

COUNTRY PROJECT

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING

Vol. 30, No.5, April 2018

Written about many aspects of countries by 2nd-8th graders with their tutors, of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program

By Alejandro S., 7th gr. **INDIA**

India is a very religious country. The four most common religions are Hindus, Islam, Buddhism, and Sikhism, the largest four religions. India has one of the largest number of Muslims in the world. In India Muslims celebrate the 10-day Muharram Festival during April and May. They do this by a festival with parades. The Ganges River is very sacred to many of India's Hindus. They use a lot of firecrackers for the Diwali celebration. One of the festivals which is called the Ganesh Chaturthi is dedicated to the elephant-headed god Ganesh, and during this festival they try very hard not to look at the moon.

By Nathan b., 8th gr. **VIETNAM**

Vietnam is known as the land of the south. In Vietnam the people who live there celebrate three religions, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. In Vietnam Buddhism is the most popular religion worshipped. Also, in Vietnam there is a large holiday about the same significance as our New Year. It is known as the Tet Nguyen Dan or Tet. In Vietnam, their dead ancestors are worshipped. When celebrating Tet, in addition to praying to ancestors, there is eating, partying, and fireworks that are all significant parts of Tet. Ancestor worship, religion, and holidays are just part of what makes Vietnamese culture so amazing.

By Gregorio F., 6th gr. **KUNG FU**

Kung Fu origins take place in a place we know as India. This martial art was made by a Buddhist monk called Bodhidharma. He made this in the Shaolin Temple of Henan Province around 527 A.D., when he noticed his students were weak. Also, they couldn't concentrate when they meditated.

Kung Fu is a martial art that uses meditation to predict where your enemy is going to go next.

By Eduardo F., 6th gr. **CHINA** Made in China

China is a different place that will make you calm and you will have fun. The population of China is 22% of the whole world. China is the most populated place in the world. China covers a fifteenth of earth's surface. The South China Sea is the largest sea. The largest river in China is the Yangtze River. In south China there are very hot summers, and in north China there are very cold winters. A very rare animal is in China, which is the panda. Other animals in China are a South China tiger and red-crowned crane, and a white-flag dolphin. The first dolphin was found in the Yangtze River in eastern China.

By Laniya R., 6th gr. **KENYA** All About Kenya
Kenya's population is diverse. African peoples in Kenya account for about 98 percent of the total population. Africans are members of the Roman Catholic Church. A national dish in Kenya is "nyama choma," barbecued meat. Kenya people love to party and drink. Native people mostly strike for Kenya traditions or features. African societies keep or use "holy" fire for religious purposes. There are medicine men called specialists. Medicine men help cure disease and sickness. Rain in Africa is called a blessing, which makes people happy. Rainmakers are some of the most important individuals of society. During colonial rule, Kenya people were referred to as Asians. Kenya is a country of diverse and rich culture.

By Fidel V., 6th gr. **AUSTRALIA**
Australia is located in the southern hemisphere. Australia is a unique place. They celebrate Australia Day on January 26. It is similar like America's. We use fireworks on the "4th of July."
Australia was discovered 200 years ago by Europeans. It used to be part of the British Empire. Australia is near New Zealand. It is not sheep farmers and gold miners any more. Some people live in cities or in suburbs. They celebrate Christmas and Easter like us. Would you like to live in Australia or the U.S.? Why or why not?

By Cindy A., 6th gr. **FINLAND**

Finland is a country in Europe that was ruled by other countries for many years, but luckily, they fought against their ruler and gained their freedom.

After all of that, Jean Sibelius was born on December 8, 1865 in a small town near Helsinki. Finland's capital is Helsinki, where Jean Sibelius was born. He was a composer, and his first composition was "Drops of Water." Finland is great at educating, but he dropped out of law school. Kalevala is a great book about Finnish life. Unfortunately, Jean Sibelius died on September 20, 1957. But at least he had a great life.

