





## **Country Fun**

#### Requirements:

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- 2. On a world map, find the location of the country and identify what continent it is on.
- 3. Find, draw, or trace a map and flag of your country.
- 4. Learn six facts about the country, such as those suggested below:
  - a. Draw or find a picture of the native (traditional) dress.
  - b. Learn a Sabbath or secular song.
  - c. Listen to the national anthem.
  - d. Learn to play a Sabbath or secular game.
  - e. Name the main religion.
  - f. Collect a stamp, postcard, or coin.
  - g. Read or listen to a legend, myth, or story.
- 5. Make a simple craft or food from the country.
- 6. Read in the Bible how languages originated at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

#### **Continents**

1. What is a continent?

A continent is a large area of land, often separated from other large areas of land by the sea. Continents are made up of different countries.

- 2. How many continents are there?
- 3. Can you name them?



#### Countries

Continents can be further divided up into **countries**. Countries are smaller areas of land with borders that separate them from other countries, each with their own government. There are 195 different countries in

the world.



I was born in Germany, which is a country on the continent of Europe. Let's see if we can find it on this map.





This map shows the continent of Africa. There are 54 countries which make up the continent of Africa.

When I was little, my dad worked in Nigeria and I lived there for 3 years with my family. It was very different to living in Germany.

Every country has its own flag. Flags show that we belong to a community, organisation or nation and that we share beliefs, goals, rules and regulations. Let's have a look at the flags of some countries. Can you guess the country from the flag?



Flags often contain symbols (pictures) that have a particular meaning. Here are some of the symbols you might see on a flag and their meanings:

Sun: The circle of the sun symbolizes unity and energy.

Japan is referred to as the "land of the rising sun" and uses the sun (simplified as a circle) in its national flag.



**Moon:** The moon is usually displayed in crescent shape to distinguish it from the symbol of the sun. In combination with a star, the moon represents divinity.

Tunisia has got three powerful symbols in its national flag: the red crescent moon and one red star rest in a white circle representing the sun, which you will see in the picture to the right.



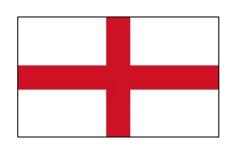
### Flag symbols continued ...

**Stars:** Constellations of stars often represent energy, especially when depicting the night sky or star constellation.

The flag of the USA is called "Stars and Stripes".



**Cross:** In ancient times the cross only symbolized the different points of the compass, in the 4th century however the cross was also taken as the symbol of faith.



The English flag uses this symbol.

People sing patriotic songs to show love for their country. Many countries choose one patriotic song to be their national anthem, which people play or sing at important events. Some national anthems are religious. Others are about important battles. Some simply express pride in the nation.

Lets listen to some national anthems.













# Every country has its own musical style and often there are different types of instruments people play.

Let's listen to a German children's song that I learned to sing as a child.



Hänschen Klein ging allein in die weite Welt hinein, Stock und Hut steh'n ihm gut, er ist wohlgemut. Doch die Mutti weinet sehr, hat ja nun kein Hänschen mehr,

da besinnt sich das Kind eilt nach Haus geschwind!

Lieb Mama, ich bin da, ich, Dein Hänschen, hoppsassa!
Glaube mir: ich bleib hier, geh' nicht fort von Dir!
Da freut sich die Mutti sehr und das Hänschen noch viel mehr, denn es ist, wie Ihr wisst, gar so schön bei ihr!

## Many countries have their own traditional dress.

Traditional clothing is an important part of a region's history and identity. Some areas regard their national dress as an unofficial uniform, to be worn only on special occasions.



Japan

Bavaria (Southern Germany)





Ghana

#### **Fun and Games**

Some games children play are the same or similar across the world, playground games like Tag, Hopscotch, Skipping and Football are played in many countries.



#### Topfschlagen

In English, "Hit the Pot." This is a traditional German game small children play. Hide a pot containing a small present or piece of chocolate. The child who is "It" closes their eyes or is blindfolded and is given a wooden stick. They crawl on the floor, banging the spoon on the floor until they find the pot. Spectators can help by shouting "hot" or "cold." When they find the pot, they keep what is inside. The pot can be hidden again and the game replayed for the remaining children.

#### Fun and Games continued ...

#### Ayo Game (Nigeria)

Ayo is played by two people, facing each other, over two rows of six pockets, or holes in the ground. Each player places four seeds or stones in each of their six pockets and the players then take turns of picking up all of the pieces from one of the pockets and dropping one of them into another pocket one by one.

The first player to empty all of the other player's pockets wins the game.



#### Fun and Games continued ...

#### Aaqab (Afghanistan)

Aaqab (Eagle) is a tag game. One child is the eagle and sits on a rock. The other children, or pigeons, stand on the home base or safe area. The children leave the safe area and pretend to be pigeons pecking at the ground for food. The child who is the eagle leaves the rock and chases the other children. When the eagle touches a child, that child is out of the game. Play continues until the last pigeon is out. Another eagle is then chosen.



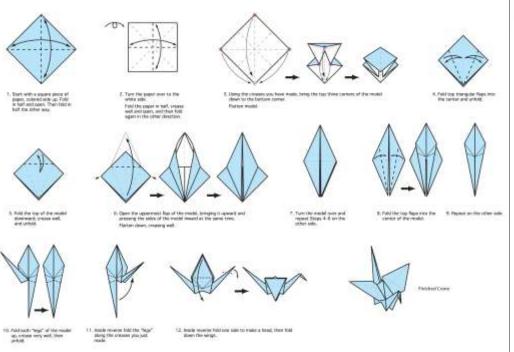
#### Crafts

#### Origami (Japan)

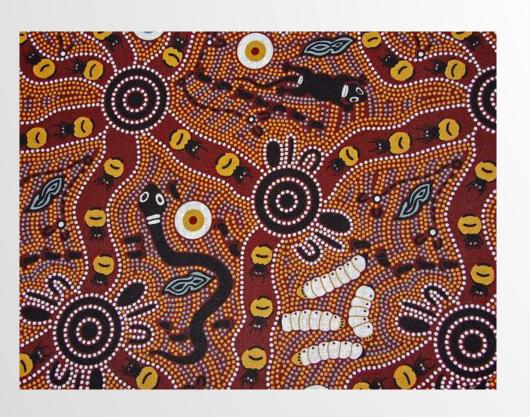
In Japanese, "ori" means "to fold" and "kami" means "paper". It is an art of paper folding that has been practiced in Japan since the Edo period. Almost every Japanese child learns how to fold origami. It's one of the best crafts to cultivate mathematical & conceptual thinking and engineering skills.

To create meaningful origami at home, you can start off by making origami cranes. The crane is the 'bird of happiness' and is believed to live for a thousand years. It has also become a symbol of peace, hope, kindness, and healing. You can string paper cranes together and hang them in front of your door, or give it as a gift.





### Crafts



#### **Australian Dot Art**

Australia's aborigines are famous for their dot art. Aborigines used dot painting as a way of telling a story and recording ritual practices. To hide secret stories, the aborigines would paint dots all over the picture as a form of camouflage. Only those 'in the know' were able to decipher the hidden pictures within.

Dot art traditionally is painted in earth tones. Use tiny dots to form patterns and pictures. All you need for the dot art craft is paper, paint and paintbrushes. You can use tiny dots to create simple shapes like hearts, circles and stars, as well as more complex patterns, such as colorful zigzags or even some small animals.

#### Food

Many countries have one (or sometimes more) national dish(es). Why not find out what the national dish is for your country and find a recipe to cook it for your family?

In the meantime, let's have a look at the following pictures and see if you can guess the dish on the country it comes from?



Paella Spain



Pad Thai

Thailand



Pizza

Italy



Jollof Rice Nigeria



Quesadilla Mexico



Borsht Ukraine

## Religion

There are many different religions across the world, here are some of the main ones: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism.

#### What do you think is the main religion of India?

It is Hinduism - 79.8% of the population are Hindu.



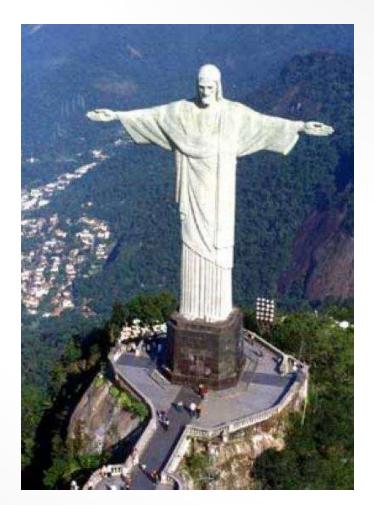




#### What do you think is the main religion of Brazil?

The main religion in Brazil is Christianity with 64.6% of the population belonging to the Roman Catholic Church.





#### What do you think is the main religion of Israel?

The main religion of Israel is Judaism - 74.7% of the population are Jewish.



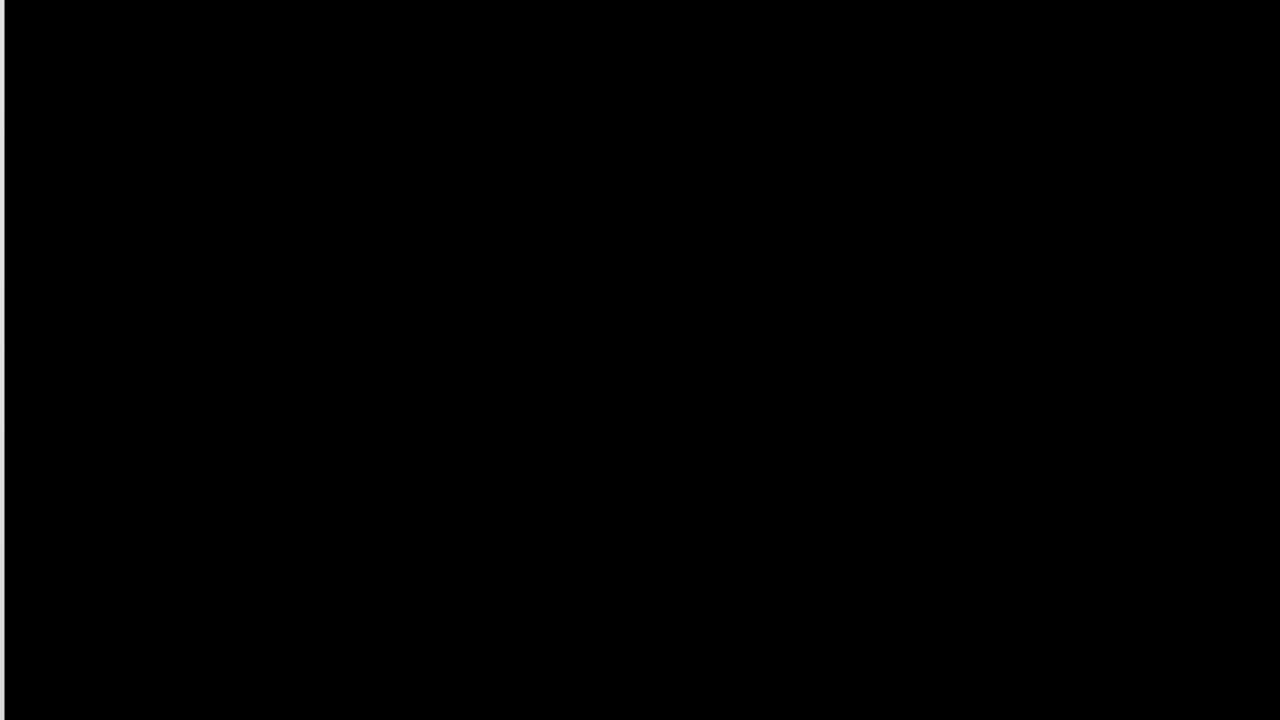


## Languages

There are about 7000 different languages spoken in the world. So how did we end up with so many?

You can read the story in Genesis 11: 1-9. It tells the story of how languages originated at the tower of Babel.

Let's watch the story of the tower of Babel together.



## Languages

So let's finish by learning to say 'Hello' in some different languages.

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Spanish - Hola
French - Bonjour
German - Guten Tag
China - Nǐ hǎo
Japan - Konnichiwa
Arabic - Asalaam alaikum (Peace be upon you)
Hindi - Namaste
Hebrew - Shalom
Swahili - Hujambo
Maori - Kia Ora
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You may want to create a scrapbook or poster to share what you have learned about your country. I hope to see some of your work on the BUC e-Honors webpage.

