

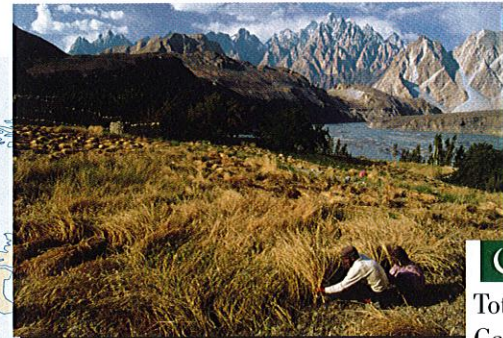
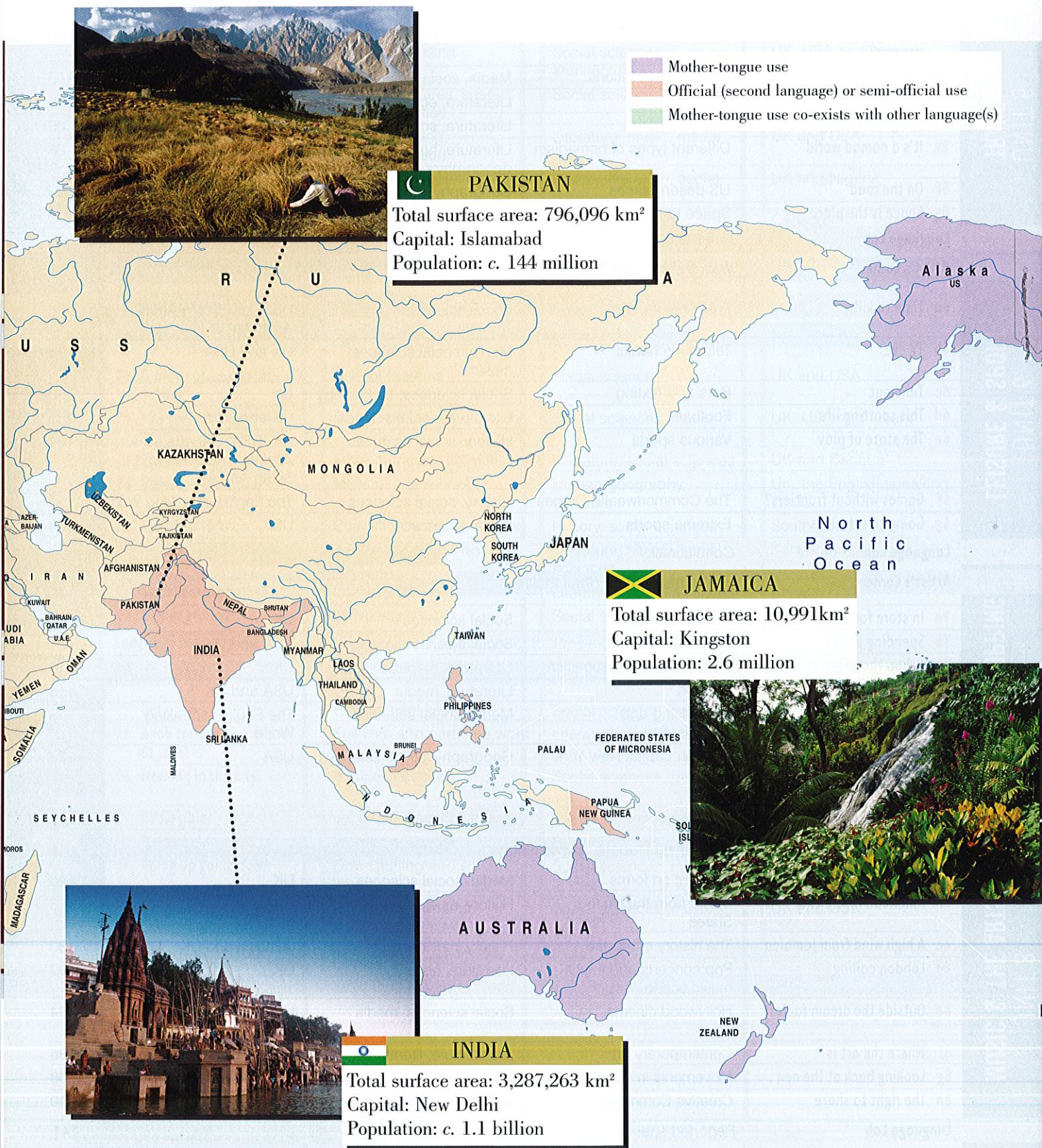


The English-Speaking World Fact Files

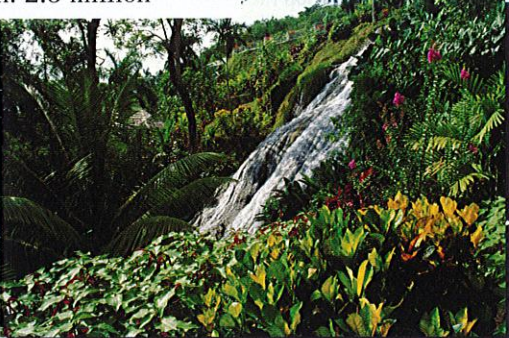


At the beginning of the 21st century English is the most widely spoken and written language in the world. The reason for this is partly connected to Britain's colonial history. Starting from the 16th century, countries around the world were colonised by the British to build an Empire that reached its height at the beginning of the 20th century, when it covered around a quarter of the world's territories. However, during the 20th century it was gradually dismantled, with the majority of the countries gaining their independence by the 1970s.

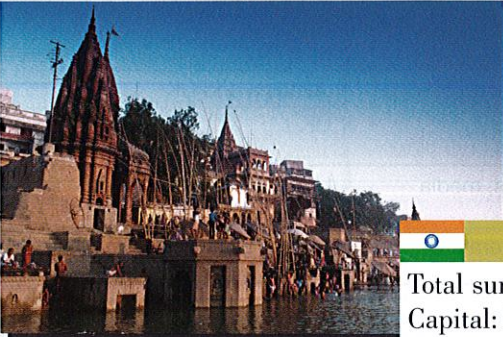
In many of these countries English is still spoken either as a mother tongue or as a second or official language coexisting with native languages, and is used for purposes such as government, administration, broadcasting, education and commerce. The interaction of English with local cultures has led to the continued creation of variations and inventions, which combine to make English an extremely vital, varied and flexible language. More recently, an enormous number of people have begun to study English as a foreign language, using it as an international *lingua franca* for travel and business, and in specialised fields such as medicine and science. Mass media and telecommunications, as well as the process of globalisation, have contributed to the spread of English through films, pop music, TV programmes and the Internet.