By Yaritza A., 4th gr. **TURKEY**

People in the Country Turkey

The culture of Turkey is one of the oldest cultures in the world! In Turkey, arts and crafts are important to Turkey people. Everybody should know how to make at least one craft. Modern Turkish jewelry has developed from 100 years of Middle Eastern artwork. The main religion in Turkey is Islam. Islam is called Muslims. The Muslims don't put living things in their artwork, calligraphy. You need a special pen to do calligraphy. In Turkey, they also make rugs and weave. The rugs are made from cotton and silk. Hereke rugs have more than 300 million knots per square meter.

By Miguel O., 8th gr. **NIGERIA**

When the English took the Nigerians as slaves, they kept on playing cultural music. Their music influenced the western people. Their people were slaves for the Americans. They took them forcefully from their country and brought them to America. Nigeria was part of other countries, such as France. They acted as colonies. They made church music. It was a big part of their culture. They had very diverse music. It influenced Americans in many ways. Nigeria's culture sounds very interesting.

-

By Phyllis R., 5th gr. **KENYA**

An interesting fact is that Kenyans like meat and beer a lot. They love to party. They dance a lot and their music style is

benga. There is no state religion in Kenya. Fire is very important for traditional African society. In traditional society they include grandparents, children, and more. Rain is considered a great blessing in African. People are happy when it rains.

By Viridiana A., 3rd gr. **MEXICO**

A famous archeologist said that Mexico has different scenery. There are mountains, beaches, and deserts. The Day of the Dead is celebrated on November 2 and is a big fiesta in Mexico. People believe that the souls of the dead return to earth. Another festival celebrated is called Carnival (Carnival). The town celebrates 40 days before Lent and is celebrated by Catholics. People in Mexico enjoy tortillas, beans, and hot peppers. Some good dishes are tamales, enchiladas, and flan. Working conditions are often bad in factories, so people immigrate to the U.S. because there is better work. If you ever to go Mexico, you will enjoy the nice weather and food.

By Tyra R., 3rd gr. **JORDAN**

Jordan is in the middle East. It's on the shore of the Dead Sea and River Jordan. It's a harsh, hot desert. People there live in ancient cities, built centuries ago. They are very aware of history, so they are very friendly. Jordan is a small kingdom. It was founded in the 1920s. Its name was Transjordan. They are working with non-Islamic countries to help people there.

By Lexy V., 9th gr. **PAKISTAN**

Pakistan used to be part of India. Pakistan was created mostly for a religion. The majority of Pakistan's religion is Islam. There are five pillars of Islam. The god is Allah. Mohammed was his prophet. Lahore is Pakistan's cultural and educational center. There are a lot of mosques in Lahore. A mosque is where they to go worship. Pakistan's culture is deeply attached to its long history. Muslims and non-Muslims helped create the independent country of Pakistan.

By Edgar Miguel, 4th gr. **MEXICO**

Interesting Things About Mexico

Mexico was under constant political change. Some Mexicans succeeded in crossing the border. Mexicans are helping to build a better America.

Mexico has a lot of parties. They have Carnaval to celebrate in Mazatlán, Veracruz, and La Pax. The most well-known party that they celebrate is the Day of the Dead. A lot of people look for candy skulls at Mexican markets in order to celebrate. At the Day of the Dead people gather at the graves of their relatives. People decorate the graves with flowers, and at the graves they have picnics.

Mexicans' daily life has a lot to do with Catholics. The food most Mexicans enjoy is tortillas, beans, chili peppers. The Mexican worker's day is long and difficult. Many Mexicans emigrate to the United States.

By Leydi A., 5th gr. **CHINA**

China was the one who created the compass, gun powder, the printing press and papermaking. China is about 5,000 years old. China was one of the powerful countries of the ancient world. China was the first country to write about the universe. China had factories and developed industry. The Great Wall extends about 2,414 km. It is cool that you can see the wall from the moon. Also, when the emperor died, they buried him underground with soldiers made out of stone. No one found out about it for 2,000 years. China has a lot of religions. The main religions that China has are Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Taoism. China was and is a powerful country.

