

INSPIRED YOUTH: WRITING COUNTRIES

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TURKEY, by ANDRE T., 9th grade

The Turkish people like a lot of different sports. Their favorites are soccer, basketball, cycling, swimming, and volleyball. Their national sport is named goose wrestling.

The Turkish people eat strange foods, but they're good. Their favorite food is called shish kebab. They like a dessert named baklava.

Their flag has a moon and a star. They have a national bird called the redwing.

Turkish is the official language for them. It was written in a different language. Some Turkey people speak different languages.

There's a lot of people population that is Sunni Muslim. Muslims believe in different gods. Sometimes they go without food and water.

Important industries are cloth, foods, cars, electronics, steel, oil, lumber and paper. Turkey is a warm place.

Like in Chicago in cities they ride transportation like us. In the countryside they ride wooden carts pulled by horses.

The material is saying there are different things in Turkey than Chicago. They eat different foods. Turkish people talk in different languages. They ride different transportation in the countryside. They play a different sport named goose wrestling. They're talking about money and economy of a warm place.

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RUSSIA by MYANNA S., 6th grade

The USSR and the United States built large numbers of nuclear bombs. Nuclear bombs are bombs that can shoot over cities and states. In our city now in schools we have fire bell warnings. In the USSR they had nuclear warnings.

Caviar might be different to some people, but in Russia it's a big treat. Russians like a food called borsch. It's like beet soup.

Russians kids go to school every day but Sunday. They start at six years old. Depending on students' abilities the students go to a special school where they can learn important things.

SOUTH AFRICA by CORDELL Y., 5th grade

South Africans didn't like the holiday because that was when they had the battle.

The Springboks are one of the world's top teams. The sport they play there is very rough and you can get hurt playing the sport.

For many years they have protested about the laws. They're fighting for the problems they had in their lives.

Kids in South Africa have to be between seven and sixteen to go to school. They had to walk more than five miles to school and they walked barefooted.

AUSTRALIA, by EFRAIN M., 5th grade

My report is about Australia. My favorite sections are food, holidays, and the animals. What I like about their food was that they eat European, Asian, and American food. They enjoy fast food, and barbecues. Which they call having a Barbie. I don't like sea food but they like shrimp, lobster, crabs, and many types of fish. They like fish because they live near to the coast line. They also like dessert as they call tea. The favorite Australian food is vegemite, it is a salty sandwich spread made from yeast. Yuck!

The most liked holiday is Christmas. They celebrate Christmas by having a party and a Barbie. This is because Christmas in December is summer. The day after Christmas is another holiday called Boxing Day. That is the day they visit their friends and family and pass out boxed gifts.

The most populated animal is the kangaroos. There are over 50 species of kangaroos in Australia. Some kangaroos are over 6 ½ feet tall and can jump 33 feet. So other animals are the Tasmanian devil, koala, emu, and duck-billed platypus. The koala sleeps 20 hours a day. The emu bird does not fly but can run as fast as 40 mph. Australia has the most poisonous snakes.

GERMANY, by LESLIE A., 6th grade

Germany has a President and Chancellor. The President, Horst Koehler, does not have as much power as the Chancellor, Angela Merkel. Germany's legislature has a Federal Council with 69 people. It also has a Federal Assembly with 614 members. Germany has a strong economy. Their

currency is the euro. Germans like to ride bikes to get around.

TURKEY by ABIGAIL P., 6th grade

In Turkey 70.88 million people are Muslim. In Turkey tea is the national drink. The national bird is the redwing. Turkish is the official language. Basketball, cycling, swimming, and volleyball are some sports played in Turkey. Holidays are important celebrations in Turkey. A popular type of food is shish kebab. Güle güle!

Things to say in Turkish

Hello *Merhabe* (mehr-HAH-bah)

Good-bye *Güle güle!* (goo-LAY goo-LAY)

Please *Lütfen* (LEWT-fehn)

Thank you *Tesekkür ederim* (TESH-ek-kewr eh-DEHR-eem)

Yes *Evet* (ay-VEHT)

No *Hayir* (hi-EHR)

CHINA by ANAHI M., 5th grade

I learned that walls are made of sticky rice and egg whites. If it really works when you put the rice and the egg. How they do that and it works. When it rains it doesn't go off. How you could do that, how you could put it.

I learned too that Chinese people eat bread and other food. But they think that chicken is expensive. They don't eat too much chicken. The kids like to eat sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds, nuts and snacks.

I knew that they have a celebration. On the celebration the kids have something like money and gifts. On the celebration in China they had a holiday.

