MUN Part 1 Country Research

Part 1: Country Research

Learn about the country/organization your delegation will represent. Refer to the links at the **bottom** of this document for sources of information.

Basic MAP:	FLAG:

Country Overview – find info about:	Answers (notes):	Sources (cut and paste URL):
1. **GEOGRAPHY: Human** a. Population b. Languages c. Ethnic groups d. Religious groups e. Problems between religious/ethnic groups f. Health data · Birth rate · Infant mortality · Life expectancy · Population per doctor g. Education · Literacy rate · Expected years in school · GDP spent on education		
2. **GEOGRAPHY: Physical** Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships? a. Climate b. Topography c. Fresh water availability d. Ocean access e. Rivers f. Bordering countries g. Geo-political		

considerations h. Other physical advantages/disadvantages of topography		
3. **ECONOMICS**: What are the characteristics of your country's economy? a. What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world? b. Per capita income? c. Population below the poverty line? d. Diversity of the economy (e.g. Does your country rely on income from agriculture? Tourism? Technology? etc) e. Taxes & government spending: What is the tax rate and how does that compare to other countries? What percentage of government spending goes to the military / education / social welfare programs?		
4. **ECONOMICS**: Human Development Index (health, education, and living standard info): http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/ a. Your country's data: http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/profiles/ b. How does this compare to other major countries?		
5. **NATURAL RESOURCES**: What are the country's natural resources? What resources are missing / do they rely on other	**Natural Resources:** · Commodities produced · Mineral resources · Oil/Petroleum resources	

countries for?	· Water · Land · Natural environment (e.g. forests) **Resources In Demand:**	
6. **POLITICS**: What sort of government does your country have? a. Formal name of country b. Name of political system (e.g. monarchy) c. Government positions (titles and names of people currently holding those positions) · Head of state · Head of government · Cabinet · Legislative body · Internal administrative districts		
7. **POLITICS**: What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government? a. List names of other important organizations within the country (political, religious, etc) and names of current leaders. b. Corruption perceptions index (www.transparency.org)		
8. **POLITICS**: Which countries share a border with your country?	**Relations with neighbors:**	
9. **POLITICS**: Which countries are considered allies / enemies / frenemies of your country? Why?	**Allies:** **Enemies:** **Neutral:**	

	International Contributions: **International Criticisms/ Problems:**	
10. **POLITICS**: Organizations/Alliances/Memberships: a. Independent sovereignty since…? b. Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?When did your country become a member of the UN? c. Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)? d. Any other alliances or major treaties?		
11. **POLITICS**: Summary of national interests / domestic issues which might influence your country's foreign policy		
12. **HISTORY**: What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important? a. b. General c. Last 50 years Very recent 13.		
a. b. **COOL STUFF**: done Things your country has Things your country has		

c. Things your country is proud of d. Famous people		

Resources for MUN Country Research and Current Events

Find out some basic facts about your country.
The first place to go for **basic** geographical information is to the library databases at your school, such as the *Lands and Peoples* database found in **Groliers**. Not only will this database and the other databases like **World Book** and **Britannica** provide you with most of the information you need, but they will also provide information on how to cite the pages you use.

Find out about your country and the UN.
What DOES your country officially think/say/do regarding the issues that the United Nations is dealing with?

From the list of Member States of the UN, click on your country's website to find out more about its permanent mission to the UN. You can also call the mission directly to ask questions or request a position statement on an issue.

Or browse the website specifically designed for UN delegates themselves to find out about what is going on at the UN.

Find your country's voting records and read speeches on the United Nations Bibliographic Information System website.

More information on the nations of the world.
These web pages can provide more detailed information about different countries.

**** BBC Country Profiles ****
Full profiles provide an instant guide to history, politics and economic background of countries and territories, and background on key institutions. They also include audio and video clips from BBC archives.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles

**** The World Factbook ****
Provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 266 world entities. Reference tab includes: maps of the major world regions, as well as Flags of the World, a Physical Map of the World, a Political Map of the World, and a Standard Time Zones of the World map. The World Factbook is produced by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Would your country's government agree with the way your country is characterized in the World Factbook?
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/ Here is a list of intergovernmental organizations that will help you understand the acronyms CIA World Factbook uses.

**** US Department of State Background Notes****Another excellent resource provided by the US - this time the Department of State. Click on your country and then on "Background Notes" > Scroll through the usual encyclopedia-style information (Profile, People, History) to the excellent summaries of **current issues** (Government

and Political Conditions) and *relationships with other nations* (Foreign, Bilateral, Regional Relations and US Relations), plus lots more. Note: Background Notes are no longer being updated or produced. They are being replaced with Fact Sheets focusing on U.S. relations with countries and other areas and providing links to additional resources. For archived versions of Background Notes, visit http://www.state.gov/outofdate/bgn/.