By Carlos F., 5th gr. **PUERTO RICO**

“The Caribbean Culture”

Puerto Rico is an island located in the Caribbean Sea. People who lived their life there were called Taino. They liked instruments and used sticks to make music. Many women were more important than men. It was a big culture, and the most important instrument, the favorite of all, is the guiro. It is part of the Latin and Caribbean cultures.

By Reaisha J., 4th gr. **PUERTO RICO**

Puerto Rico is a small island on the Caribbean Sea. The first people were called Taino. Women were as important as men. They liked sports.

Puerto Rico is an island filled with culture. They invented several musical instruments which are important to Puerto Rico. People love to dance to the music. They also invented rubber balls. It is a very developed culture.

Recently, they went through Hurricane Maria. It caused a lot of damage and now there is no electricity in many places on the island. Only a few people still have electricity, which is sad because they can't contact family and friends. We need to step up and donate money, help, and food so Puerto Rico can be rebuilt.

By Jason R., 2nd gr. **MEXICO**

My name is Jason. I was born in Mexico in 2009. I was 3 when I came to the United States of America. When I was 4, in Mexico it was my birthday that day. On November 2, it was the Day of the Dead. It is a Mexican national holiday. At the Day of the Dead I play instruments and sing. The famous archeologist in Mexico, his name is Homero Adame, once said something about Mexico. He said, "Contrasting landscapes including a variety of mountain, tropical and desert scenes, all intermingle in this vast territory." I agree with him. It's because he is a real person and archeologist in Mexico.

By Marco O., 6th gr. **BOLIVIA**

"What Bolivia Is Known for"

In the 16th century, the Spanish and natives developed their own culture in Bolivia. Bolivia is now known for their dancing, music, and parties, and they even have good writers. One good writer was Maria. Maria was born November 12, 1812. Maria was blind since she was 13 because of an operation she had that went wrong. Maria wrote of life and what she thought. She wrote a poem of "The Blind," and "The Tree of Life." She didn't want her poems published. Maria's work continued 100 years later.

By Ifunanya O., 3rd gr. **GREAT WALL OF CHINA**

The Great Wall of China goes all the way back to the 7th century B.C. It was originally 10,000 *li* long. (Two *li* equal 0.6 miles). Now it is 4,000 miles long. The Ming emperors renovated it for more than 200 years. UNESCO added the Great Wall to its World Heritage List in 1987. Shih Huangdi sent commander Meng Tian plus 30,000 troops to get rid of Xiongnu and fortify China's wonder. The Manchus took control of China, and they created the Qing dynasty. Ying Zheng unified China and made the Qin dynasty.

By Alejandro S., 7th gr. **NEPAL**

All I Know about Nepal

Nepal is a small country where religion is very important. Nepal is the only country that Hinduism is its official religion. It has been an organized society for at least 1,500 years. Nepal is located between northeast India and southwest China.

By Alejandro S., 7th gr. **NEPAL, Y'ALL**

Nepal is small. Their buildings are tall.

You can buy a ball at the Nepal mall,

But it's pretty small.

The food in Nepal, it's pretty small,

But it's here for y'all (to eat).

By Itzel V., 5th gr. **ITALY**

Italy is a very interesting place. Venice is a city built on a small island and you need a boat to get around. There are four big cities, like Rome, Milan, Turin, and Naples. Rome is the capital of Italy. Italy used to be farmers, but now it's modern. In Italy one of the important religions is the Roman Catholic Church. In Italy one of the important cities is the Vatican. The Vatican is the world's smallest city state. In Italy they eat Italian food, like pasta. Before, Rome was an empire. In Rome people would watch gladiator fights for fun. Italy is a very interesting place that you can learn about.

