

# **COUNTRIES: INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CULTURES**

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## **THE CULTURE OF MEXICO**

In Mexico they have parties, like “the Day of the Dead.” They celebrate the people who died by buying sugar skulls and paper skeletons. They also have “Ash Wednesday,” and they have carnivals to celebrate Catholic holidays.

Mexican food is tortillas, beans, and chili peppers. People in America cook and eat Mexican food. Mexican food is popular in America because it is flavorful.

Daily life for the Mexican workers is typically long and difficult. The governments were not so supportive to the religion. Some Mexicans succeed in crossing the border.

By Guadalupe E., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

People of the Xhosa tribe are called red people because of their clothes. South Africa’s historical culture can be found in cave paintings. The paintings are the best prehistoric art in the world. European settlers in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries changed South African culture. South Africa is a place with lots of traditions and culture. Singing and dancing are part of their life.

By Prince, 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **KENYA’S FACTS**

Kenya became independent from Great Britain. Also, Kenya has no state religion. When people in Kenya have public holidays such as Kenyatta Day, they love to drink beer. They eat a dish called nyama choma. Their music style is known as benga. Medicine men are considered the greatest gift, also useful. People are called specialists. They play a very important role in the traditional tribes. People get very happy when it’s raining. Fire is very important for traditional African societies. A deep sense of kinship through blood and marriage is one of the strongest forces in the traditional society.

By Josephine, 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **INDIA**

India is a country of many religions. One religious holiday is called Ganesh Chaturthi, in which the elephant-headed god is celebrated. It is held in August and September. It is celebrated all across India. They celebrate with firecrackers and they try very hard not to look at the moon.

Indians love watching movies and love making movies. In Bombay, India, cinema is respected. Their movies are colorful, dramatic, and have a lot of music and dancing.

In India more than one billion people live there.

By Celeste, 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **JORDAN**

Jordan was founded in 1920. The original name was Trans-Jordan. It is located in the Middle East. Trans-Jordan means “beyond the Jordan.” Most of the people of Jordan are Arabs. It is east of Palestine. People in Jordan live in ancient cities. They work with the United States.

By Jonathan, 8<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

## **CHINA**

China was a great ancient civilization. China invented papermaking. We still use papermaking today. The Great Wall of China is 2,414 km long, really big. Also, they invented

type-printing. If we didn't have China, we wouldn't have type-printing. China was also part of a powerful civilization. China made terra cotta soldiers. Also back then, China made more metal than Europe. They saw lots of stars and comets. On the other hand, they invented the compass, so without the compass we would lose our way. Those are fun facts about China.

By Litza, 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **PAKISTAN**

Pakistan has one of the most interesting cultures. Pakistan was part of India until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was created mostly because of differences in religion. In Pakistan Muslims are the majority. The religion of Islam centers around the God Allah, and a prophet named Mohammed. Muslims must believe in Allah and Mohammed, pray daily, give to the poor, fast, and make a required trip to the Holy City. There are so many roadside shops and mosques in Pakistan.

By Jaely, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **NIGERIA**

Nigeria is in Africa. The largest city in Nigeria is Lagos. In Nigeria there are 174,000,000 people. English is the official language, but they also speak Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, and other languages. Nigerians were kidnapped as slaves and brought to North America. In Nigerian songs you might hear pop, hip hop, and rock and roll. Rock and roll, hip hop, and pop you can hear in Nigerian music. Nigerian juju music and reggae music sound the same. Hausa is the music from northern Nigeria. There are more writers in Nigeria than in all West Africa.

By Esthefany, 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **THE CULTURE OF TURKEY**

Many years ago, those who live in Turkey were called Ottoman. One of the main cultures is Islam. The culture of Turkey is one of the oldest cultures in the world. Arts and crafts are very important to Turkish people. Some of the finest Turkish rugs are called Hereke rugs. The rugs are made from a special kind of silk. The rugs can cover a bedroom floor.

Calligraphy is very fancy writing. Some of the most beautiful examples are found in Turkey.

By Judit, 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **INDIA'S CULTURE**

India is home to more than one billion people, and there are lots of different religions. They are all very unique. Some celebrate religious ceremonies by eating candy and blasting fireworks. Others celebrate by having parades. In India people also try to not look at the moon during their religious celebrations. India has packed cities that are full of religion and culture. In one religion, they even celebrate for an elephant-headed god. All in all, India is an amazing country with lots of culture and diversity.

By Jovanny, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

### **MEXICO**

Mexico is a very fun place. It is colorful, lively, and beautiful. They celebrate Mary, mom of Jesus. Catholics have pictures in the churches. On the Day of the Dead, November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, I get a lot of candy.

Mexico is in North America, south of the U.S. Mexico has mountains, tropical forests, deserts, and seas.

The major religion is Catholicism. The Mexican government hasn't always supported religion.

Good food is tamales, enchiladas, tacos, arroz con frijoles, fajitas, guacamole, tortillas, and quesadillas.

By Rosalinda, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

### **AUSTRALIA**

The Australians like basketball and football. On holidays they set off fireworks. They have a lot of cool animals, including kangaroos. That is what Australia is all about. Australia Day is also known as Foundation Day. They also love to enjoy the fireworks at night. They like gathering around Christmas trees to sing Christmas songs, so they will have a good holiday.

By Nathan, 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **VIETNAM**

Vietnam has three main religions, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Religion and culture are very important to them. Vietnam is sometimes called the "Jewel of Southeast Asia." In Buddhism they call New Year's Tet Nguyen Dan. They celebrate Tet during mid-January to early February. For Tet, they were doing fireworks. The Buddhists also believe that there are 8 right ways to live. Some of their people would be dying. They believed when they die, they weren't completely gone. They kept pictures of their ancestors that died in their houses.

By Keydy, 4<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

### **NIGERIAN MUSIC**

Nigerian music influenced Western music in many ways, such as gospel music, blues, jazz, and rock and roll. Nigerians were brought to America as slaves, but still eventually were set free and affected and started some types of music. Not only that, but juju music is also another type of music, but very similar to reggae. Not only that, but also writing is also popular in Nigeria.

By Christopher, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **THE CULTURE OF NEPAL**

Nowhere on earth can you find a way of life like in Nepal. Nepal has been an organized society for at least 1,500 years that people have been living. Also, Hinduism is said to be the oldest religion on earth. It's a fairly complex religion. Nepal isn't a very big country, but its religious adventure and international influence have made Nepal's culture. Hinduism has different religions for many reasons. One of them is because Hindu doesn't recognize one founder of their religion. Hindus believe in the phrase, "All rivers lead to one ocean," meaning that God accepts all worshippers, regardless of what religion they belong to.

By Melissa, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **MEXICAN CULTURE**

Culture has existed for a very long time. Carnival is celebrated every year on Ash Wednesday. The Day of the Dead is celebrated on November 2. 90% of Mexicans profess to be Catholics. The food is good in Mexico, like tacos and chili. Daily life for the Mexican worker is typically long and difficult. They are trying to make Mexico a wonderful place to live.

By Alejandro, 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **CHINESE TRADITIONS**

There are many Chinese traditions in the Chinese culture. The Spring Festival is the most important to Chinese people. It's the most important because it marks the beginning of the new Lunar Year. It's also important because the Chinese people get to reunite with their family, and also stay up all night with their family. They also celebrate the New Year as an American tradition. They also enjoy other traditions and make activities like lion dancing, dragon lantern dances, land-boat rowing, and stilt walking. The Chinese people like to celebration most American traditions, but celebrate the Summer Festival more because they get to reunite with their family. By Gerardo, 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **JORDAN**

Jordan is one of the youngest countries. It was founded in the early 1920s. Jordan was built along the shores of the Dead Sea and River Jordan. Most of the people in Jordan are Muslims and Arabs. A lot of the land is very harsh deserts. Now Jordan is a very modernized society. The people who live in Jordan are very friendly. They have worked very hard to make their country a special place. Because of their hard work, Jordan is a very nice place to visit in the Middle East.

By Dioselyn, 4<sup>th</sup>, and her tutor

## **AUSTRALIA**

Australia is a very cultured country. They have a very interesting cuisine with kangaroo, and mostly have barbecues. They have barbecues during the summer, like America. Australia is a very multi-cultural and urbanized country. It would take the average Australian 1.5 hours to get to work. Australia was discovered by the British Empire, and they have a holiday to commemorate the arrival of the British colonists. Australia celebrates Christmas during the summer, and it is one of its most important holidays.

Australia hosted the Olympics in 2000. Australia is also very athletic, and people play all kinds of sports.

