

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

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## TOPIC: BUILDING MODEL UN RESEARCH SKILLS

### OBJECTIVES

- Research assigned countries on the Internet.
- Find important information in order to begin writing position papers.

### REQUIREMENTS

4. Time: 1-2 class periods (This activity can also be completed outside the classroom.)
5. Materials Needed:
  - Handout D: Getting to Know Your Country

### PROCEDURE

6. Lesson Introduction/Activation of Prior Knowledge

Ask students to partner up and brainstorm about the country, committee and topic information they will need to find as they prepare for the conference. Ask the pairs to share their responses with the class. Provide them with any important information that is not presented by a student.

7. Activity

Provide students with Handout D: Getting to Know Your Country. Ask students to underline the words they don't know (for example, infrastructure, trade bloc, GDP), and discuss these words in class. These terms can be used as vocabulary words in the future. Ask students complete this handout individually.

Once they have completed their handouts, ask students representing the same country to compare their answers to ensure they have the same information.

8. Closing/Wrap-Up

Students can use Handout D as they begin to research their country.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

*Future in-class follow-up for teachers:* Additional research information can be found on page 26.

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## HANDOUT D: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

### *Government*

Official country name: \_\_\_\_\_

Governmental system: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of state: \_\_\_\_\_

Official languages: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Allies or blocs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *People*

Population and growth rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Major religions or cultures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Standard of living: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Development*

Development status: \_\_\_\_\_

Climate: \_\_\_\_\_

Environment (problems, innovations, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Has this nation met the Millennium Development Goal targets? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Economy*

Economic system: \_\_\_\_\_

GDP and growth rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Major cities: \_\_\_\_\_

Infrastructure status (good, poor, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trade blocs/associations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Balance of payments/trade: \_\_\_\_\_

Major exports/imports: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Major trade partners: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

International Monetary Fund, World Bank positions  
(debtor nation? donor nation?):

\_\_\_\_\_

Natural resources: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Energy sources: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Military*

Military organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of GDP spent on defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Major weapons, nuclear capability, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## *United Nations*

Date admitted to UN: \_\_\_\_\_

UN dues payment status: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the UN ever intervened in a conflict involving this nation? If so, where and how?

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How does the country contribute to UN peacekeeping?

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Has the UN cited this nation for human rights violations? If so, why?

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What do you think this nation's position on the topic of debate will be? Why?

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Try to find at least one recent article that is about or makes reference to this nation (preferably from the past two weeks).

## *Conflicts/Issues*

What are four problems that affect this nation?

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Ethnic/cultural issues, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

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Refugee problems: \_\_\_\_\_

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Major conflicts both past and present: \_\_\_\_\_

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