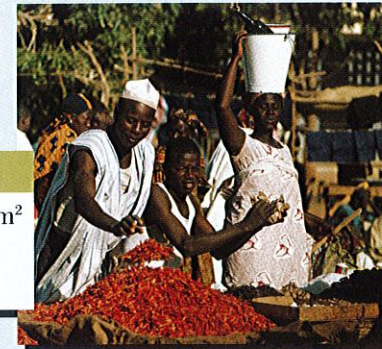
PAKISTAN
Total surface area: 796,096 km²
Capital: Islamabad
Population: c. 144 million



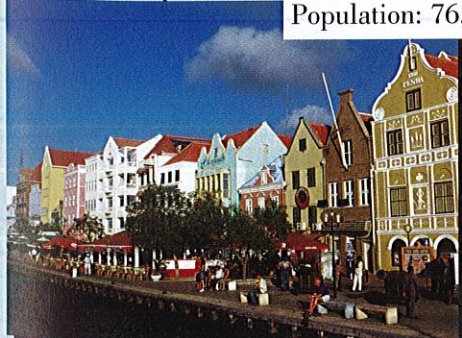
JAMAICA
Total surface area: 10,991 km²
Capital: Kingston
Population: 2.6 million



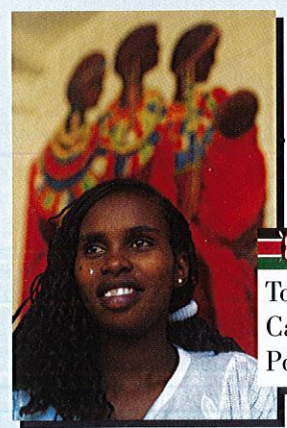
INDIA
Total surface area: 3,287,263 km²
Capital: New Delhi
Population: c. 1.1 billion



NIGERIA
Total surface area: 923,768 km²
Capital: Abuja
Population: c. 118 million



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Total surface area: 442 km²
Capital: Saint John's
Population: 76,000



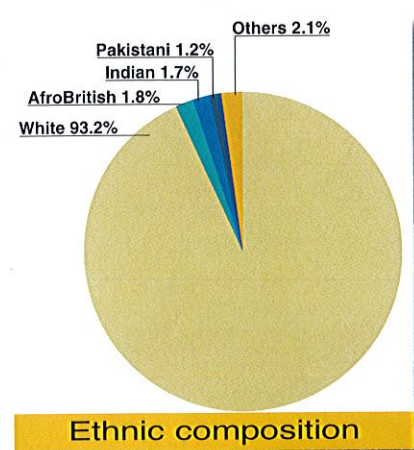
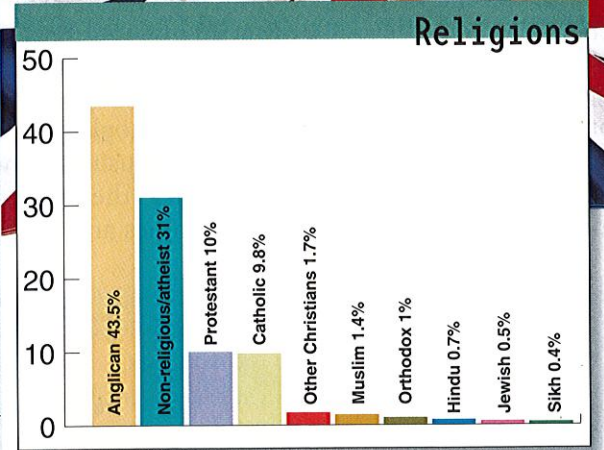
KENYA
Total surface area: 582,646 km²
Capital: Nairobi
Population: c. 30.5 million

United Kingdom

Total surface area: 242,910 km²
 Capital: London
 Population: 59.2 million
 Major languages: English, Welsh



England: surface 130,422 km², population 49.4 million
Wales: surface 20,779 km², population 3 million
Scotland: surface 78,133 km², population 5.1 million
Northern Ireland: surface 13,576 km², population 1.7 million



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Daily Telegraph ■ www.telegraph.co.uk
The Guardian ■ www.guardian.co.uk
The Independent ■ www.independent.co.uk
The Times ■ www.thetimes.co.uk



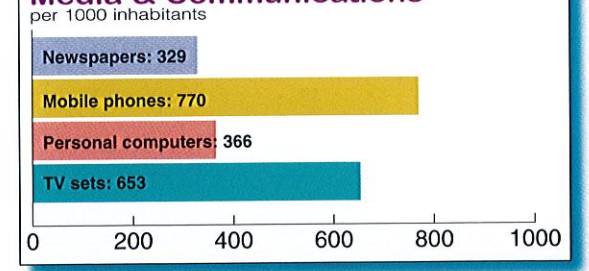
Historical dates

700 BC: Arrival of the Celts
 55 BC: Roman invasion (occupation from AD 43)
 5th-7th century: Anglo-Saxon invasions
 8th century: Viking invasions
 1066: Norman conquests
 1295: First English parliament
 1532: Reformation results in establishment of Church of England
 1535: Wales incorporated into UK
 16th century on: Britain begins colonising other countries in America, Asia, Africa and Oceania
 1642-48: English Civil War (failed attempt to transform England into a republic)
 1660: Restoration of monarchy (but with few of its former legislative powers)
 1707: Scotland officially incorporated into the UK
 18th-19th century: Industrial Revolution
 20th century: Dismantling of British Empire. Many ex-colonies join the Commonwealth (see p. 106) as 'Dominions' or independent members at the beginning of the century. Others gain independency after World War II.

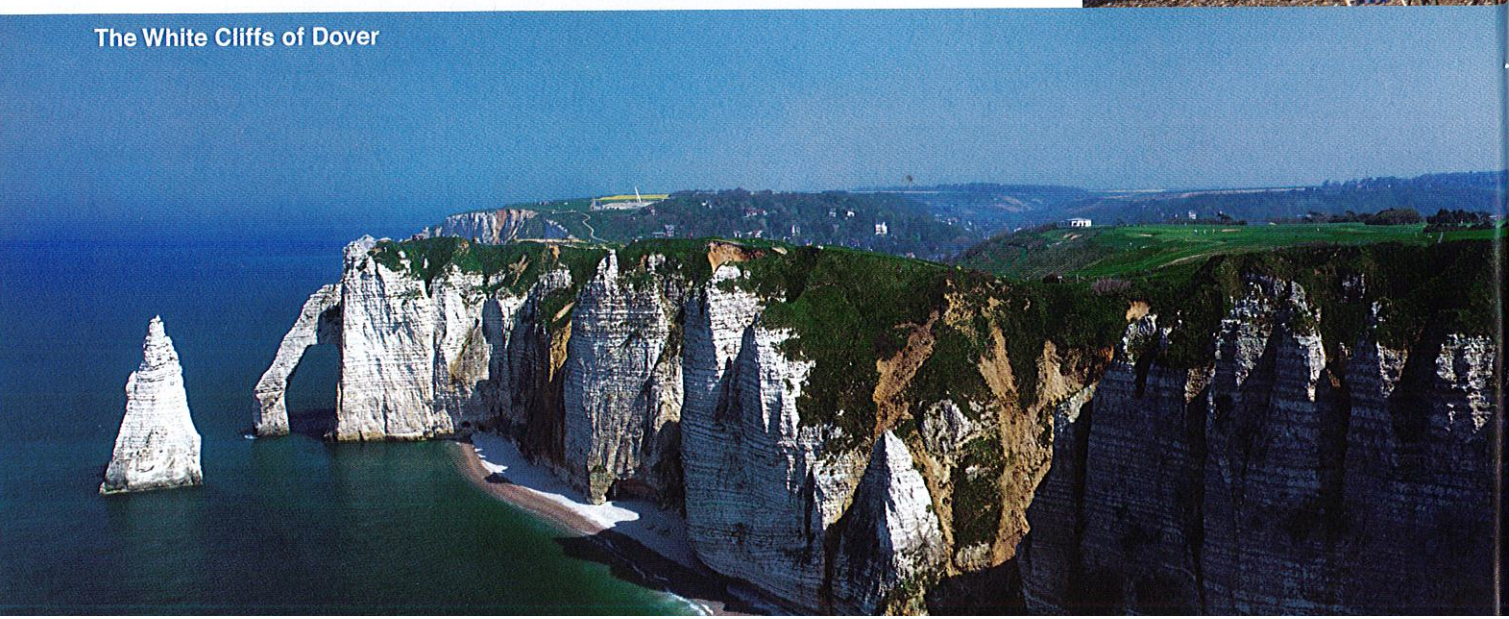
Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 pound sterling (£) = 100 pence
 GNI (Gross National Income) per capita: US \$25,510
 Working population: 29,638,272 (44.6% female)
 Unemployment: 5.1%

Media & Communications



The White Cliffs of Dover

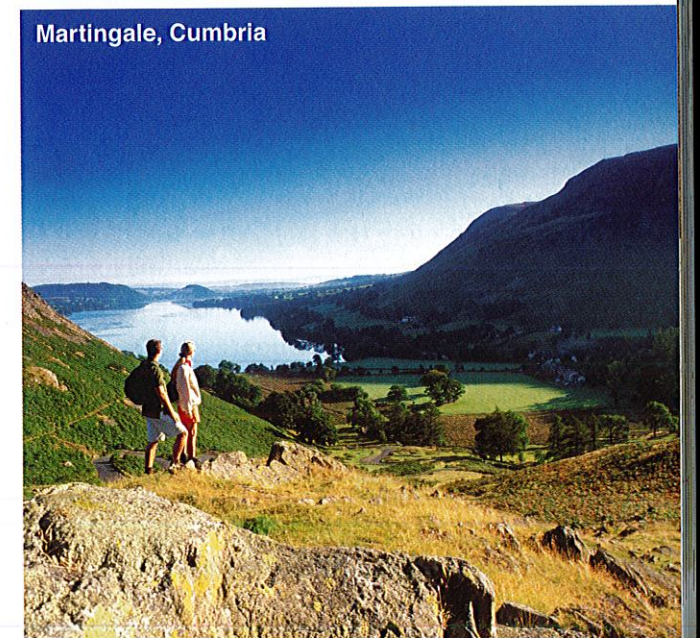


Four nations in one

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which were formerly governed from London but which now all have some self-government. After a 1999 national referendum Wales and Scotland obtained separate parliaments while the Northern Irish Assembly was established in Ulster.

The British Parliament is divided into two houses; the House of Commons (659 members) with legislative power, and the House of Lords (formerly 1,330 members, currently about 670) with little real power except to reconsider and change laws already passed by the House of Commons. Although the Queen is still nominally head of state, her role is purely symbolic, performing official duties such as opening parliament and appointing the Prime Minister. The two traditional main parties are the Labour Party (centre-left) and the Conservative Party (centre-right).

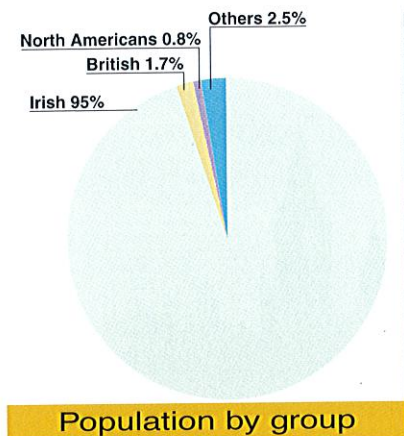
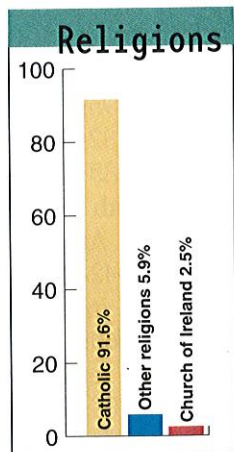
Martingale, Cumbria



Republic of Ireland



Total surface area: 70,273 km²
 Capital: Dublin
 Population: 4 million
 Major languages: English, Irish Gaelic



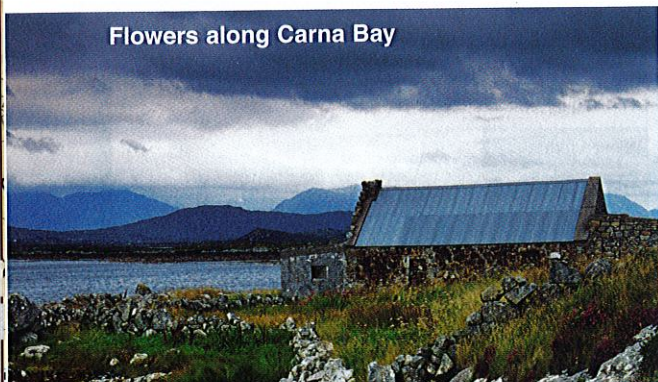
Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 euro (€) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$23,030
 Working population: 1,781,900 (40.9% female)
 Unemployment: 4.4%

THE PRESS

The Irish Times ■ www.ireland.com
Irish Independent ■ www.independent.ie
Irish Examiner ■ www.irishexaminer.com

Flowers along Carna Bay



Historical dates

1167: English invaders set up first colonies
 1550-1650: The English conquer most of the country
 17th-19th century: Resistance against the colonial power
 1916: Failed rebellion known as the Easter Rising
 1921: Ireland becomes independent from UK, but Ulster (Northern Ireland) remains British, leading to decades of internal conflict
 1998: Ireland officially renounces its territorial claims on Ulster

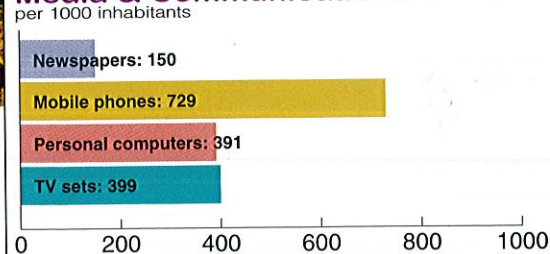
Building a modern nation

Ireland is a republic, whose parliament comprises the Dáil Éireann (the House of Representatives with 166 members) and the Seanad Éireann (the Senate with 60 members). Since joining the European Community in 1973 the Republic of Ireland has gone through a period of accelerated growth from being a largely agricultural society to a modern, technologically-advanced economy.

O'Connell Street Bridge, Dublin

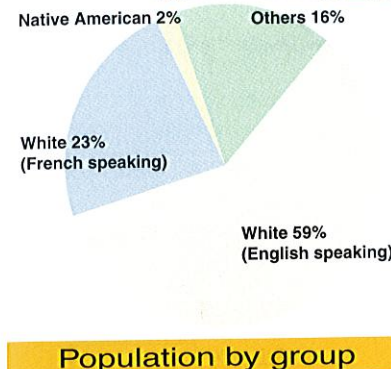


Media & Communications



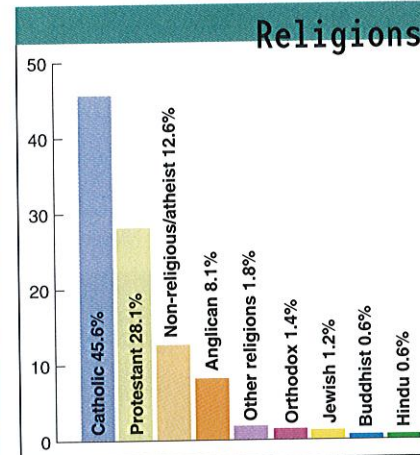
Canada

Total surface area: 9,970,610 km²
 Capital: Ottawa
 Population: 31.5 million
 Major languages: English, French (both with official status)



Historical dates

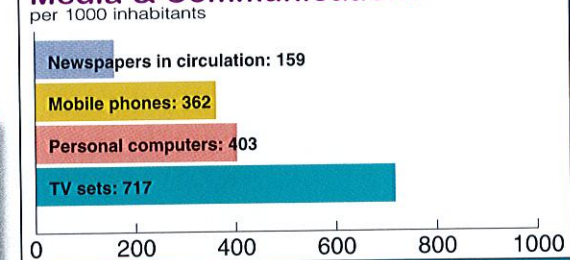
1497: English explorer John Cabot lands in Canada
 16th century: First English colonies are set up
 1867: Canada becomes a 'Dominion' with its own government
 1926: Canada becomes an independent member of the Commonwealth
 1977: French is made the official language of Quebec
 1999: Autonomous New Territory of Nunavut established for the self-government of the Inuit people.



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The Globe and Mail ■ www.globeandmail.ca
La Presse ■ www.cyberpresse.ca
The Toronto Sun ■ www.torontosun.ca
The Toronto Star ■ www.thestar.com

Media & Communications



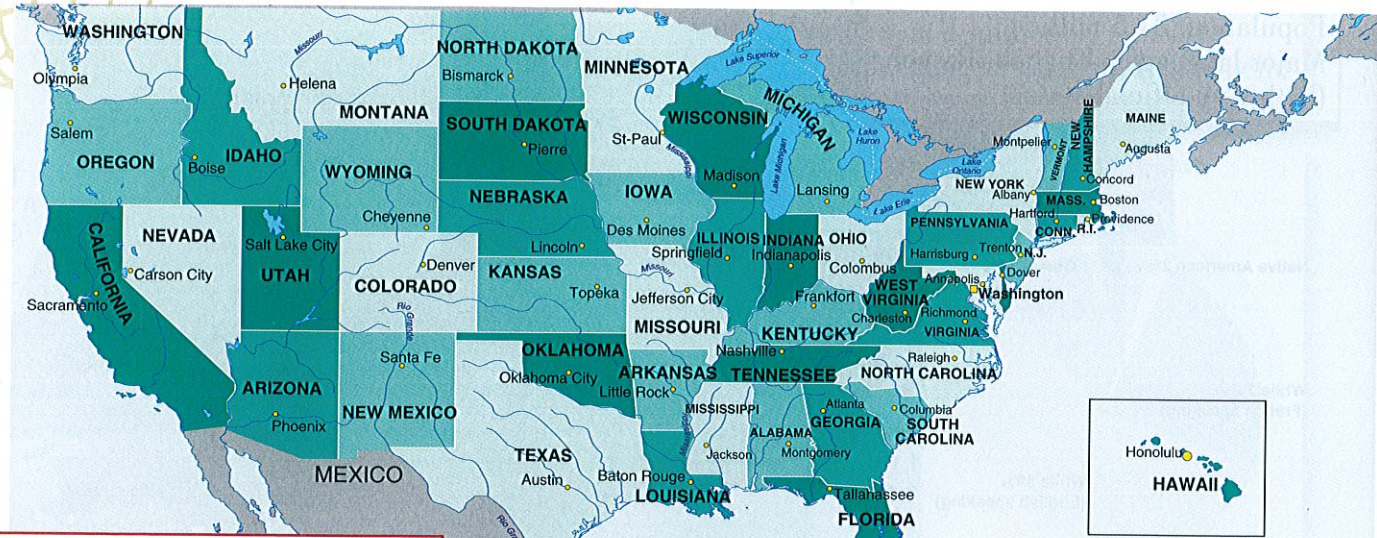
Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 Canadian dollar (\$CA) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$22,390 (World Bank, 2002)
 Working population: 16,689,4000 (45.1% female)
 Unemployment: 7.7%

A forward-thinking nation

Canada has its own constitution and government with a parliament composed of a House of Commons (301 seats) and a Senate (up to 112 members), although the British monarch is still head of state. Canada's liberal immigration policies have helped make it one of the world's most cosmopolitan countries, although the country's indigenous peoples now account for only two per cent of the population.

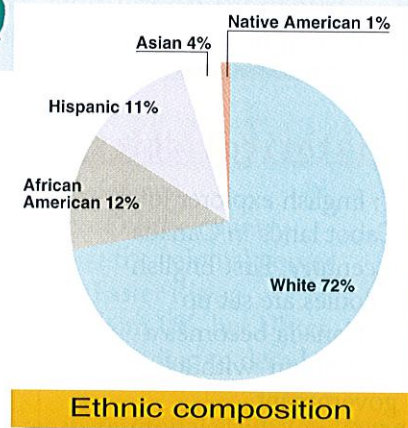
United States of America



Total surface area: 9,372,614 km²
 Capital: Washington
 Population: 291 million
 Major languages: English, Spanish

Economy & Work

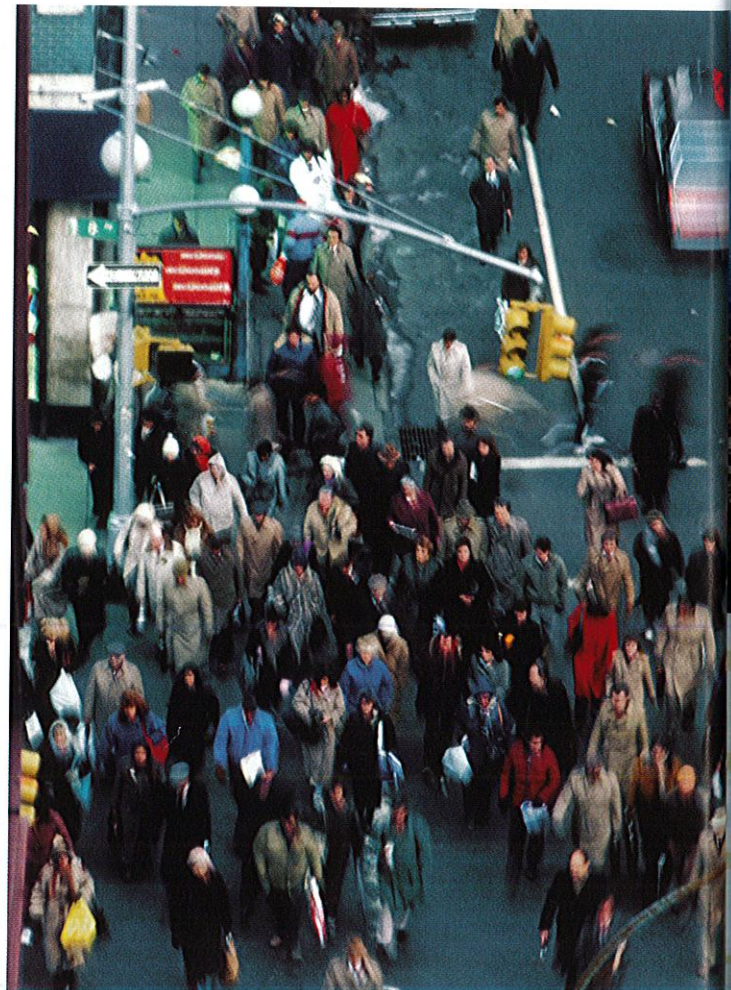
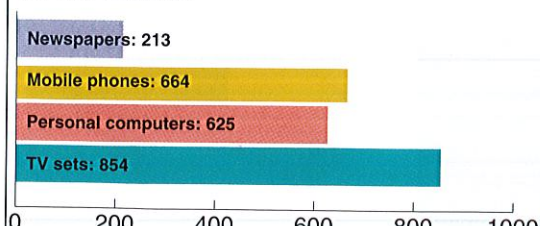
Monetary unit: 1 US dollar (\$) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$35,400
 Working population: 141,815,000 (46.6% female)
 Unemployment: 5.8%



Historical dates

- 1492: Christopher Columbus sails to America
- 1607: First English settlers arrive in North America
- 1620: Pilgrim Fathers arrive on a ship called the *Mayflower*
- 17th-18th centuries: Native population reduced by wars and diseases. Hundreds of thousands of Africans brought over and sold into slavery
- 1783: Victory in the War of Independence liberates America from British rule
- 1787: United States Constitution drawn up
- 1861-65: American Civil War between the Federal States of the North and the Southern Confederacy
- 1865: Slavery abolished
- 19th century: Successive waves of European and Asian immigrants as US frontier pushes westwards
- 1929: The Wall Street stock market crash. Great Depression
- 1945: Dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ends World War II. Beginning of Cold War between America and the Soviet bloc

Media & Communications



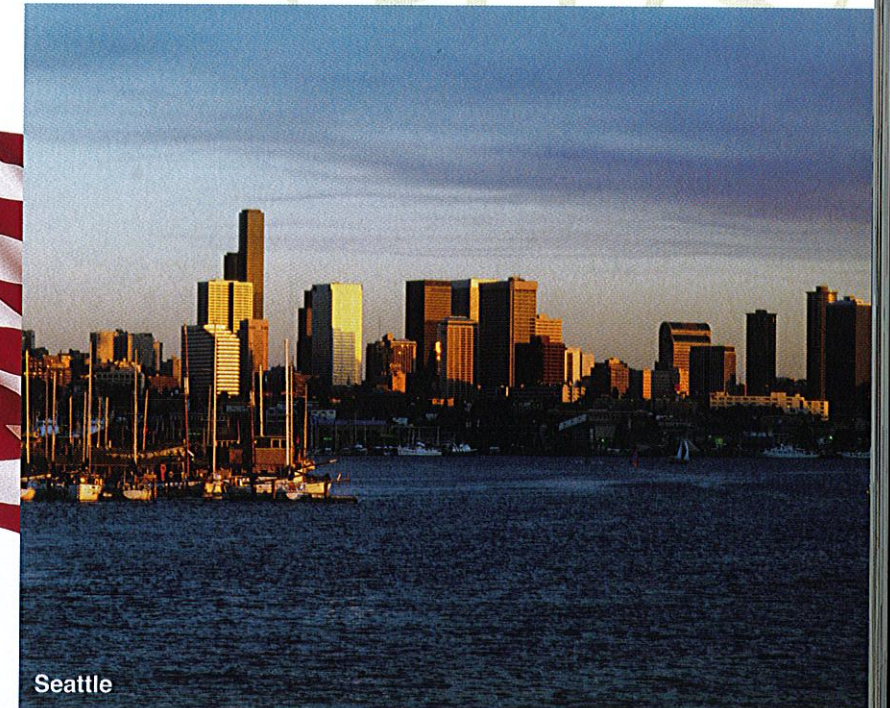
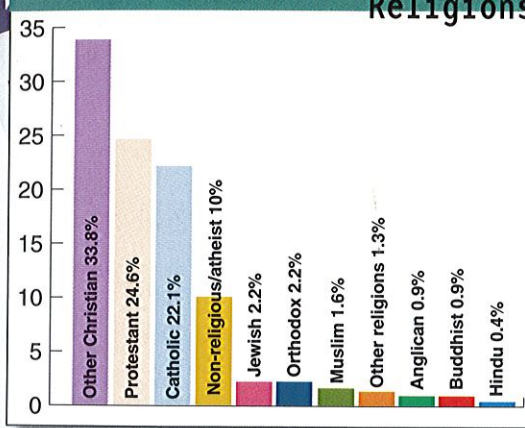
Governing the States

The United States is a federal republic comprising 50 states. The system of government is divided into three parts: the executive (headed by the President); the legislative (the Congress, comprising two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives); and the judicial (the Supreme Court). The two main parties are the Republicans and the Democrats. Traditionally, the Republicans are more conservative and isolationist than the Democrats. In the US individual states enjoy considerable powers of self-government, including the right to create their own laws.

THE PRESS

- USA Today ■ www.usatoday.com
- Los Angeles Times ■ www.latimes.com
- New York Times ■ www.nytimes.com
- Washington Post ■ www.washingtonpost.com

Religions



Seattle

Bryce Canyon, Utah



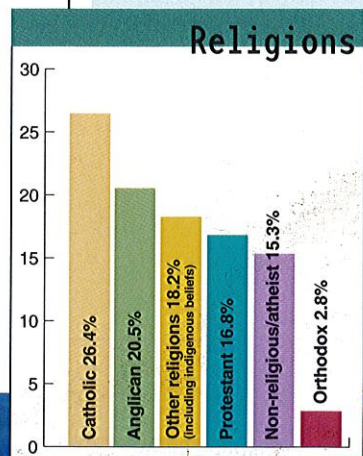
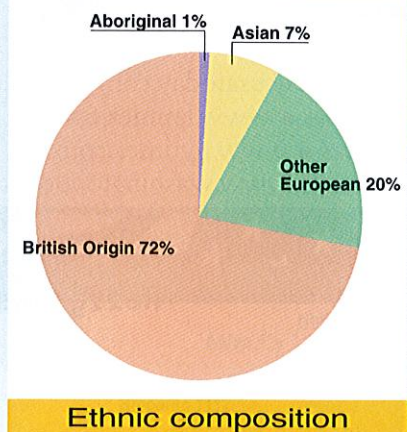
A land of immigrants

The United States was built largely on the dreams and labour of the successive waves of immigrants who migrated there from Europe during the 19th century, beginning with the Scandinavians, Germans and Irish and then moving on to Italians, Greeks, Eastern Europeans and Asians. While each group was generally made to feel unwelcome by more established groups, most of these immigrants eventually became very similar in their way of life, sharing a common idea of American identity. One important section of society which has not been fully integrated, however, is represented by the African Americans, who even now, after the gains made by the civil rights movement, are often still subject to segregation and economic inequality.

