BRAZIL

Area: 3,287,956 square miles

Geography: Located on the west coast of South America with Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru as bordering countries.

Climate: Humid tropical and subtropical climate. Most of Brazil receives 40-70 inches of rain annually.

Language(s) Spoken: Portuguese

Population: 214,046,220 (live)

Government: Federal republic divided into 26 states and the Distrito Federal (Federal District), including the capital city of Brasília.

Literacy Rate: 93%

Monetary Unit: the Real (plural: reais)

Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars): 1.84 trillion (2019)

Major Resources: iron ore, bauxite, gold, manganese, quartz, diamonds

Leading Exports: soybeans, corn, crude petroleum, iron ore

Core Industries: Mining, Manufacturing, Agriculture

Energy Information: Brazil’s energy is generated from petroleum and other liquids (38%), biofuels and waste (32.1%), hydroelectric power (12%), natural gas (11%), coal (5%), wind and solar (2%), and nuclear energy (1%). 45% of energy in Brazil is renewable. Brazil is the third largest producer of hydroelectricity in the world behind China and Canada and its electricity sector is the largest in South America.

Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons): 2.0 (2018)

Environmental Concerns: Rainforest deforestation is the top environmental concern followed by plant and animal extinction and air pollution.
CHINA

Area: 3,696,100 square miles

Geography: China is located in west Asia and borders North Korea, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan in the north; Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the west; and India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, and Laos in the south.

Climate: Due to China’s large area, climate changes based on the region. In the north of China, the climate is temperate with summer temperatures around 25º C (77º F) and frigid winters. In the south, the climate is subtropical with very hot summers and mild winters.

Language(s) Spoken: The most common dialect of China is Mandarin, but there are many regional dialects in this large country.

Population: 1,444,906,933

Government: China has a single-party people’s republic with one legislative house.

Literacy Rate: 96.84% (2018)

Monetary Unit: Renminbi, also called yuan


Major Resources: coal, oil, natural gas, aluminum, magnesium, antimony, salt, talc, barite, cement, fluorspar, gold, graphite, iron, steel, lead, mercury, zinc, etc.

Leading Exports: electrical machinery, machinery including computers, furniture, bedding, lighting signs, prefabricated buildings, plastics, optical, technical, medical apparatus, etc. China is the world’s largest exporter.

Core Industries: manufacturing, agriculture, telecommunication services

Energy Information: China is not only the world most populated country, but also the largest energy consumer. A large portion of their energy is from fossil fuels. 58% of their energy is generated from coal, 20% from petroleum and other liquids, and 8% from natural gas. The remaining percentage is from hydroelectricity (8%), other renewable sources (5%), and nuclear (2%).


Environmental Concerns: Air pollution, soil pollution and water scarcity are top environmental issues for China.

1 https://www.britannica.com/place/China
2 https://great-wall-marathon.com/climate-weather-china
3 https://www.britannica.com/place/China/Sino-Tibetan
4 https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/china-population/
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6 https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/CHN/china/literacy-rate
7 https://www.britannica.com/topic/renminbi
8 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=C
9 https://sciencing.com/list-chinas-natural-resources-5375735.html
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13 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
14 https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-climate-change-policies-environmental-degradation
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COUNTRY INFORMATION
(ANSWER KEY)

GERMANY

Area: 137,879 square miles¹

Geography: Germany is located in the middle of Europe with the neighboring countries of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, and Switzerland in the west; Poland, Czech Republic, and Austria in the east; and Denmark in the north.

Climate: Germany experiences a temperate climate, due to its northern latitude and the distance between the large portions of its territory from the influence of the North Atlantic Current.²

Language(s) Spoken: German, but has many regional dialects³

Population: 83,305,000 (2020 est.)⁴

Government: Germany’s government has been developed from the country’s constitution, Grundgesetz. They possess a parliamentary system similar to the British system, have a prime minister, and have formal declaration of human rights in the constitution, similar to the U.S.’s.

Literacy Rate: Not reported

Monetary Unit: Euro⁵

Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars): 4.3 trillion⁶

Major Resources: bituminous coal, brown coal, salt, potash⁷

Leading Exports: cars, medication mixes, automotive parts, blood fractions including antiserum, and aircraft plus spacecraft⁸

Core Industries: the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, chemical and electrical industries⁹

Energy Information: Germany’s energy is sourced wind (27.0%), brown coal (16.8%), uranium (12.5%), gas (12.1%), solar (10.5%), biomass (9.3%), hard coal (7.3%), hydro power (3.7%), oil (0.3%), and others (0.5%). 50.5% of energy sourced in Germany is renewable.¹⁰

Additional Energy Information: Germany is also pursuing clean energy sources. Shell has started up Europe’s largest hydrogen electrolyser of its kind in Rheinland Germany.¹¹

Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons): 8.6(2018)¹²

Environmental Concerns: Air pollution, water pollution, and waste disposal are environmental concerns for Germany.¹³

¹ https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany
² https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Climate
³ https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Languages
⁴ https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany
⁵ https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany
⁶ https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=germany+gdp+2021&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8
⁷ https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Resources-and-power
⁸ https://www.worldstopexports.com/germanys-top-10-exports/
¹² https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
¹³ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
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COUNTRY INFORMATION

(ANSWER KEY)

INDIA

Area: 1,222,550 square miles¹

Geography: India is located in south Asia with coast on the Indian Ocean and bordering countries of Pakistan, China, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Climate: India experiences a monsoon climate and experience wet and dry seasons of the Indian monsoon system. Hot wet weather occurs from mid-June through the end of September, cool dry weather from October through February, and hot dry weather from March to mid-June.²

Language(s) Spoken: Hindi and English are the two main languages spoken, for there is no national language³

Population: 1,330,637,000 (2020 est.)⁴

Government: India is a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a Parliamentary form of government.⁵

Literacy Rate: 74.40%⁶

Monetary Unit: Indian rupee⁷

Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars): 2.87 trillion⁸

Major Resources: iron ore, bauxite, manganese, mica, diamonds, natural gas, arable land, chromites⁹

Leading Exports: mineral fuels including oil, gems, pharmaceuticals, machinery including computers, organic chemicals¹⁰

Core Industries: coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilizer, cement, steel, electricity generation¹¹

Energy Information: India was the third-largest energy consumer in the world in 2018, after China and the United States. In 2019, the largest energy source used was coal at 45%; then was petroleum and other liquids (25%), biomass and waste (20%), natural gas (6%), hydroelectricity (1%), nuclear (1%), and other renewable sources (1%).¹²

Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons): 1.8(2018)¹³

Environmental Concerns: Air pollution is the leading environmental concern in India followed by water pollution.¹⁴

¹ https://www.britannica.com/place/India
² https://www.britannica.com/place/India/Black-soils#ref46382
³ https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Languages_of_India
⁴ https://www.britannica.com/place/India
⁵ https://www.india.gov.in/topics/governance-administration
⁶ https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/literacy-rate-by-country
⁷ https://www.britannica.com/topic/rupee
¹⁰ https://www.worldstopexports.com/indias-top-10-exports/
¹² https://www.eia.gov/international/division/analysis/country/IND
¹³ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
KENYA

Area: 228,561 square miles

Geography: It is located in east Africa on the west coast bordering the Indian Ocean. Bordering countries include Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

Climate: Seasonal climatic changes due to the large-scale pressure systems of the Indian Ocean and bordering landmasses. December to March is the dry season and the rainy season extends from late March to May.

Language(s) Spoken: The official languages of Kenya are Swahili and English, but there are also local languages spoken.

Population: 54,993,316 (live)

Government: Kenya is a Republic with a bicameral parliament, executive branch, an executive, and is divided into 47 counties which are headed by elected governors.

Literacy Rate: 81.53% (last reported in 2018)

Monetary Unit: Kenyan shilling

Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars): 95.41 billion (2019)

Major Resources: soda ash, gold, rubies, topazes, salt, sisal, cotton, fruits and vegetables

Leading Exports: soda ash, tea, coffee, vegetables, cut flowers

Core Industries: Agricultural processing, publishing and printing, and manufacturing

Energy Information: Kenya’s electricity, which now ¾ of the country has access to, is predominantly sourced from hydro (52.1%) and fossil fuels (32.5%), alone with geothermal (13.2%), biogas cogeneration (1.8%), and wind energy (0.4%).

Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons): 0.4(2018)

Environmental Concerns: Environmental challenges in Kenya include deforestation, soil erosion, land deterioration, extinction of species, water scarcity and pollution from industry.
COUNTRY INFORMATION

UNITED KINGDOM

**Area:** 93,630 square miles

**Geography:** The United Kingdom is made up of 4 countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It is surrounded by the North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and the English Chanel.

**Climate:** The climate of the U.K. is based on atmospheric circulation patterns from its landforms in relation to the sea. The wettest months are typically October, December, and August and temperatures distribution is mostly independent of latitude.

**Language(s) Spoken:** The official language is English; both English and Scots Gaelic in Scotland; both English and Welsh in Wales.

**Population:** 67,363,000 (2020 est.)

**Government:** The United Kingdom has a constitutional monarchy with two legislative houses, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

**Literacy Rate:** 99%

**Monetary Unit:** pound sterling

**Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars):** 2.7 trillion

**Major Resources:** arable land, petroleum, coal, and other minerals such as zinc, lead, iron ore, salt, limestone

**Leading Exports:** machinery including computers, gems, precious metals, vehicles, machinery fuels including oil, electric machinery, pharmaceuticals

**Core Industries:** supermarkets, pension funding, construction contractors, banks, hospitals, etc.

**Energy Information:** The U.K. relies heavily on fossil fuels, for 82% of energy is generated from them: petroleum (38%), natural gas (38%), and coal (6%). Renewables take up 17% of the generated and others with the remaining 1%.

**Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons):** 5.4(2018)

**Environmental Concerns:** The United Kingdom has placed a high profile on biodiversity loss, air quality, resources and waste, and flooding.

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1 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom
2 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/The-lowland-zone#ref44677
3 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom
4 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom
5 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom
6 https://una.org.uk/international-literacy-day-factsheet
7 https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom
9 https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-are-the-major-natural-resources-of-the-united-kingdom.html
10 https://www.worldstopexports.com/united-kingdoms-top-exports/
12 https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/GBR
13 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC
14 https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/on-target-five-environmental-challenges-for-2020-and-beyond/
UNITED STATES

Area: 3,677,649 square miles¹

Geography: The United States is located in the continent North America bordering Canada in the north and Mexico in the south.

Climate: The climate system of the United States ranges from region to region, but the largest portion of the country has a moist subtropical mid-latitude climate.²

Language(s) Spoken: English is the most spoken language in the U.S., with Spanish and Chinese following.³

Population: 332,639,000 (2020 est.)⁴

Government: The United States is a federal republic with two legislative houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.⁵

Literacy Rate: 99%⁶

Monetary Unit: U.S. dollar⁷

Gross Domestic Product (date and in US dollars): 20.9 trillion⁸

Major Resources: refined petroleum, natural gas, coal, copper, magnesium, lead, zinc, tobacco⁹

Leading Exports: machinery including computers, electric machinery, mineral fuels including oil, vehicles, optical, technical, medical apparatus, aircraft, spacecraft¹⁰

Core Industries: healthcare, technology, construction, retail, non-durable manufacturing¹¹

Energy Information: In 2018, The United States was the second-largest energy consumer in the world. The U.S. relies heavily on fossil fuels, for 79% of energy is generated from them: petroleum (35%), natural gas (34%), and coal (10%). Renewable energy (12%) and nuclear electric power (9%) take up the rest of the percentage. Some renewable sources used to generate energy are wind, biomass, hydroelectric, and more.¹²

Carbon Emissions Per Capita(metric tons): 15.2 (2018)¹³

Environmental Concerns: The quality of drinking water is of the highest concern for the United States followed by water pollution, air pollution, extinction of plant and animal species and global warming/climate change.¹⁴

¹ https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States
³ https://bilingualkidspot.com/2019/07/13/languages-spoken-usa/
⁴ https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States
⁵ https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States
⁶ https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/literacy-rate-by-country
⁷ https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States
⁹ https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States/Strengths-and-weaknesses#ref78009
¹⁰ https://www.worldstopexports.com/united-states-top-10-exports/
¹¹ https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/042915/5-industries-driving-us-economy.asp
¹² https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/
¹³ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC