutions and voting records from the current and previous years.
- Browse the [UN Website Locator](#) ... organized alphabetically and thematically and with key links in the sidebar.
- Visit [non-governmental organization \(NGO\) websites](#). NGOs are an important part of the UN system, in part due to the valuable research and information they generate. Look for NGOs that address your topic.

SEARCHING with a SPECIFIC COUNTRY DOMAIN:

When searching google as an MUN delegate refining your search so that you are only looking at results from your country can be very useful. Here is one way to do it:

In the search box type in your topic and add the country code using this format:

site:country code

For example: site:MA = sites that have Morocco as part of the domain name

So if you wanted information about the Syrian Civil War that comes from Morocco you would put this in the search box : [Syrian Civil War site:MA](#)

If you use this format site:/country code you will get many fewer hits

Country codes (with some useful domain codes at the end of the list):

AD Andorra	CU Cuba	IE Ireland	NG Nigeria	TF French Southern Territories	BIZ Business
AE United Arab Emirates	CV Cape Verde	IL Israel	NI Nicaragua		COM Commercial
AF Afghanistan	CX Christmas Island	IN India	NL Netherlands		EDU US Educational
AG Antigua and Barbuda	CY Cyprus	IO British Indian Ocean Territory	NO Norway	TG Togo	GOV US Government
AI Anguilla	CZ Czech Republic	IR Iran	NP Nepal	TH Thailand	INT International
AL Albania	DE Germany	IS Iceland	NR Nauru	TJ Tajikistan	MIL US Military
AM Armenia	DJ Djibouti	IT Italy	NU Niue	TK Tokelau	NET Network
AN Netherlands Antilles	DK Denmark	JM Jamaica	NZ New Zealand (Aotearoa)	TL Timor-Leste	ORG Nonprofit Organization
AO Angola	DM Dominica	JO Jordan	OM Oman	TM Turkmenistan	PRO Professional Services
AQ Antarctica	DO Dominican Republic	JP Japan	PA Panama	TN Tunisia	TO Tonga
AR Argentina	EC Ecuador	KE Kenya	PE Peru	TP East Timor	TR Turkey
AS American Samoa	DZ Algeria	KG Kyrgyzstan	PF French Polynesia	TT Trinidad and Tobago	TT Trinidad and Tobago
AT Austria	EE Estonia	KH Cambodia	PG Papua New Guinea	TV Tuvalu	TW Taiwan
AU Australia	EG Egypt	KI Kiribati	PH Philippines	UA Ukraine	TZ Tanzania
AW Aruba	EH Western Sahara	KM Comoros	PK Pakistan	UG Uganda	UK United Kingdom
AX Aland Islands	ER Eritrea	KN Saint Kitts and Nevis	PL Poland	UM United States Minor Outlying Islands	US United States
AZ Azerbaijan	ES Spain	KP Korea (North)	PM Saint Pierre and Miquelon	UZ Uzbekistan	VA Vatican City State (Holy See)
BA Bosnia and Herzegovina	ET Ethiopia	KR Korea (South)	PN Pitcairn Islands	VC Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VE Venezuela
BB Barbados	FI Finland	KW Kuwait	PR Puerto Rico	VG Virgin Islands (British)	VI Virgin Islands (U.S.)
BD Bangladesh	FJ Fiji	KY Cayman Islands	PS Palestinian Territory	VN Viet Nam	VU Vanuatu
BE Belgium	FK Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	KZ Kazakhstan	PT Portugal	WF Wallis and Futuna	WS Samoa
BF Burkina Faso	FM Federated States of Micronesia	LA Laos	PW Palau	YU Yugoslavia (former)	
BG Bulgaria	FO Faroe Islands	LB Lebanon	PY Paraguay		
BH Bahrain	FR France	LC Saint Lucia	QA Qatar		
BI Burundi	FX France, Metropolitan	LI Liechtenstein	RE Reunion		
BJ Benin	GA Gabon	LR Liberia	RO Romania		
BM Bermuda	GB Great Britain (UK)	LS Lesotho	RU Russian Federation		
BN Brunei Darussalam	GD Grenada	LT Lithuania	SA Saudi Arabia		
BO Bolivia	GE Georgia	LU Luxembourg	SB Solomon Islands		
BR Brazil	GF French Guiana	LV Latvia	SC Seychelles		
BS Bahamas	GH Ghana	LY Libya	SD Sudan		
BT Bhutan	GI Gibraltar	MA Morocco	SE Sweden		
BV Bouvet Island	GL Greenland	MC Monaco	SG Singapore		
BW Botswana	GM Gambia	MD Moldova	SH Saint Helena		
BY Belarus	GN Guinea	MG Madagascar	SI Slovenia		
BZ Belize		MH Marshall Islands	SJ Svalbard and Jan Mayen		
CA Canada		MK Macedonia			
CC Cocos (Keeling) Islands		ML Mali			
		MM Myanmar			
		MN Mongolia			
		MO Macao			

CD Democratic Republic of the Congo	GP Guadeloupe	MP Northern Mariana Islands	Jan Mayen	ZA South Africa	
CF Central African Republic	GQ Equatorial Guinea	MQ Martinique	SK Slovakia	ZM Zambia	
CG Congo	GR Greece	MR Mauritania	SL Sierra Leone	ZR Zaire (former)	
CH Switzerland	GS S. Georgia and S. Sandwich Islands	MS Montserrat	SM San Marino	ZW Zimbabwe	
CI Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	GT Guatemala	MT Malta	SN Senegal		
CK Cook Islands	GU Guam	MU Mauritius	SO Somalia		
CL Chile	GW Guinea-Bissau	MV Maldives	SR Suriname		
CM Cameroon	GY Guyana	MW Malawi	ST Sao Tome and Principe		
CN China	HN Honduras	MX Mexico	SU USSR (former)		
CO Colombia	HR Croatia (Hrvatska)	MY Malaysia	SV El Salvador		
CR Costa Rica	HT Haiti	MZ Mozambique	SY Syria		
CS Serbia and Montenegro	HU Hungary	NA Namibia	SZ Swaziland		
	ID Indonesia	NC New Caledonia	TC Turks and Caicos Islands		
		NE Niger	TD Chad		
		NF Norfolk Island			

- BIZ Business
- COM Commercial
- EDU US Educational
- GOV US Government
- INT International
- MIL US Military
- NET Network
- ORG Nonprofit Organization
- PRO Professional Services
- AERO Aeronautic
- ARPA Arpanet Technical Infrastructure
- COOP Cooperative
- INFO Info Domain
- NAME Personal Name
- NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(Please email rowek@tas.edu.tw if any of these links are no longer active, or with suggestions for other top sites. Thanks!)