INDONESIA, by FREHIWET N., 10th gr.

Indonesia is a country with different geography such as volcanoes, sandy beaches, tropical rain forests, and flat plains. Besides different geography, the population is diverse. There are 234.7 million people. Among these people are Javanese, Sudanese, Madurese, coastal Malays, and Chinese. Throughout these people the majority are Muslim.

Indonesia has long history of power struggle between democracy, communism, and dictatorship. The struggle began when King Airlangga split his empire between his two sons in 1000 AD. Two hundred years later Islam spread through the islands. From the 1400s to the 1600s the Dutch, British, and Portuguese fought over the spice trade. The fight ended in 1816 when Indonesia became a Dutch colony. The Dutch ruled until 1942 when the Japanese took over during World War II. Japan was defeated after 7 years, in 1949, and Indonesia began a democratic government. However, the president, Sukarno, was known as a dictator. When the people began to lose power the Communists revolted. A general named Suharto used violence to stop the Communists and became president in 1968. During the 30 years Suharto ruled jobs were hard to find.

So, this upset people and he resigned in 1998. Finally, in 1999 East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia. Then in 2002 Indonesia's constitution is revised to become more democratic. This led to Indonesians being able to vote for their own president in 2004. Most recently Indonesia has

experienced many natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods.

In conclusion, learning more about Indonesia can help you understand the differences they experience today. Although they are democratic, they still have conflicts within their ethnicity, religion and politics.

AUSTRALIA, by CORZAY Y., 8th grade

Australians use shorter words than we do in the U.S. There are dictionaries for translating their languages. Australian's languages are simple to speak.

Australian's favorite sports are cricket and Australian-rules football and rugby. Netball is a popular sport for girls in Australia. Australians also like soccer and basketball.

In Australia and the U.S., Christmas is the best holiday for kids. Kids under six look forward to opening presents in the morning from Santa Claus. The next day after Christmas Australians have a day called Boxing Day where they celebrate with family and friends.

Australians eat all kinds of foods from different countries. They eat fresh seafood like we eat in the U.S. After they eat dinner they have sweets and fruit. Australians like this nasty stuff called vegemites. It's a toast spread with salt and yeast.

Their money is called the Australian dollar. Australia's economy is better than other countries. They sell iron, coal, copper, diamonds, and gold to other countries. Australia is famous for their wool and beef.

MEXICO, by LATRICE T., 10th grade

There are many languages spoken in Mexico, such as Nahuatl and Tzotzil. These come from Mayan or Aztec times. The official language in Mexico is Spanish. Most Mexicans have their own way of using and pronouncing common Spanish words.

There are traditional Catholic holidays that Mexicans celebrate, such as Carnival (a week of parties before Lent), Semana Santa (the week of Easter), El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and El Dia de los Reyes (Day of the Kings). Mexicans begin their Christmas holiday on December 16, and the kids won't get their presents till January 6.

KOREA by KEVIN A., 3rd grade

The language in Korea is Korean. Their alphabet is called hangul. In newspapers and other documents Chinese words are mixed with Korean words.

INDONESIA, by CORTEZ Y., 7th grade

I don't want to live in Indonesia because there are too many volcanoes, too many people died, there are floods, and a lot of earthquakes and Tsunamis.

Also there are too many wars. Dutch keep on taking over and Japan take over, and their Indonesian president was too much of a dictator.

If I had to go to Indonesia I would play basketball, soccer, badminton, and surfing, and sepak takraw, and babancakan, or cat-and-mouse. I would not fast during the holiday. I would be glad not to go to class on Independence Day. Yey!!!

CHINA, by JAIME F., 5th grade

I learned about China that if you saw a panda in China it is good luck. I learned too that the T.V. is controlled by the government. I also learned about China that in the Spring Festival they give the kids money and new clothes and other gifts. And I also learned that the Chinese love soccer. And also I learned about China that they like table tennis. And also I learned that the Chinese use chopsticks to eat their food. And also if people don't agree with Mao's policies they get thrown in jail. And also I have a friend in my class who is from China, and he also eats with chopsticks.

BRAZIL, by ALEX S., 8th grade

In Brazil they play soccer. In a few countries mostly everyone loves to play soccer. Like kids from around schools and most grown up people or old people. Soccer is like their life. This sport is famous in Brazil. Some famous soccer players right now in Brazil are Ronald Pitno, Kaka, Ronaldo, and some other soccer players. Pele used to be one of the best soccer players of Brazil. Basketball and volleyball are also popular in Brazil. They sometimes play on the beach and go swimming.

The flag from Brazil has stars that represent the 26 states and the motto "Order and Progress." The colors of the flag are green, yellow, and blue. It was created in 1889. The Brazilian people speak Portuguese. Some of the words come from Africa. Portuguese is like Spanish, French, Italian and Romanian. These are called the romance languages, as they come from a language called Latin. Some examples are please (por favor), hello (oi).

ARGENTINA, by AMBAR A., 8th grade

The people that came to Argentina were killed by the Native Americans. In Argentina there were 3 types of Native Americans called the Incas, Charrua, and Querandi. These Native Americans gave early explorers gifts of silver. Silver in Latin is argentum, which gave Argentina its name.

Argentina's flag is blue and white and the sun of May in the middle. The sun of May is an Inca symbol. This symbol has 32 alternating flaming and straight rays. The sun of May is in the middle of the flag. The flag has a blue and white and another blue horizontal stripe.

On 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve all the family gathers for activities. Argentinians celebrate Carnival and dress up in fancy costumes.

Six through fourteen year old Argentine students go to primary school.

SAUDI ARABIA by YULISA R., 6th grade

I would not want to live in Saudi Arabia because there are no lakes, which means that there is no swimming, no picnics, no sun-tanning and no playing around in the sand with cousins and family and no BBQ with family.

I would not like to be a girl in Saudi Arabia because you're not going to be able to use a bike. Because there is no lake, there is no path to ride on, so you're not able to have a little fun. In fact, you get to have less fun than boys.

Another reason I would not like to be a girl is because you're also not able to play soccer or watch it in the stadium. I would really dislike that cause that's my favorite sport.

SOUTH AFRICA, by JASMINE T., 11th grade

The land of South Africa is a little more than 471,000 square miles. Most of South Africa is high dry lands, but the rest is mountains, grasslands, and coastal areas. In South Africa it is hot in the summer and cold in the winter. In South Africa, the climates are different from North America.

The main sports in South Africa are soccer, rugby and cricket. People in South Africa give the nickname Bafana Bafana, for the South Africa national soccer team. South Africa is fortunate to have one of the top national rugby teams. The South Africa rugby team is the Springboks. The people who play on the teams do not wear helmets. In South Africa different nationalities play sports.

Life in South Africa is pretty similar to life in America. The boys have the responsibilities of taking care of the farm and the family. The girls take the responsibility of cooking and cleaning. The city life is not that much different than our city life. The children are similar to us. They listen to music, go shopping, watch T.V. and love to play computer games.

JAPAN by KIMBERLY L., 5th grade

Japan is a country where 127.4 million people live. Here are a few things I learned. First, in schools every year students have sport festivals (undokai). Did you know that baseball is a Japanese passion? Rice is a major food. Parents mostly have one or two kids. Some kids in Japan have to study harder than kids in the United States.

BRAZIL by ASHTON B., 7th grade

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. Its land mass takes up about half of South America. Brazil's weather throughout the year is mostly tropical. January is the warmest month in Brazil and July is the coolest. There are about 190 million people that live in Brazil. Many Brazilians descend from Portuguese settlers. Thirty-eight percent of the population are African American. Brazil's national language is Portuguese, which originally came from the Latin language. Not all people from Brazil speak Portuguese. People such as African Americans speak their own language.

BRAZIL by DANIEL A., 9th grade

The Brazil flag was adopted in 1889. The stars represent the Brazilian states. The order and progress is found in the center of the flag. Forest covers 65 percent of land in Brazil. January is the warmest month in Brazil and July is coolest. In Brazil there is about 190 million people. In Brazil there's a large immigrant group from Japan, German, Italy, and Lebanon who also live in Brazil. Brazil's national language is Portuguese.

The main religions are Roman Catholic 74%, Protestant 15%, and other 11%. Brazil was so large and didn't have any single kingdom to conquer. The tribes that captured other tribes were given to the Portuguese to use as slaves. The Europeans went to Brazil and they spread diseases. Portugal became wealthy from the timber, sugar, tobacco, gold, diamonds, cotton, and coffee. The most sports being played are soccer, volleyball, and basketball.

The holidays kids like are Easter, Children's Day, and Christmas. Kids in Brazil go to school Monday through Friday.

RUSSIA, by ANDREW T., 12th grade

Russians used a Cyrillic alphabet a lot different from the American alphabet. America has 26 letters, the Russian's Cyrillic has 33 letters. Russian's letters look a lot different from American letters.

Here are some common Russian words with the English language.

Hello, Privet (pree - VYET)
Good-bye, Paka (pah – KAH)
Please, Pozhalvista (pah - ZHAWL – sta)
Thank you, Spasiba (spah – SEE – bah)
Yes, Da (dah)
No, Nyet (nyet)

There are many different religions in Russia. About half of the Russians belong to the Russian Orthodox Church. 10 percent of Russians are Muslims.

Soccer is the favorite sport in Russia. Chess is the favorite board game in Russia. Kids like to play hockey and go ice-skating and cross-country skiing in the winter. Gymnastics and Olympic sports are popular

Russian kids go to school every day but Sundays. Students start going to school at six. The subjects are math, reading, science, etc. Students learn how to do different dances. Russians can't afford school supplies and money for teachers. Russians consider education very important.

MEXICO by **LUIS L., 8th grade**

Mexico is about culture and change or switch up. Long, long ago people used to sacrifice for the sun to come out until the next day because they used to think that if they didn't sacrifice a human they thought the sun would never come out, so they sacrificed people each day. The Aztec always offered people to sacrifice.

Bull fighting is common in Mexico. The main religion in Mexico is Catholic. They celebrate Christmas and Day of the Dead. Day of the Dead is when Mexicans celebrate their deceased friends or family. Mexicans eat rice, beans, and tortillas.

FRANCE by **OSCAR B., 6th grade**

In France kids like to play soccer. They won the 1998 World Cup. They have a bicycle race every year. For Christmas children leave their shoes by the fireplace for Le Père Noel. Did you know Thank You in French is Merci?

CHINA by **FREDY, 5th grade**

I learned that they get around in the city. Not many Chinese own a car because they are expensive. They ride around on bicycles, in motor scooters, trains, or buses. They also travel in pedicabs, two-passenger buggies pulled by three-wheeled bikes.

Each day the kids get together and exercise before classes. The kids obey the teacher. Kids often share the supplies like books, paper, pencils. To get to go to a good school they have to take a test to decide.

ITALY by **CLARA D., 6th grade**

The Italian flag has 3 stripes. These stripes stand for hope, faith, and service to others. The country's national image is the coat of arms. This is the unity of the state.

Italy has two islands and is shaped like a boot. Most of Italy is made up of mountains. The seasons in Italy are similar to the ones in America.

The official language in Italy is Italian. The majority of Italians are Roman Catholic. The Roman Catholic pope lives in Rome.

Italy is the center of the European fashion. Their main larger cities are Rome, Milan and Naples. These cities suffer from pollution because a lot of the people drive their cars.

The Italian government has 2 main leaders, a president and a prime minister.

Holidays

Christmas carols started in Italy by St. Francis of Assisi. The saints and monks got together and wrote songs about the birth of Jesus. The people of Italy enjoy celebrating the birth of Jesus. This way they perform nativity scenes.

Games and Sports

In Italy they play similar sports to America except for the main American sports. An Italian game called Bocce is kind of like playing lawn bowling in America.

ARGENTINA by **GERARDO G., 5th gr.**

I think Argentina is very interesting. They eat lots of meat. They also speak Spanish and they play games we play in the U.S.A.

SOUTH KOREA by **HIRUT, 8th grade**

The report that I am writing is about South Korea. The aspects I am writing about are: holidays, food, schools, and children's life.

South Korea has different ways of celebrating holidays than the United States. Their New Year celebration is three days long. They also have a different holiday from the U.S., which is Children's Day. There is no school on Children's Day (May 5), and kids sometimes go to amusement parks. Families gather for a big meal on holidays and wear their own traditional clothes. Children bow to their grandparents and older relatives to show respect on these days. South Korea does not celebrate Easter, or Christmas, because they are not Christian.

South Korean food can be spicy. Rice and pickled cabbage with hot peppers (kimchi) are served almost every day. Every kids love to eat it. They like soup and rice mixed with vegetables and meat. Their seafood, beef, and chicken are cooked in many

ways and are very popular. Many kids eat fast food like pizza and hamburgers after school. Koreans use chopsticks to eat rice and most foods, but spoons and forks are common. Children are to wait for the oldest person to start eating first!

South Korean children attend school from Monday through Saturday and have more homework in all grades than Americans do. Many classes are attended during the summer. School is often until 10 or 11 p.m. Students have to bow to their teachers. They call their teachers "math teacher" or "science teacher" instead of their last names. School vacations usually go from January to February and July to August.

South Korea kids love being with their families or playing with friends. But they must spend most of their free time in school. They learn how to use computers when they are four years old. Children must show respect when they are with adults by speaking with more polite language than they would with friends. They are always expected to obey their parents.