



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Country Research Guide

Use this sheet to guide you in researching your country in preparation for KUNA. You should be able to answer all of the questions below and speak knowledgeably about these various aspects of the country you are representing.

I. Geography

A. Where is your country located?

- i. On which continent is your country?
- ii. Who are its neighbors?
- iii. What major bodies of water are in and around your country?

B. What is the topography (land/terrain) like in your country?

- i. Are there major mountain ranges nearby? Which ones?
- ii. What is the climate like in your country's part of the world (tropical, dry, temperate, cold, polar)?
- iii. Is there anything else interesting about your country's geography or climate? (Recent natural disasters? Glaciers? Volcanoes? Etc.)
- iv. What are the major environmental issues facing your country?

II. History

A. Establishing Independence

- i. When was your country founded, or when did it receive its independence?
- ii. Before it received its independence, was it ruled by another country? Was it part of another neighboring country? In general, what was your country like before it became an independent country?

B. Significant Events

- i. What major events have occurred in your country over the last 100 years?
- ii. Has your country been involved in any wars or major conflicts over the past 100 years?
- iii. Has your country made international news in the past few decades? Why?
- iv. Is there anything else interesting that you learned about your country's history?

III. Political Make-Up

A. Government

- i. What type of government does your country have?
- ii. What are the names of the legislative bodies? (Parliament, Congress, etc.)
- iii. Who is the head of the government? (We're looking for a title and a name. For instance, President Barack Obama; King Hussein of Jordan, etc.)
- iv. Is the country currently peaceful, or are there conflicts and challenges against the current form of government? (Civil wars, warring factions, attempted assassinations, etc.)

B. Political History

- i. Who are the major political parties/ruling bodies in your country?
- ii. Does your country have a constitution? When was it written and approved?
- iii. Who are the most famous political leaders or historical figures from your country?

IV. Population

A. Size

- i. How many people live in your country?
- ii. What is the age breakdown for your country's population? (For example, in the US, 24.3% of people are under 18 years of age.)
- iii. What is the racial/ethnic/religious and gender breakdown for your country's population? (For example, in the US, 4.6% of people are of Asian ethnicity.)
- iv. Are there any significant racial/ethnic tensions in your country (Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda, for instance; Kurds in Iraq, etc.)?

B. Class Structure

- i. What is the socioeconomic breakdown in your country? How many people in your country live in poverty? What percentage is considered wealthy?
- ii. What is the average income, the per capita income and the median income?
- iii. In what type of areas (rural, suburban, urban) do most of the people living in poverty live? Do the wealthy people live in different areas?

V. Culture

- A. Religion—what are the major religions of your country?
- B. Customs—what are some significant customs held by the people in your country? What are the major holidays? How are these holidays celebrated? Are the holidays religious or national or both? (For instance, Fourth of July, Christmas, etc.)
- C. Dress—what is common attire for the people of your country? Is the attire different for different classes, religions or different regions?
- D. Entertainment—what do the people in your country do in their leisure time?
- E. Are there native dances or music that are part of the culture?
- F. Food—what types of food and style of cooking are native to/popular in your country?
- G. Heroes—who are your country's heroes?

VI. Summary

What do you think are the five most important things for someone to know about your country?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What is the thing that you learned about your country that most surprised you?