Australia



Total surface area: 7,703,429 km²
 Capital: Canberra
 Population: 20 million
 Major language: English



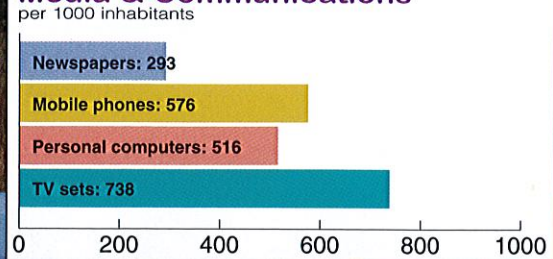
Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 Australian dollar (\$AU) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$19,530
 Working population: 9,796,300 (44% female)
 Unemployment: 6.8%

Historical dates

1770: British navigator Captain Cook arrives in Australia
 1788: First British colony is set up
 18th-19th century: Thousands of British convicted criminals sent to serve their sentences
 19th century: Further voluntary immigration from Europe, gradually displacing the native Aborigines
 1901: Australia becomes an independent 'Dominion' of the British Commonwealth

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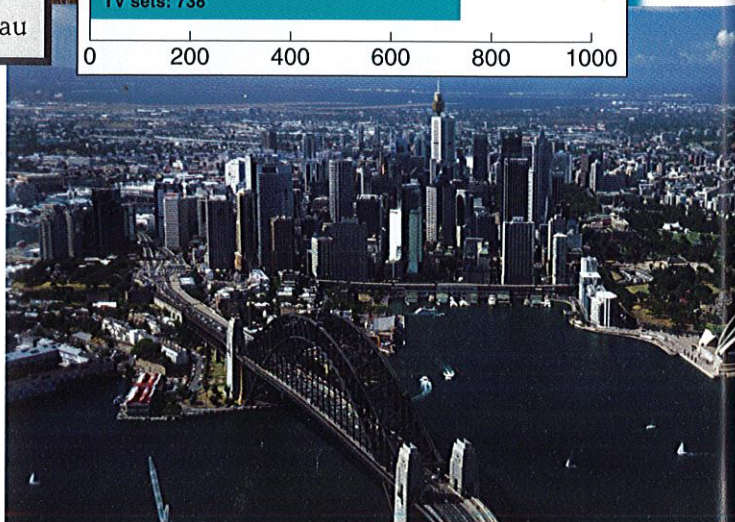


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The Sydney Morning Herald ■ www.smh.com.au
Herald Sun ■ www.heraldsun.com.au
The Age ■ www.theage.com.au
The Daily Telegraph ■ www.dailytelegraph.news.com.au

Divided loyalties

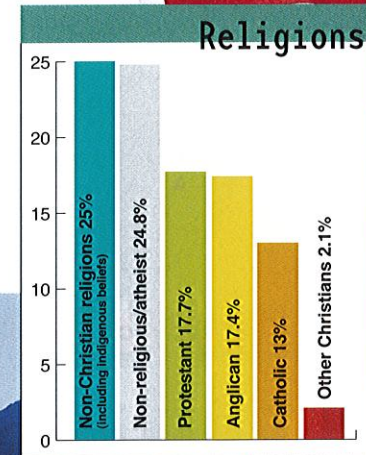
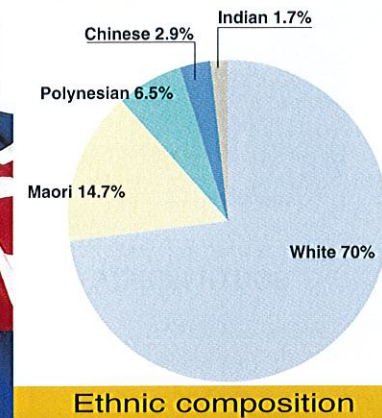
The Australian parliament is composed of two houses, the Senate (76 members) and the House of Representatives (150 members). However, the country remains a monarchy after a 1999 referendum in which Australians voted to keep the British sovereign as their head of state. Nowadays Australian society is highly multicultural with immigrants coming from Europe and the Middle and Far East, although immigration has become a controversial issue.



New Zealand



Total surface area: 268,021 km²
 Capital: Wellington
 Population: 4 million
 Major languages: English, Maori



Historical dates

17th century: The Dutch discover the islands and call them New Zealand
 1815: First British missionaries arrive
 1840: First colony is set up, displacing the local Maori population
 1907: New Zealand becomes a 'Dominion' of the Commonwealth
 1997: The government offer the native population (Maori) a formal apology and economic compensation

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New Zealand Herald ■ www.nzherald.co.nz
Dominion-Post ■ www.dompost.co.nz
Otago Daily Times ■ www.odt.co.nz

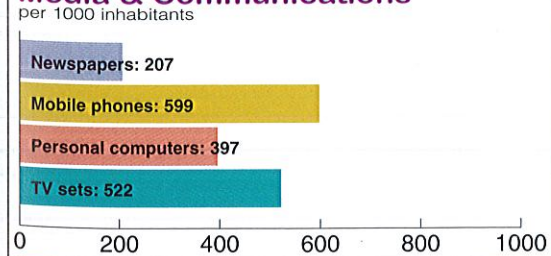
Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 New Zealand dollar (\$NZ) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$13,260 (World Bank, 2002)
 Working population: 1,964,600 (45.6% female)
 Unemployment: 5.1%

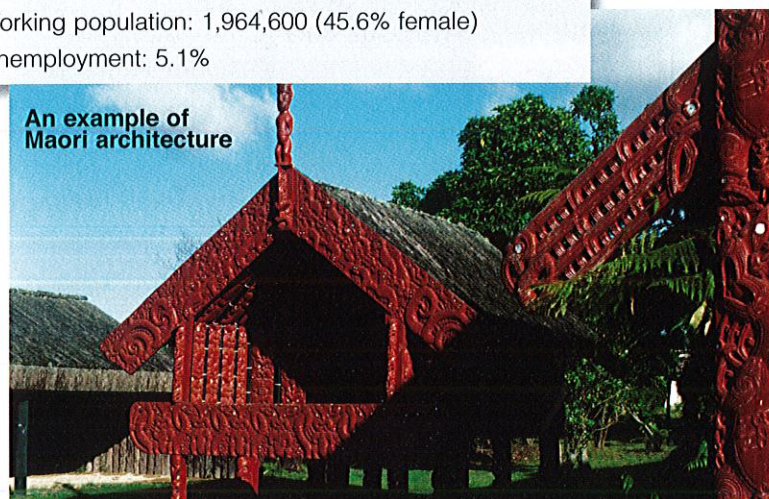
The land of the long white cloud

The original name given to the country by the Maori was *Aotearoa*, 'land of the long white cloud', because of the volcanic activity on the islands. New Zealand is now a constitutional monarchy with the British monarch as its head of state. The country has no written constitution, and its parliament consists of a single House of Representatives (120 seats, 5 of which are reserved for the Maori) and a prime minister.

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An example of Maori architecture





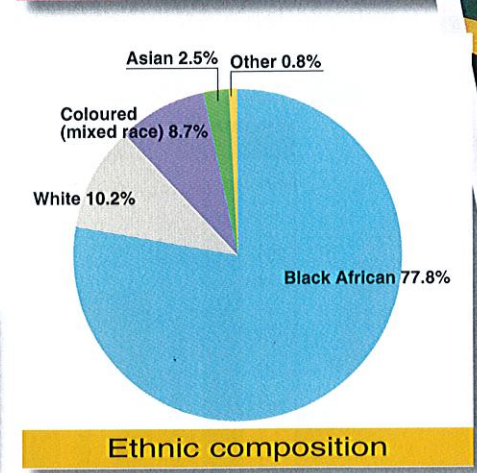
HOME UNIT 1



South Africa



Total surface area: 1,219,090 km²
 Capital: Pretoria (government), Bloemfontein & Cape Town (law)
 Population: 45 million
 Major languages: 11 official languages (including English, Afrikaans, Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Xhosa and Zulu)

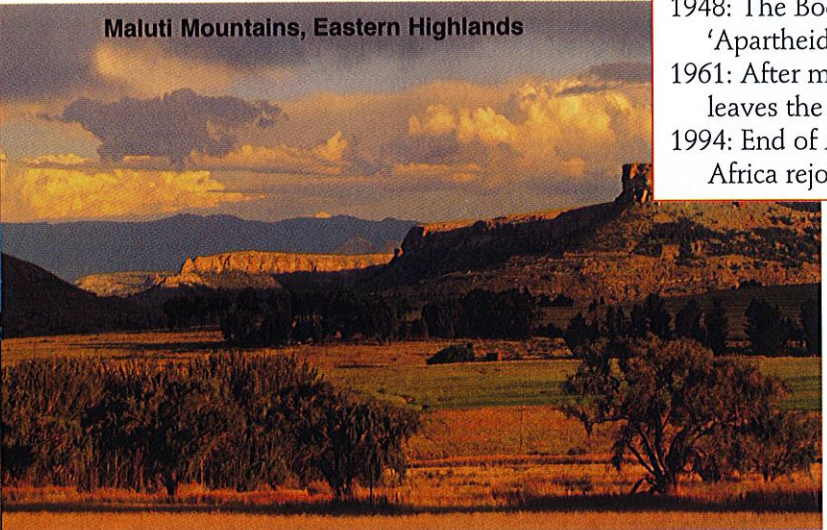


Economy & Work

Monetary unit: 1 Rand (ZAR) = 100 cents
 GNI per capita: US \$2,500
 Working population: 19,301,000 (46.7% female)
 Unemployment: 30.5%

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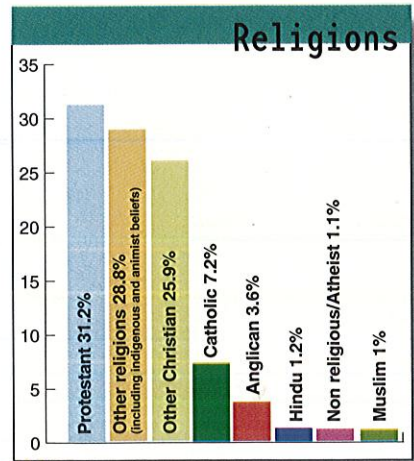
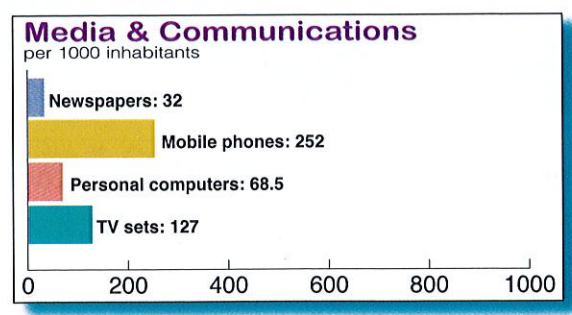
The Star ■ www.thestar.co.za
Beeld ■ www.news24.com/Beeld/Home
This Day ■ www.thisdaysa.co.za
Mail and Guardian ■ www.mg.co.za



Maluti Mountains, Eastern Highlands

Historical dates

1814: The British acquire South Africa from the Dutch
 1899-1902: The British win a difficult war against Dutch settlers
 1910: The South African Union is born as a 'Dominion' of the British Empire
 1948: The Boers (white descendants of Dutch colonists) impose 'Apartheid', a system of racial segregation
 1961: After much condemnation from other countries, South Africa leaves the Commonwealth
 1994: End of Apartheid. Nelson Mandela elected president. South Africa rejoins the Commonwealth



After Apartheid

South Africa is a republic whose parliament is composed of the National Assembly (400 members) and the National Council of Provinces (90 members). The first free elections in 1994 saw the official end of Apartheid. However, there is still much inequality and inter-tribal conflict in the country, and it will take many years to reverse the disastrous effects of Apartheid.

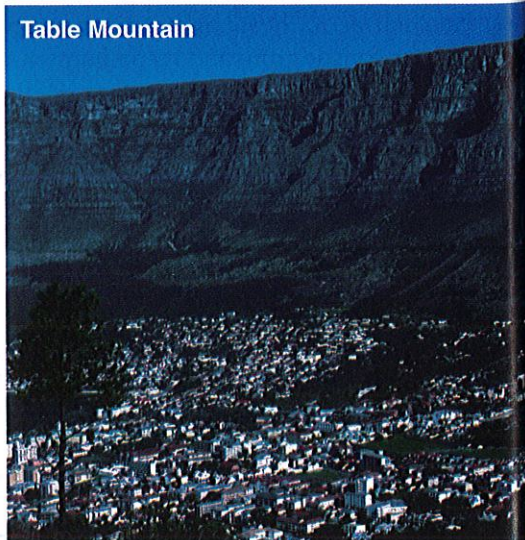
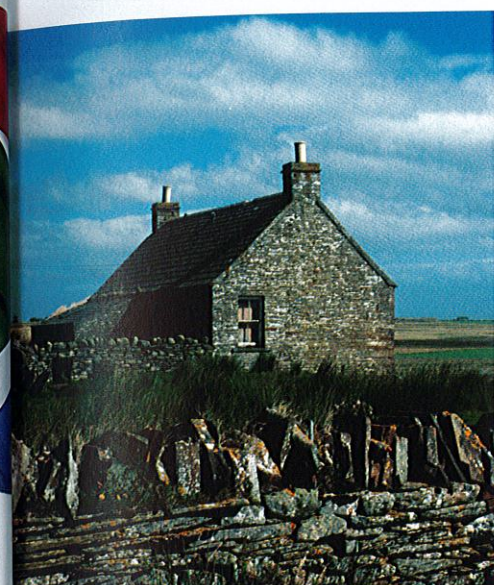
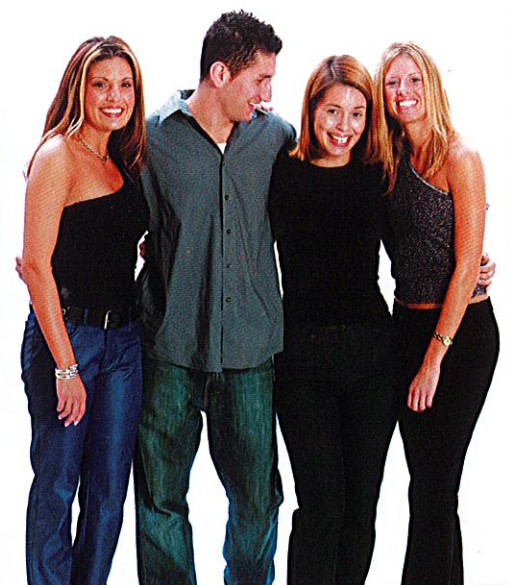


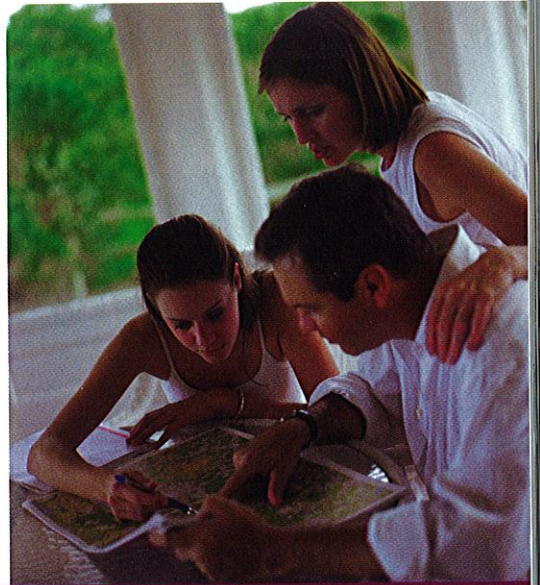
Table Mountain



Types of dwelling



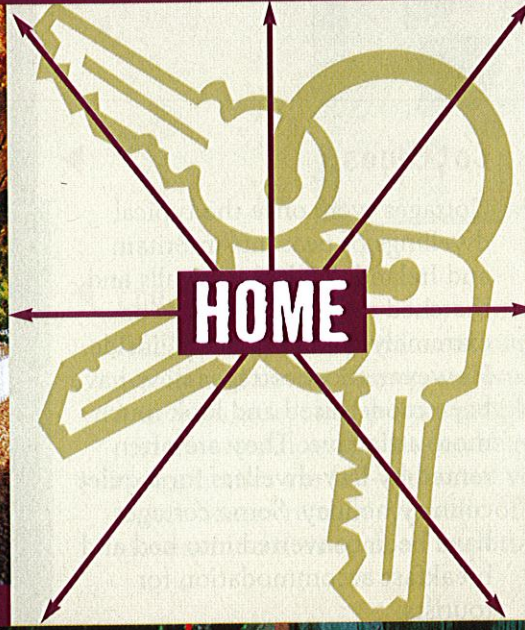
Flat-sharing



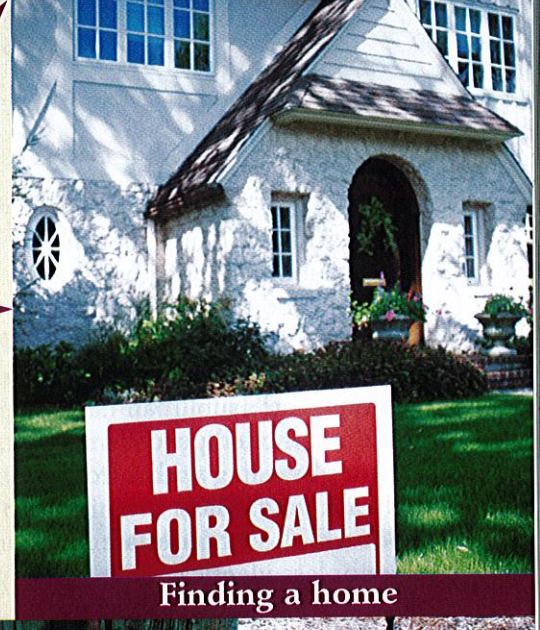
Family style and structure



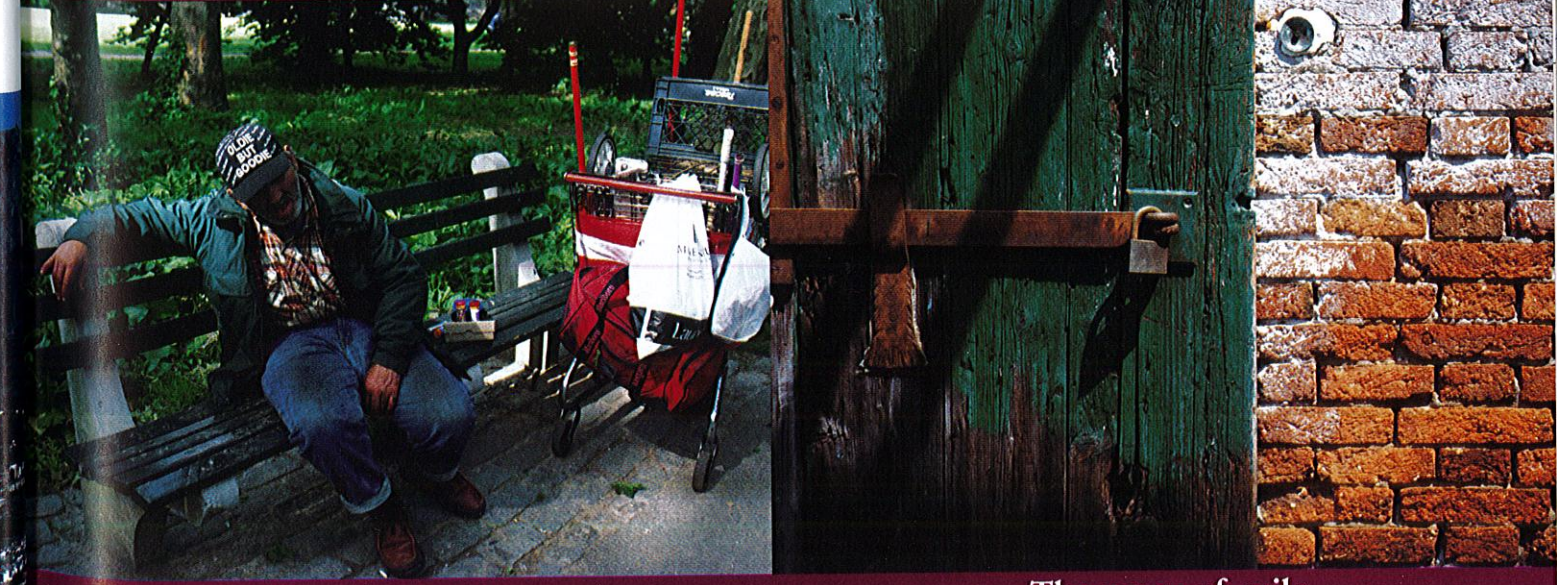
Suburban living



HOME



Finding a home



Homelessness

The sense of exile