By Kevin, 9<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **VIETNAM'S GREAT CULTURE**

Vietnam is sometimes called "Jewel of Southeast Asia." There are three main religions in Vietnam, but their most popular one is Buddhism. Buddhism teaches that there are eight ways to live life right. One of Buddhism's right ways to live is meditation. Meditation is a way to calm your body and your mind. Tet is Vietnam's New Year's Eve. Tet is short for Tet Nguyen Dan. Tet is celebrated in late January and early February. Many Vietnam people believe that there are spirits who watch over their daily lives. Also in Vietnam, people worship their ancestors, fathers, parents, and moms. They also believe that when their ancestors or siblings die, they're not completely gone. They think their spirits watch over them for good luck. Over all, Vietnam is one very amazing country.

By Roberto Sanchez, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

## **PAKISTAN**

Do you know Pakistan? Today I am going to teach you 7 facts about Pakistan. Let's get started. Pakistan is a beautiful place. Did you know that Pakistan was created mostly on religions? Also that Pakistan was a part of India until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and that Islam is the state religion, but Buddhism and Hinduism have been primary religions? Do you wonder who created Pakistan? Here is the answer. Pakistan was created between Northwestern Indian Muslims and non-Muslim Indians and it was the difference between them that created Pakistan. Also that Islam centers around the God Allah and the prophet Mohammed. The last two facts: There are five pillars of Islam, and did you know

Muslims worship in a mosque? Those are my 7 facts that I hope you learned about Pakistan. By Leslie, 12<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **LIFE IN ITALY**

Italy has a very diverse culture, including different foods and holidays. Italy has different cities. Four cities including Rome, Milan, Turin, and Naples have a population over a million people. In Italy they speak Italian and probably English. Venice is built of 117 small islands, and people take boats wherever they want to go. Vatican City is the smallest independent city-state. Italy is in Southern Europe in the Mediterranean. Every place in Italy is different. Diet in Italy is based on pasta and changes based on where you are in Italy. In Italy they have many colorful festivals celebrating patron saints. The Coliseum is in Rome. Italy is a diverse country.

By Fernando, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **TURKEY**

Turkey is one of the oldest cultures in the world. Many people have lived there for thousands of years. In Turkey people who practice Islam are called Muslims. Many hand-made crafts are produced in Turkey. Turkish people create the most beautiful jewelry on earth. In Turkey there is rug-making by hand. Turkish rugs are called Hereke. Turkey also has a very fancy handwriting pen.

By Jennifer, 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **ITALIAN FOOD AND MANY THINGS**

Italy is a country located in Europe. It is a peninsula surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea. They have a lot of mountains in the country. The capital of Italy is Rome. Vatican City in Rome is the world's smallest independent city-state. The Coliseum of Rome is an ancient construction of Italy.

Venice is built on 117 islands. A gondola is a boat. The boats are used on the canals instead of cars on roads. The Italian diet is traditionally based on pasta. Coffee, beer, and wine are very popular. By Armando, 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **TRADITIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA**

South Africa is a country. They used beadwork. A Zulu woman can tell you the different meanings of the color of the beads. People are still using beadwork.

When the European settlers came, they influenced South Africa greatly. Many places in South Africa replicate the European culture. In South Africa it was poor because of the government they were under. However, the government policy changed and they are beginning to become a better country and going back to their old traditions.

By Lexy, 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

### **CHINESE CULTURE**

The cultivation of tea in China began about 5,000 years ago. That's a really long time ago! In fact, China is the homeland of tea! Rice and noodles are the basic part of Chinese diet. China is a multi-ethnic country, and Koreans are known as "white clothing ethnic group." Mongolians wear their traditional robes and riding boots.

Specific Chinese tradition is their attention to holidays. The Spring Festival is the most important annual holiday in China. Tea from China began on its way to worldwide popularity, and Chinese culinary arts have a long history.

By Valeria, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor.

## **TURKEY**

Turkey is one of the oldest cultures in the world. Those who live in Turkey, they were called Ottoman Turks. The main religion of Turkey and the Middle East is Islam. Muslims believe that artists shouldn't paint living things. Turkish art forms require skill and patience. Turkish hobbies are rug-making or weaving. Turkish rugs are made from cotton, wool, and silk. Calligraphy is a fancy way to write. Calligraphy has a special pen. Jewelry is the most important product of Turkey.

By Jaritzi, 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

## **NEPAL'S HISTORY**

The most critical part of Nepal is religion. Nepal benefited from traders crossing the country. Nepal is an interesting country because the Hindus and the Buddhists live in peace. Hinduism dates back to at least 1,500 years before Christ. The one Hindu god takes any form. Hinduism is different from many other religions for many other reasons. God accepts all worshippers regardless what religion you are.

By Alexandre, 5<sup>th</sup> gr.