

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

“CREATE YOUR OWN COUNTRY” PROJECT

For your final project in this class, you get to create your own country! This project will test your research skills, your critical thinking skills, and give you an opportunity to do what we all would like to do: rule your own country. It is pretty important for you to keep this packet handy, since it contains all the information you need to complete this project. Oh, and you ought to read the packet. Just carrying it around probably won't do you much good. Don't say I didn't warn you!

A few rules first about your country:

1. Your country must be located somewhere on the surface of the Earth. You can create an island or you can place your country between real countries.
2. Based on the location of your country your climate and vegetation must be realistic. You cannot have a tropical forest in a desert.
3. Your group must have detailed responses to the list of questions provided.
4. You must also include everything that is on the checklist provided.

Directions: This project has several parts. You will complete each part by its due date (or before) and move on to the next portion of the project.

Part I: The Country

Create a country of your own. Use your imagination. The sky is the limit so have fun! Want your country to be underground? Go for it! Want your people to speak only in monosyllabic grunts? Fine. Just remember that it must be logical, and you must answer the questions provided about your country. Use these questions as your checklist for making sure you have addressed all the necessary points for your country.

Part I is due on: _____

Part II: The Maps

It just wouldn't be a Geography project unless we had a couple of maps. You need to draw two maps. One map needs to be a political map, and one map needs to be a physical map. Each map needs to have the following elements:

Each of your maps must have a key, a scale, a compass rose, your nation's capital, and show any borders your country has with other countries. The political map must show the capital and 5 other major cities; the physical map must show any lakes, rivers, mountains, or other major physical features. They should be colorful, creative, and neat. They should be large enough to

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

present them to a group of people. Poster board size is a safe guide. Again – the more detail, the better.

Part II is due on: _____

Part III: The Flag

Your country just wouldn't be complete without a flag! On a sheet large enough to be shown in a presentation, create a flag for your country. Be creative with it! Are there any important (appropriate) symbols of your country? What about the colors you use, do certain colors represent different things? On the back of your map, briefly explain your design. Why did you choose those symbols or colors?

Part III is due on: _____

Part IV: The Presentation

After you are finished with all the hard work, you are going to present your work to the class. Your presentation will be over the country you have created. You will use your maps and any other visual aids you have created to help you. Your presentation will be no more than 10 minutes long. Be sure to leave some time for questions. You will practice good oral presentation techniques including speaking clearly and with good volume. You will not just read your presentation from a paper or note cards, although you may use them as an aid.

Part IV is on: _____

Part V: Group Contribution

Not only will you be graded on the criteria in your rubric, you will also be graded on your contribution to your group. Included in this packet is the Record of Group Work, which must be signed and completed by every member in the group, and turned in with the rest of your project. Each student's grade will reflect not only the project, but how much they contributed to their group work. ***I reserve the right to deduct points from a student's total project grade if I feel a student did not contribute to the group's overall effort in the project.***

Conclusion: As you complete each section, you will turn that part in with your rubric to receive a grade. I will give them back to you once they are graded, and you will keep all parts of your project until your presentation. When you are finished with this project, you will have practiced and honed your research skills, your presentation skills, your critical thinking skills, and you will have thought about things like culture and political systems in new ways. Remember to have fun, and enjoy the experience of discovery and invention.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Your Country Information

Answer the following questions in detail to get a sense of what your country will be like. The more detail you use, the more interesting your country will be. In order to go more in depth with your answers, you may answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper. Once you have answered all questions below, write a four-paragraph essay on your country, using the information you provided on this page.

1. What is the name of your country?
2. Where is your country located?
3. Describe the physical geography of your country. Does it have mountains? Is it an island? Is it landlocked? Does it have multiple regions?
4. Describe the climate and vegetation of your country. What kind of weather does your country normally get? Is it cold and snowy? Is it dry? Is it a desert? Does it have rain forests? Remember to take your country's physical geography into account when discussing its climate.
5. Discuss the natural resources found in your country. Do the people in your country have an abundant energy resource, or are they required to import it? Do they have resources to export? Do they mine for gold and diamonds?
6. Describe the population of your country. Where do people live? Why do they live there? Does your country have a huge population, or a very small one? Is your country's population growing? Why or why not? Do people in your country migrate a lot or do they stay put?
7. Describe your country's cultural traits. What kind of work do they do? What are their beliefs? Do they have any interesting ways of doing things? What kinds of food do they eat? What is the language of your country? Do they have multiple languages? Are there any challenges to your country's culture or cultures?
8. Describe the religion of your country's people. Are they Christians? Are they Buddhist? Are they polytheistic?
9. Describe the social structure of your country's people. Are there social classes in your country? What are they? Is family important to the people of your country? If so, are nuclear or extended families more prevalent?
10. What kind of economic system do the people of your country use? Do they use capitalism, socialism, or communism? Do they have their own unique system? What is the money called in your country? Do people even use money?
11. What kind of political system does your country have? Is it a monarchy, a direct democracy, or a dictatorship? Is your country governed by one big central government, or is it run by many smaller governments at the local level?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Map Checklist – Use this checklist to make sure you have all the necessary parts of your maps. To meet the standard here you must meet these minimum requirements.

____ Both of my maps have a key or legend.

____ Both of my maps have a scale.

____ Both of my maps have a compass rose.

____ Both of my maps have the nation's capital.

____ My maps show any borders with other countries (if applicable).

____ My political map has at least 5 major cities other than the capital.

____ My physical map has at least 5 different physical features.

____ My maps are creative, colorful, and neat.

____ My maps are large enough for use in a presentation.

Flag Checklist – Use this checklist to make sure you have all the necessary requirements for you flag. To meet the standard here you must meet these minimum requirements.

____ My flag includes at least one color that represents something of importance for the people of my country.

____ My flag includes at least one symbol that represents something of important for the people of my country.

____ My flag is creative, colorful, and neat.

____ I have included a detailed explanation of what my flag means on the back of my flag.

____ My flag is large enough for use in a presentation.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Presentation Checklist – Use this checklist to help you make sure you are prepared for your presentation.

My presentation date is: _____

____ I have completely answered each of the eleven question groups for my country.

____ I have prepared notes or index cards to help me during my presentation.

____ I have prepared any additional visual aids necessary for my presentation.

____ I have practiced my presentation and it is between 5 and 10 minutes long.

____ I can give my talk without reading it straight from my notes or index cards.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Record of Group Work – Use this sheet to record the work completed by each member of your group. Continue your record on the back of this sheet if you run out of room. This record sheet must be turned in on the day of your presentation, and it must be signed and dated by each member of your group.

<u>Group Member's Name(s)</u>	<u>Tasks & Dates Worked On</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
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Signatures: By signing this form, you agree with the record of the work noted above.

Name: _____	Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Rubric

Part I: The Country Information

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Questions Answered in Detail	20	
4-Paragraph Essay	20	
Spelling and Grammar	10	

Part II: The Maps

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Both maps include a key or legend, scale, compass rose, borders with other countries (if applicable), & the nation's capital	10	
Political map has at least 5 major cities other than the capital	10	
Physical map has at least 5 different physical features	10	
Maps are creative, colorful, and neat	10	
Maps are large enough for a presentation	10	

Total Points Possible: 200

Total Points Earned: _____

Part III: The Flag

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Flag includes at least one color that represents something of importance	10	
Flag includes at least one symbol that represents something of importance	10	
Flag is creative, colorful, and neat	10	
A detailed explanation of the flag is included on the back	10	
Flag is large enough for a presentation	10	

Part IV: The Presentation

	Points Possible	Points Earned
The presentation is between 5 and 10 minutes long	15	
All group members participate equally in the presentation	15	
Visual aids, including maps and flag, are used in the presentation	10	
Group members are prepared and do not read straight from notes	10	