UN Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights/Country Profiles

**** Times Topics - search for *New York Times* articles by country ****
The place for the most up to date news on any country. The articles can be challenging but you can still find a lot of information including charts, maps, photos, video, and interactive media. Use the search box (right hand side of the webpage) to find any country in the world.
You can also use the pull down menu or click on the many topics presented.
Times Topics - Africa
Times Topics - Asia
Times Topics – Middle East
Times Topics – Europe
Times Topics – North and South Americas

HEADLINE SPOT is a good way to quickly locate current news from different countries and regions. It has a very simple but efficient search system and will really come in handy during caucusing.
InfoPlease Country Profiles
Each Country Profile provides information on: Geography · Maps · Flag · History · Current ruler · Area · Population · Capital · Largest cities · Languages · Ethnicity/race · Religion · Literacy rate · Economy · Government
http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0198161.html
InfoPlease World Statistics
General World Statistics, Population Statistics, Health and Social Statistics, Economic Statistics, Political Statistics, Worldwide Conflicts and Wars
http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0004372.html

**QUICK TIP

: Do a simple Google Search for "foreign ministry" and "[your country's name]" to find

your Foreign Ministry Website which will issue info about your country's

issues and allies, and other great info.

Current news on the nations of the world.
These webpages can provide more detailed information about different countries.

Check out **news and media** sources for recent developments in your country.

Here's Google World News which tracks virtually every news source on the web!!

Also, if you monitor a couple of news sites each day like Time or the BBC or CNN or the NYTimes you'll find useful articles. In fact, HillaryClinton said that the Al Jazeera site was one of the best places to be getting news about the Middle East and the world.

Click here for an in-depth analysis and review of some of the most current and hotly debated issues around the globe, courtesy of Global Security. Extremely easy and informative from reliable sources, you may even want to sign up for their newsletter to be informed of current events.

Organizations watching and helping the nations of the world.

**BONUS FEATURE: the BBC CountryProfiles also has a drop-down menu for international organizations. Learn more about institutions like: *African Union, Arab League, ASEAN, Commonwealth, European Union, G8, IAEA, IMF/World Bank, NATO, OPEC, Red Cross, WTO and, of course, the United Nations!*

- Statistics of the Human Development Report: You can access statistical data from the Human Development Report (HDR) and resources to help you better understand this data. You will also find helpful information about the human development index (HDI) and other indices, links to other background materials, data resources and on-going debates and discussions on human development statistics. **This is a complicated database used by governments when they make decisions about aid and economics. The charts can give you a snapshot of issues in your country.** http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/
- UNICEF information by region and country: Learn about the issues children face around the world. http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/
- Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/en/home
- Amnesty International: http://www.amnesty.org/
- World Wildlife Fund: http://www.panda.org/
- Environmental News Network: http://www.enn.com/
- AlertNet is a free humanitarian news service run by Thomson Reuters Foundation covering crises worldwide: natural disasters, conflicts, refugees, hunger, diseases and climate change.

And a few more links to try:
- Collecting Country Information
- Research Conference Topics
- Researching the UN System
- How to Find UN Documents in Five Steps or Less
- Try the Official UN Documents System Search so you can search with key words to *find resolutions* and voting records from the current and previous years. Or go straight to the UN's Documentation Research Guide for lots of **QUICK LINKS**!
- Through the United Nations Documentation Center and/or Official UN Documents System Search you can find resolutions and voting records from the current and previous years.
- Browse the UN Website Locator ... organized alphabetically and thematically and with key links in the sidebar.
- Visit non-governmental organization (NGO) websites. NGOs are an important part of the UN system, in part due to the valuable research and information they generate. Look for NGOs that address your topic.

SEARCHING with a SPECIFIC COUNTRY DOMAIN:
When searching google as an MUN delegate refining your search so that you are only looking at results from your country can be very useful. Here is one way to do it:

In the search box type in your topic and add the country code using this format:

site:*country code*

For example: site:MA = sites that have Morocco as part of the domain name

So if you wanted information about the Syrian Civil War that comes from Morocco you would put this in the search

box : *Syrian Civil War site:MA*

If you use this format site:*/country code* you will get many fewer hits

Country codes (with some useful domain codes at the end of the list):

AD Andorra	CU Cuba	IE Ireland	NG Nigeria	TF French Southern Territories	BIZ Business
AE United Arab Emirates	CV Cape Verde	IL Israel	NI Nicaragua		COM Commercial
	CX Christmas Island	IN India	NL Netherlands		EDU US Educational
AF Afghanistan		IO British Indian Ocean Territory	NO Norway	TG Togo	GOV US Government
AG Antigua and Barbuda	CY Cyprus	IQ Iraq	NP Nepal	TH Thailand	INT International
AI Anguilla	CZ Czech Republic	IR Iran	NR Nauru	TJ Tajikistan	MIL US Military
AL Albania	DE Germany	IS Iceland	NU Niue	TK Tokelau	NET Network
AM Armenia	DJ Djibouti	IT Italy	NZ New Zealand (Aotearoa)	TL Timor-Leste	ORG Nonprofit Organization
AN Netherlands Antilles	DK Denmark	JM Jamaica	OM Oman	TM Turkmenistan	
AO Angola	DM Dominica	JO Jordan	PA Panama	TN Tunisia	PRO Professional Services
AQ Antarctica	DO Dominican Republic	JP Japan	PE Peru	TO Tonga	AERO Aeronautic
AR Argentina	DZ Algeria	KE Kenya	PF French Polynesia	TP East Timor	ARPA Arpanet Technical Infrastructure
AS American Samoa	EC Ecuador	KG Kyrgyzstan		TR Turkey	
	EE Estonia	KH Cambodia	PG Papua New Guinea	TT Trinidad and Tobago	
AT Austria	EG Egypt	KI Kiribati		TV Tuvalu	COOP Cooperative
AU Australia	EH Western Sahara	KM Comoros	PH Philippines	TW Taiwan	INFO Info Domain
AW Aruba		KN Saint Kitts and Nevis	PK Pakistan	TZ Tanzania	NAME Personal Name
AX Aland Islands	ER Eritrea	KP Korea (North)	PL Poland	UA Ukraine	NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
AZ Azerbaijan	ES Spain	KR Korea (South)	PM Saint Pierre and Miquelon	UG Uganda	
BA Bosnia and Herzegovina	ET Ethiopia	KW Kuwait	PN Pitcairn	UK United Kingdom	
BB Barbados	FI Finland	KY Cayman Islands	PR Puerto Rico	UM United States Minor Outlying Islands	
BD Bangladesh	FJ Fiji	KZ Kazakhstan	PS Palestinian Territory	US United States	
BE Belgium	FK Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	LA Laos	PT Portugal	UY Uruguay	
BF Burkina Faso	FM Federated States of Micronesia	LB Lebanon	PW Palau	UZ Uzbekistan	
BG Bulgaria		LC Saint Lucia	PY Paraguay	VA Vatican City State (Holy See)	
BH Bahrain		LI Liechtenstein	QA Qatar	VC Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
BI Burundi	FO Faroe Islands	LK Sri Lanka	RE Reunion		
BJ Benin		LR Liberia	RO Romania	VE Venezuela	
BM Bermuda	FR France	LS Lesotho	RU Russian Federation	VG Virgin Islands (British)	
BN Brunei Darussalam	FX France, Metropolitan	LT Lithuania	RW Rwanda	VI Virgin Islands (U.S.)	
BO Bolivia	GA Gabon	LU Luxembourg	SA Saudi Arabia	VN Viet Nam	
BR Brazil	GB Great Britain (UK)	LV Latvia	SB Solomon Islands	VU Vanuatu	
BS Bahamas	GD Grenada	LY Libya	SC Seychelles	WF Wallis and Futuna	
BT Bhutan	GE Georgia	MA Morocco	SD Sudan	WS Samoa	
BV Bouvet Island	GF French Guiana	MC Monaco	SE Sweden	YE Yemen	
BW Botswana	GH Ghana	MD Moldova	SG Singapore	YT Mayotte	
BY Belarus	GI Gibraltar	MG Madagascar	SH Saint Helena	YU Yugoslavia (former)	
BZ Belize	GL Greenland	MH Marshall Islands	SI Slovenia		
CA Canada	GM Gambia	MK Macedonia	SJ Svalbard and		
CC Cocos (Keeling) Islands	GN Guinea	ML Mali			
		MM Myanmar			
		MN Mongolia			
		MO Macao			

CD Democratic Republic of the Congo CF Central African Republic CG Congo CH Switzerland CI Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) CK Cook Islands CL Chile CM Cameroon CN China CO Colombia CR Costa Rica CS Serbia and Montenegro	GP Guadeloupe GQ Equatorial Guinea GR Greece GS S. Georgia and S. Sandwich Islands GT Guatemala GU Guam GW Guinea-Bissau GY Guyana HK Hong Kong HM Heard Island and McDonald Islands HN Honduras HR Croatia (Hrvatska) HT Haiti HU Hungary ID Indonesia	MP Northern Mariana Islands MQ Martinique MR Mauritania MS Montserrat MT Malta MU Mauritius MV Maldives MW Malawi MX Mexico MY Malaysia MZ Mozambique NA Namibia NC New Caledonia NE Niger NF Norfolk Island	Jan Mayen SK Slovakia SL Sierra Leone San Marino Senegal SO Somalia Sao Tome and (former) SV El Salvador SY Syria SZ Swaziland TC Turks and Caicos Islands TD Chad	ZA South Africa ZM Zambia ZR Zaire (former) SM ZW Zimbabwe SN SR Suriname ST Principe SU USSR	

BIZ Business C
OM Commercial
EDU US Educational
GOV US Government
INT International
MIL US Military
NET Network
ORG Nonprofit Organization
PRO Professional Services
AERO Aeronautic
ARPA Arpanet Technical Infrastructure
COOP Cooperative
INFO Info Domain
NAME Personal Name
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization