



rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

A Rabata
Educational
Initiative



rabata

Africa

Algeria is a country.

is not
a country.

Algeria



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Berber or Tamazight (official); dialects include Kabyle Berber (Taqbaylit), Shawiya Berber (Tacawit), Mzab Berber, and Tuareg Berber (Tamahaq)

FABULOUS FOOD

Chakchouka - a famous breakfast dish made from rougag, lamb, and vegetables; Harira - a soup served during Ramadan; Moloukhiya - curry made from the leaves of the same name

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Mohammed Arkoun was an Algerian scholar, author, and thinker who argued for a concise understanding of Islamic development in modernity and attempted to deconstruct popular western misrepresentations.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead, and zinc

FUN FACTS

Unlike many other countries, women play important roles in Algerian society. They represent 60% of Algeria's judges, 60% of the student population, and 70% of the country's lawyers.

MUSLIM POPULATION

99%

Africa

is not
a country.

Angola is a country.



rabata

Angola



LANGUAGES

Umbundu, Kikongo, Kimbundu, Chokwe, Nhaneca, Nganguela, Fiote, Kwanhama, Muhumbi, Luvale, and Portuguese (official)

FABULOUS FOOD

Calulu de Peixe - a stew prepared with fresh or dried fish and shrimp;
Cocada Amarela - yellow coconut custard made with a large amount of egg yolks

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Queen Anna Nzinga was a 17th century Angolan Queen who formed alliances with former enemies and led Angola through a thirty-year war against the Portuguese.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, diamonds, iron ore, phosphates, copper, feldspar, gold, bauxite, and uranium

FUN FACTS

There is a swath of land in Angola called "Viewpoint of the Moon" that, due to erosion, looks like the surface of the moon.

MUSLIM POPULATION

3%



Africa

is not
a country.

Benin is a country.

Benin



LANGUAGES

French (official), Fon and Yoruba, and tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)

FABULOUS FOOD

Aloko - fried plantains; Kuli-Kuli - ground peanuts shaped into balls or biscuits which are deep-fried in their own oils. Maize and yams are also staples in the Benin diet.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Queen Idia was a famous fifteenth century warrior and queen who was honored for her commitment to justice. Every celebratory procession pays homage to her to this day.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, and timber

FUN FACTS

For two hundred years ending in the 20th century, Benin's armed forces were led by the Mino, a fierce all-female army. This was the only exclusively female army in world history, and was the basis of the Dora Milaje in the movie Black Panther.

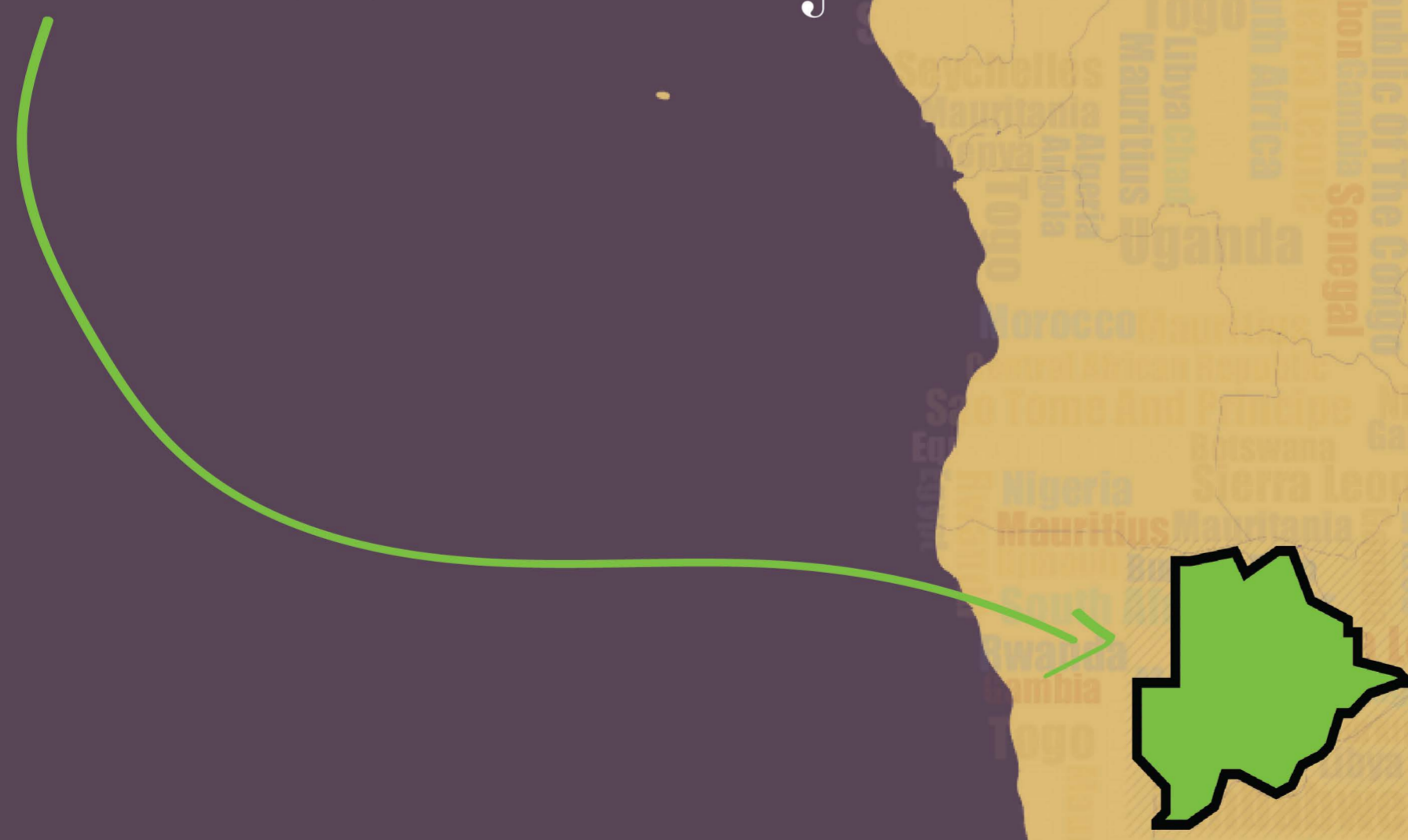
MUSLIM POPULATION

27.7 %

Africa

is not
a country.

Botswana is a country.



rabata

Botswana



LANGUAGES.

Setswana, Sekalanga, Shekgalagadi, English (official), Zezuru/Shona, Sesarwa, Sembukushu, and Ndebele

FABULOUS FOOD

Seswaa, a meat stew served over thick polenta, is a popular dish usually prepared by men, who consider it an honor to cook it for their families.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Amantle Montsho was the first woman to represent Botswana in the Olympics. She is a sprinter specializing in the 400-metre race.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, and silver

FUN FACTS

In 2019, the world's second-largest gem-quality diamond was discovered in Botswana. It is the biggest diamond to be discovered in Botswana and the largest find in more than a century.

MUSLIM POPULATION

0.5%



Africa

is not
a country.

Burkina Faso
is a country.

Burkina Faso



LANGUAGES

French (official) and native African languages belonging to Sudanic family spoken by 90% of the population

FABULOUS FOOD

Babenda - a stew of fish, fermented beans, and cabbage or spinach;
Rizgras - rice cooked with meat, tomatoes, and onions; Brochettes - meat cooked on a skewer; and sauce gombo - a sauce made from okra

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Princess Yennenga lived over 900 years ago. She was such a good warrior that her father refused to allow her to marry. Angry, she planted a field of wheat and let it rot, explaining that this is how she felt. Her father responded by locking her away. She escaped and eventually married Riale. Their son Ouedraogo founded the Mossi Kingdom.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, manganese, zinc, limestone, marble, phosphates, pumice, and salt

FUN FACTS

Burkina Faso means "the land of the honest people."

MUSLIM POPULATION

61.50%



Africa

is not

a country.

Burundi is a
country.



Burundi



LANGUAGES

Kirundi (official), French (official), Swahili, and English (official)

FABULOUS FOOD

Ugali - a porridge consisting of flour and water; Curries

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Janvière Ndirahisha holds a PhD in Mathematics and is one of the few people in Burundi to have studied extensively in science. She spearheaded reforms in primary, secondary, and university education and became the Minister of Education and Scientific Research. Ndirahisha advocates strongly for teachers throughout the country.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Nickel, uranium, rare earth oxides, peat, cobalt, copper, platinum, vanadium, arable land, hydropower, niobium, tantalum, gold, tin, tungsten, kaolin, and limestone

FUN FACTS

A typical Kirundi greeting, “Amashyo,” translates as “May you have herds of cattle.” Cattle are a symbol of health, happiness, and prosperity.

MUSLIM POPULATION

3.5%



Africa

is not
a country.

Cabo Verde is
a country.

Cabo Verde



LANGUAGES

Portuguese (official) and Krioulo (a blend of Portuguese and West African languages)

FABULOUS FOOD

Cachupa - a stew with mashed maize, onions, and green bananas; seafood dishes including Baga and Búzio Cabra, made out of the bubonian conch

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Amílcar Lopes da Costa Cabral was one of Africa's foremost anti-colonial leaders. An agricultural engineer, pan-Africanist, intellectual, poet, theoretician, revolutionary, political organizer, and diplomat, he was involved in Cape Verde's independence movement. Cabral was assassinated in 1973.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Salt, basalt rock, limestone, kaolin, fish, clay, and gypsum

FUN FACTS

Cape Verde is the third largest nesting site for loggerhead turtles.

MUSLIM POPULATION

2%



Africa



rabata

is not
a country.

Cameroon is a
country.



Cameroon



LANGUAGES

55 Afro-Asiatic languages, two Nilo-Saharan languages, four Ubangian languages, 69 Niger–Congo languages and English and French (official)

FABULOUS FOOD

Ndolé is a Cameroonian dish consisting of stewed nuts, greens, and fish, shrimp, or beef. Plantains and similar side dishes often accompany it.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Marie-Thérèse Assiga Ahanda was a Renaissance woman. She was a chemist who moved to the Republic of the Congo and became a writer. She was later elected to the National Assembly of Cameroon and in 1999 she became the Ewondo paramount chief.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, bauxite, iron ore, timber, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

The world's largest frog species, the Goliath frog or *Onraua goliath*, is found in Cameroon. The frogs can grow as large as 12.99" from snout to vent, and they can weigh around 7.16 lbs.

MUSLIM POPULATION

20.9%



Africa

is not

Central African
Republic is a
country.

a country.

Central African Republic



LANGUAGES

French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), and tribal languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Maboke - a fish dish with roasted spices wrapped in cassava or banana leaf

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Elisabeth Mandaba is a middle-distance runner from the Central African Republic. In 2013 she set the national record for the 400-metre.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Diamonds, uranium, timber, gold, oil, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Central African Republic, along with Chad and Madagascar, are classified as the countries least affected by light pollution. This makes them excellent places for stargazing.

MUSLIM POPULATION

8.5%



is not
a country!



Chad



LANGUAGES

French (official), Arabic (official), Sara (in south), and more than 120 different languages and dialects

FABULOUS FOOD

La Bouille - porridge made from rice or wheat combined with milk, flour, and peanut butter; and Daraba - stew made with chopped okra, mixed vegetables, stock cubes, tomatoes, and peanut butter

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Grace Kodindo (born 1960) is a multiple award-winning Chadian obstetrician who has worked to improve reproductive healthcare in Chad and other poor countries throughout the world.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, uranium, natron, kaolin, fish (Lake Chad), gold, limestone, sand and gravel, and salt

FUN FACTS

Chad's Tibesti Mountains have some of the best camel racing in the world. The camel races occur early in the morning and have produced champion camel racers.

MUSLIM POPULATION

53%



Africa

is not
a country.

Comoros is a
country.

Comoros



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), French (official), and Shikomori or Comorian (official; a blend of Swahili and Arabic)

FABULOUS FOOD

Le Me Tsolola, a simple stew made with fish and meat cooked in coconut milk and Mkatra foutra, a staple bread of the Comoros, are often eaten together. Langouste a la vanilla, also popular, is made with South African lobsters and vanilla beans.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Mohamed Ahmed-Chamanga is a linguist who developed a method to transcribe Shikomori (a group of Comorian languages). He also transcribed Comorian folk tales.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish

FUN FACTS

Comoros is called the "perfumed islands" because of the many spices and fragrant ylang-ylang trees found on the archipelago. Comoro comes from the Arabic word "Qamar," which means moon.

Muslim POPULATION

98%



Africa

is not

a country.



Cote d'Ivoire is a country.

Cote d'Ivoire



LANGUAGES

French (official) and 60 native dialects, of which Dioula is the most widely spoken

FABULOUS FOOD

Aloko - fried bananas; Fufu - boiled cassava and plantains; Kedjenou - seasoned meat and vegetable sauce; and Calalou - vegetable stew

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Women on the Ivory Coast are working hard to combat sexism and contribute in new ways to their country's economy and infrastructure. Florance Messan is a lawyer, Tata Momo is a restaurateur, and Marie Sassou is an auto mechanic.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cobalt, bauxite, copper, gold, nickel, tantalum, silica sand, clay, cocoa beans, coffee, palm oil, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

The Ivory Coast is the world's largest exporter of cocoa and one of the largest producers of coffee and palm oil.

MUSLIM POPULATION

42.9



Africa
is not a country.

The Democratic
Republic of Congo
is a country.



Democratic Republic of the Congo



LANGUAGES

French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, and Tshiluba

FABULOUS FOOD

Moambe Chicken, a savory chicken stew with strong African flavors such as nutmeg and peanut butter

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Denis Mukwege is a Congolese gynecologist who is a leading specialist in the treatment of women who have been violently sexually assaulted in war.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Cobalt, copper, niobium, tantalum, petroleum, industrial and gem diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin, uranium, coal, hydropower, and timber

FUN FACTS

The DRC has its own space program. Its Troposphere rockets are designed to send cargo to outer space.

MUSLIM POPULATION

12%



Africa

is not
a country.

Djibouti is a
country.

rabata

Djibouti



LANGUAGES

French (official), Arabic (official), Somali, and Afar

FABULOUS FOOD

Skoudehkaris, a one-pot lamb and rice dish, is the national dish of Djibouti. It is made with lamb, rice, cilantro, cumin, and cardamom. Lahoh, a sweet or savory flatbread, is enjoyed with many meals as well.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Olympic table tennis player Yasmin Farah Hassan competed for her country in the 2012 Olympics.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Potential geothermal power, gold, clay, granite, limestone, marble, salt, diatomite, gypsum, pumice, and petroleum

FUN FACTS

Lake Assal is saltier than the Dead Sea and is also the lowest point in all of Africa.

MUSLIM POPULATION

94%



Africa

is not
a country.

Egypt is a
country.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), Arabic, English, and French

FABULOUS FOOD

Foul medammes - mashed fava beans; and Koshari - a mix of rice, lentils, and macaroni

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Umm Kulthum was a famous singer who was known as the voice of Egypt. Omar Sharif is a famous actor who starred in films such as Lawrence of Arabia. He was raised as a Roman Catholic but converted to Islam in 1955 and changed his name to Omar Sharif.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum, talc, asbestos, lead, rare earth elements, and zinc

FUN FACTS

99% of Egypt's population lives on 6% of its land. Additionally, Al-Azhar University, the second oldest continuously running university in the world, has long been regarded as the foremost institution in the Islamic world for the study of Sunni theology and sharia, or Islamic law.

MUSLIM POPULATION

95%



Africa

is not
a country.

Equatorial Guinea
is a country.

Equatorial Guinea



LANGUAGES

Fang, Bubi, Spanish (official), Portuguese (official), and French (official)

FABULOUS FOOD

Succotash - chicken in cream sauce with boiled plantains; Peppersoup - typically includes pepper, meats, and nutmeg

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Mariá Nsué Angüe's is a writer and the Minister of Education and Culture. Her novel "Ekomo" was the first written and published by an Equatoguinean woman.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, timber, gold, bauxite, diamonds, tantalum, sand, gravel, and clay

FUN FACTS

Equatorial Guinea is the only African country that has Spanish as an official language.

MUSLIM POPULATION

4.1%



Africa
is not a country.

Eritrea is a country.

Eritrea



LANGUAGES

Tingrinya, Arabic, English, Beja, Tigre, Kunama, Saho, Bilen, Nara, and Afar

FABULOUS FOOD

Shahan Ful - a breakfast dish made from fava beans; and Was - beef stew served with injera bread

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Singer/songwriter Abraham Afewerki, whose wholesome music and friendly smile made him one of the most popular voices in Eritrea, passed away in 2006 trying to save a friend from drowning.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, potash, zinc, copper, salt, possibly oil and natural gas, and fish

FUN FACTS

The name of Eritrea's capital Asmara means "they made them unite." The original four clans of this area were often attacked from the outside, so the women insisted that their defense required they become one people. The men agreed, and thus the capital is called Asmara.

MUSLIM POPULATION

49%



Africa
is not
a country.

Eswatini is a
country.



rabata

Eswatini



LANGUAGES

SiSwati (official) and English (official, used for government business)

FABULOUS FOOD

Umkhunsu - cooked and dried meat; in particular goat meat; Emasi Lavutiwe - ground corn mixed with fermented milk; Sembila sinkwa - corn bread; Sishibo senkhukhu - chicken stew; and Sishwala - thick porridge normally served with meat or vegetables

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Musical artist Bholoja, whose real name is Mbongiseni Ngubane, is an Afro-pop and soul artist from Eswatini inspired by traditional Swati music and culture. He often sings about social issues and the difficulties of the poor and disadvantaged.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Asbestos, coal, clay, cassiterite, hydropower, forests, small gold and diamond deposits, quarry stone, and talc

FUN FACTS

Previously known as Swaziland, Eswatini is home to 250,000 year-old stone tools, as well as Africa's largest population of nesting vultures.

MUSLIM POPULATION

2%

A stylized map of Africa is shown in a light yellow color against a dark purple background. The map includes faint outlines of country borders and some country names in a light yellow font. In the top right corner, there is a yellow ribbon. A green arrow points from the right side of the map towards Ethiopia. The text "Africa is not a country." is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the map. The word "Africa" is the largest, and "is not a country." is smaller and positioned below it. The word "not" is underlined.

Africa
is not a country.

rabata

Ethiopia is a country.

Ethiopia



LANGUAGES

Oromo, Amharic, Somali, Tigrigna (Tigrinya), Sidamo, Wolaytta, Gurage, Afar, Hadiyya, Gamo, Gedeo, Opuuo, Kafa, English, and Arabic

FABULOUS FOOD

Injera, a pancake-like, spongy flatbread that is eaten with stews and vegetable curries

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Zeresenay Alemseged is the paleoanthropologist who discovered the skeleton known as "Salam" or "Lucy's Child." Runner Haile Gebresellassie won two gold medals in long distance at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Small reserves of gold, platinum, copper, potash, natural gas, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Ethiopia is famous for being the place where the coffee bean originated.

MUSLIM POPULATION

33.9%



Africa
is not
a country.

Gabon is a
country.



Gabon



LANGUAGES

French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, and Bandjabi

FABULOUS FOOD

Baked Bananas Gabon - can be served as a dessert or as an accompaniment to main dishes; Dongo-dongo - both a soup and a flavorful sauce that uses okra as the key ingredient.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Aida Touré was a Gabonese artist, Sufi poet, painter, and composer whose spiritually-inspired art work has been featured in Gabon and the US. Most of Aida's paintings are now privately owned.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, diamond, niobium, manganese, uranium, gold, timber, iron ore, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Gabon is home to 80% of Africa's gorilla population and 80% of its baboons, as well.

MUSLIM POPULATION

12%



Africa

is not
a country.

Ghana is a country.



Ghana



LANGUAGES

Asante, Ewe, Fante, Boron (Brong), Dagomba, Dangme, Dagarte (Dagaba), Kokomba, Akyem, Ga, and many others

FABULOUS FOOD

Apapransa - palm nut and cornmeal soup cooked together until solid. Cooked crabs and kidney beans are used for garnishing. Banku - cassava dough and fermented corn; Chofi - deep-fried turkey tails seasoned with onion and garlic

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Kofi Atta Annan was a Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from Jan 1997 to Dec 2006. Annan and the UN were the co-recipients of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, timber, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish, rubber, hydropower, petroleum, silver, salt, and limestone

FUN FACTS

Ghana was known as the "Land of Gold."

MUSLIM POPULATION

17.6%



Africa

is not
a country.

Guinea-Bissau
is a country.

Guinea-Bissau



LANGUAGES

Portuguese-creole, Fula, Balanta, Mandinka, Manjak, Papel, Felupe, Beafada, Bijagó, and Nalu

FABULOUS FOOD

Abacate com Tuna - an appetizer made with ripe avocados, tuna, grated coconut, evaporated milk, and chopped tomatoes; Egusi - soup with vegetables, tomatoes, and onions thickened with ground squash seeds

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Titina Ernestina Silá was a heroine of the Guinea Bissau independence movement. Assassinated in 1973, the day of her death marks National Women's Day in Guinea Bissau.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish, timber, phosphates, bauxite, clay, granite, limestone, and unexploited deposits of petroleum

FUN FACTS

Guinea-Bissau was originally part of the Kingdom of Gabu. Some of the best cashews in the world grow in Guinea-Bissau.

MUSLIM POPULATION

50%



Africa

is not
a country.

Lesotho is a
country.



Lesotho



LANGUAGES

Sesotho (official) (southern Sotho), English (official), Zulu, Xhosa

FABULOUS FOOD

Pap-pap or papa - a cornmeal porridge that can be covered with or accompanied by a thick sauce made of peas or other vegetables. Tubers, potatoes, and wild spinach make up a large part of the Lesotho diet.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Nts'epeng Ts'ita Tikiso is chief executive of the BAM group of companies and co-founder of Finite Woman Appreciation Awards Lesotho (FWAA), which is dedicated to recognizing and commending women who have pushed the limit of the unknown or the not-yet-done in the business, social, and institutional fields.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Water, agricultural and grazing land, diamonds, sand, clay, and building stone

FUN FACTS

Lesotho is home to one of the largest dinosaur footprints in the world.

MUSLIM POPULATION

10%



Africa

is not
a country.



Liberia is a country.

Liberia



LANGUAGES

Kpelle, Mande, Kru, Mel, English (official), and 20+ other languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Dumboy - cassava balls; Beef soup; Jollof rice - a dish of rice, tomatoes, onions, and seasonings

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Roberta Gbowee won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for their non-violent struggle for women's safety and women's rights.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Iron ore, timber, diamonds, gold, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Oprah Winfrey has traced her ancestors back to the Liberian region of Kpelle.

MUSLIM POPULATION

12.2%



rabata

Africa

is not

a country.

Libya is a
country.



Libya



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), Italian, English (all widely understood in the major cities), and Berber (Nafusi, Ghadamis, Suknah, Awjilah, Tamasheq)

FABULOUS FOOD

Couscous - a North African dish of semolina; Bureek - turnovers; Asida - a boiled wheat flour pudding, sometimes with added butter, carob syrup, date syrup, or honey

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Hajir Almahdi is a young Benghazi social entrepreneur and co-founder of Project Silphium, a platform for Libyan women to connect and work safely online. Hajir is the creator of the the LaTeX workshop that teaches people to use LaTeX academic paper writing software.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, natural gas, and gypsum

FUN FACTS

Libyan tea is as thick as black syrup.

MUSLIM POPULATION

97%



Africa

is not
a country.

Madagascar is
a country.



Madagascar



LANGUAGES

French (official), Malagasy (official), English

FABULOUS FOOD

Romazava is Madagascar's national dish. It's made from beef and/or pork and/or chicken mixed with onions, tomatoes, spinach and garlic.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Scientist Albert Ratsimamanga was a world-renowned researcher specializing in nature and healing. Gisèle Rabesahala was a journalist and activist who struggled for Madagascar's independence and served the very poor.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, rare earth elements, salt, quartz, tar sands, semiprecious stones, mica, fish, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

80% of the world's vanilla is grown in Madagascar.

MUSLIM POPULATION

3%



Africa
is not a country.

Malawi is
a country.



Malawi



LANGUAGES

English (official), Chewa (common), Lambya, Lomwe, Ngoni, Nkhonde, Nyakyusa, Nyanja, Sena, Tonga, Tumbuka, and Yao

FABULOUS FOOD

Nsima, a maize porridge, is a staple food. Kachumbari, a traditional tomato and onion salad, is also popular.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Human rights activist Vera Mlangazua Chirwa was the first female lawyer in Malawi and helped found the Malawi Congress Party and the Nyasaland African Women's League.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Limestone, arable land, hydropower, unexploited deposits of uranium, coal, and bauxite

FUN FACTS

‘Malawi’ means ‘flames.’ The country takes its name from the reflection of the rising sun on the waters of the vast Lake Malawi.

MUSLIM POPULATION

13%



Africa

is not
a country.

Mali is a country.

rabata

LANGUAGES

French (official), Bambara, Peuhl/Foulfoulbe, Dogon, Maraka/Soninke, Malinke, Sonrhail/Djerma, Minianka, Tamacheq, Senoufo, and Bobo

FABULOUS FOOD

Tiguadege Na, the national dish, is meat in peanut sauce. Poulet yassa - chicken, habañero peppers, onions, and sometimes olives and potatoes - is also popular.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Malian Emperor Mansa Musa became famous because of his lavish trip to Mecca in 1324. He traveled with over 70,000 people and up to 50 pounds of gold, and built a mosque every Friday during his entire trip.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, gypsum, granite, hydropower, note, bauxite, iron ore, manganese, tin, and copper deposits are known but not exploited

FUN FACTS

A lively intellectual hub, Mali has a rich tradition of oral literature. “Jalises” recite the stories and histories of a community by heart.

MUSLIM POPULATION

94.8%

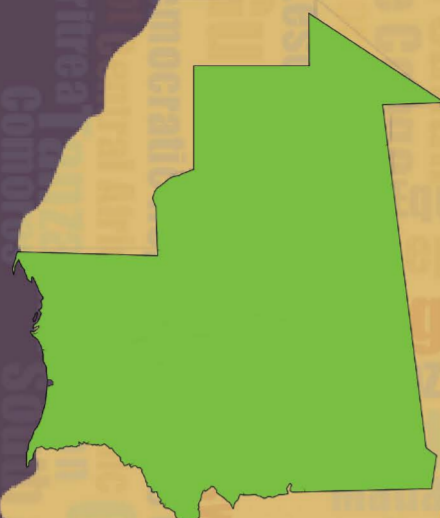


rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

Mauritania
is a country.



Mauritania



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official and national), Pular, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), and French

FABULOUS FOOD

Leksour - a lamb stew served on millet pancakes; Mechoul - marinated lamb backstraps; Hakko - a sauce made from leafy vegetables served with beans over couscous

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Safietou Kane is a young businesswoman who owns an agribusiness that supports local rice growers, providing them with solid income and consumers with high-quality rice.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Iron ore, gypsum, copper, phosphate, diamonds, gold, oil, and fish

FUN FACTS

There is a huge eye in the Mauritanian Sahara desert which is visible from space. It is known as “The Richat Structure,” its diameter is around 40 km, and it looks like a ‘bull’s eye’. Its origin is unknown.

MUSLIM POPULATION

99%

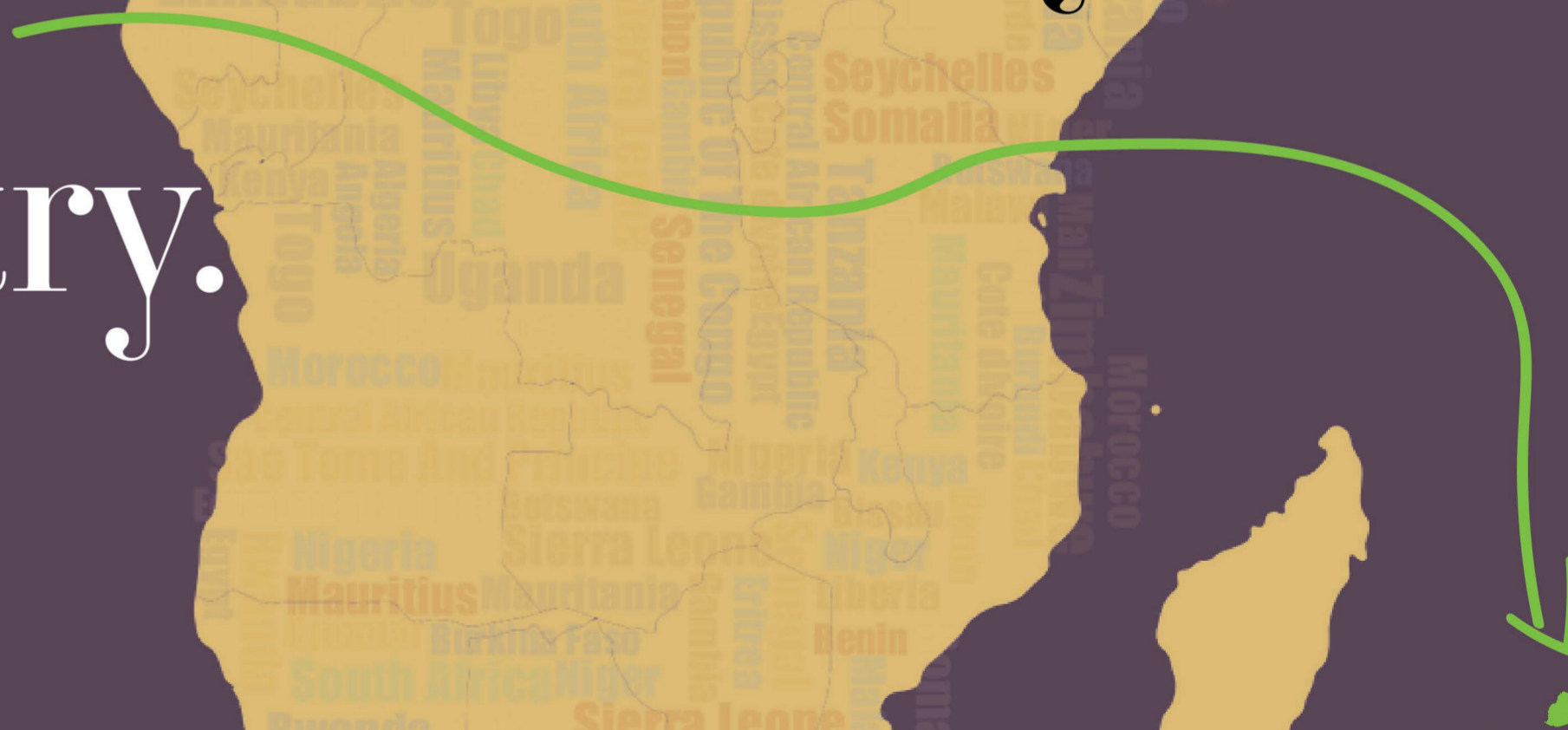


rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

Mauritius
is a country.



Mauritius



LANGUAGES

Creole, Bhojpuri, French, and others (including English, the official language of the National Assembly, which is spoken by less than 1% of the population)

FABULOUS FOOD

Dholl puri - a yellow split-pea pancake cooked on a tawa griddle and filled with cari gros pois (bean curry) and Mauritius' famous Creole rougaille sauce

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Emilienne Rochescouste, first female member of the Legislative Council in 1948 and France Staub, a prominent ornithologist and conservationist

NATURAL RESOURCES

Arable land and fish

FUN FACTS

Mauritius is the only known habitat of the Dodo bird.

MUSLIM POPULATION

17.3%



is not



a country.

Morocco is
a country.

Morocco



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), Berber languages (Tamazight (official), Tachelhit, Tarifit), and French (often the language of business, government, and diplomacy)

FABULOUS FOOD

Tagine - a dish of meat, poultry, or fish mixed with vegetables and/or fruit and cooked in a cone-shaped clay pot with spices such as cinnamon, ginger, turmeric, and saffron; Harira - a traditional soup made with tomatoes, lentils, chick peas, dried spices, and meat; and couscous

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Fatima al-Fihriyya financed and founded the oldest continuously running university in the world: al-Qarawiyyin. Ibn Battuta, was a famous explorer and geographer.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Phosphates, iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, fish, and salt

FUN FACTS

Morocco was the first country in the world to recognize the United States as a nation in 1786.

MUSLIM POPULATION

99%



Africa

is not
a country.

Mozambique
is a country.



Mozambique



LANGUAGES

Makhuwa, Portuguese (official), Tsonga, Nyanja, Sena, Lomwe, Chuwabo, Ndau, Tswa, and other Mozambican languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Piri-piri shrimp; a seafood and peanut stew called Matata

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Lidia Brito is a Mozambiquan forestry expert, engineer, and university lecturer, researcher and consultant for Eduardo Mondlane University. She has served as the first Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology of Mozambique and Advisor of the Mayor of Maputo for Strategic Planning and External Relations in the capital of Maputo. Brito is also co-chairman of the Planet Under Pressure conference.

NATURAL RESOURCES


Coal, titanium, natural gas, hydropower, tantalum, and graphite

FUN FACTS

The Vumba Rock Paintings in Mozambique depict human figures and animals. They are thought to be around 8,000 years old.

MUSLIM POPULATION

18.9%



Africa
is not
a country.

Namibia is
a country.



Namibia



LANGUAGES

Oshiwambo, Nama/Damara, Kavango, Afrikaans, Herero, Zambezi, English (official), other African languages, other European languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Mielie pap (maize flour) is used to make a traditional porridge with Braai (barbequed meat), tomato, and onion stew. Braai is often served with corn, garlic bread, sausages, and salad.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Hulda Kamboi Shipanga was a nurse, midwife, and ministerial adviser to the Namibian Ministry of Health. She was the first black nurse in Namibia to be promoted to matron, the highest rank.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, silver, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, tungsten, zinc, salt, hydropower, fish, suspected deposits of oil, coal, and iron ore

FUN FACTS

Namibia is the first country in the world to incorporate environmental protection into its Constitution.

MUSLIM POPULATION

< 1%

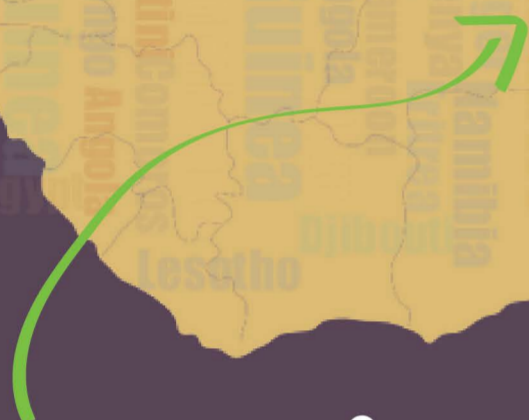
Africa



rabata

is not
a country.

Niger is a
country.



Niger



LANGUAGES

French (official), Hausa, and Djerma

FABULOUS FOOD

Couscous is used as a starch on special occasions. Most Nigerien soups and stews are made from vegetables such as greens, beans, black-eyed peas, cassava root, onions, squash, palm nuts, and yams. Popular fruits include pineapples, mangoes, bananas, grapefruits, limes, melons, and oranges.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ladi Dosei Kwali was Niger's most famous potter. Her likeness also appears on the 20 Naira bill.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt, and petroleum

FUN FACTS

Niger is home to the Dabous Giraffes, a neolithic petroglyph carved into a rock plateau. 20 feet high and incredibly detailed, the petroglyph was completed between 9,000 and 5,000 BCE.

MUSLIM POPULATION

99.3%



Africa

is not
a country.

Nigeria is a country.

Nigeria



LANGUAGES

More than 520 languages including Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Fulfulde, Fulani, Kanuri, and Tiv. Hausa and Bura also each have a Sign Language.

FABULOUS FOOD

Jollof rice is Nigeria's national dish. To prepare it, rice is cooked in a rich tomato sauce so that it soaks in all the flavors.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Sheikha Nana Asma'u was a leading scholar and educational activist of the 19th century. She was a prolific writer and creative thinker, building an educational system of enormous import in the Sokoto Caliphate, located in modern-day Nigeria.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, and arable land

FUN FACTS

The town of Igbo-Ora is known as the nation's home of twins. Many of the local Yoruba people believe their consumption of yams and okra leaves to be the cause of their high birth rate of twins.

MUSLIM POPULATION

51.6%



Africa
is not a country.

The Republic of
Congo is a country.



Republic of the Congo



LANGUAGES

French (official), French Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects (of which Kikongo is the most widespread)

FABULOUS FOOD

Moambe Chicken is a savory chicken dish. The dish itself is made by combining chicken, spices, and palm butter to create a stew-like consistency.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Moseka Yogo Ambake was a Congolese-born self-taught artist who began her artistic pursuits by using the walls of her home as a canvas. She studied with a renowned watercolorist but stayed true to her own artistic style.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

About 70% of the country is a rainforest.

MUSLIM POPULATION

1.6%



Africa

is not
a country.

Guinea is
a country.



rabata

Republic of Guinea



LANGUAGES

French (official), Pular, Maninka, Susu, and 40+ other native languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Jollof rice cooked with tomatoes and spices is a staple and Fufu, also known as To, a savory pastry with okra sauce abound in Guinea. Poulet Yassa is the national dish and is made with chicken.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Abdul-Rahman ibn Ibrahim Sori was a prince from West Africa who was enslaved in the United States for 40 years. He was freed in 1828 by order of President John Quincy Adams and Secretary of State Henry Clay after the Sultan of Morocco requested his release.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Bauxite, iron ore, diamonds, gold, uranium, hydropower, fish, and salt

FUN FACTS

The famous Grand Mosque located in Conakry was opened in 1982. The mosque is the fourth-largest in Africa, and the largest in sub-Saharan Africa.

MUSLIM POPULATION

85%



Africa
is not a country.

Kenya is a
country.



Republic of Kenya



LANGUAGES

English (official), Kiswahili (official), and numerous indigenous languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Ugali - a dish made of maize flour; Sukuma wiki - a dish made of collard greens, onions, tomatoes, and spices; Nyama choma - roasted meat (one of Kenya's most beloved dishes); and Mandazi - an African doughnut.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Wangari Maathai established a Pan African Green Belt Network and assisted women in planting over 20 million trees. She is internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation, for which she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluorspar, zinc, diatomite, gypsum, wildlife, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Approximately 50% of Kenya's energy supply is sourced from hydroelectricity.

MUSLIM POPULATION

10.91%



rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

Rwanda is
a country.



Rwanda



LANGUAGES

Kinyarwanda (official, universal Bantu vernacular), French (official), English (official), and Swahili/Kiswahili (official)

FABULOUS FOOD

Ubugari - a paste from cassava or maize and water; and Brochettes or barbequed meat on a charcoal stove

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Rwanda's first female prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyiman fought valiantly for human rights and women's rights throughout her life.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, cassiterite (tin ore), wolframite (tungsten ore), methane, hydropower, and arable land

FUN FACTS

Rwanda's holds the world's record for female representation in parliament, with 60% of its parliamentarians being women.

MUSLIM POPULATION

5%



rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

São Tomé &
Príncipe is
a country.



Sao Tome and Principe



LANGUAGES

Portuguese, Forro, Cabo Verdian, French, Angolar, English, Lunguie, and others (including Sign Language)

FABULOUS FOOD

Calulu, the national dish, is spicy smoked fish with palm oil and local vegetables.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Maria das Neves and Maria do Carmo Silveira each served as Prime Minister of Sao Tome - from 2002-2004 and 2005-2006 respectively.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish and hydropower

FUN FACTS

The Pico Cão Grande is a needle-shaped volcanic peak whose summit rises straight up about 370 m over the surrounding terrain.

MUSLIM POPULATION

1-3%



Africa

is not
a country.

Senegal is a country.

Senegal



LANGUAGES

French (official), Wolof, Pular, Jola, Mandinka, Serer, and Soninke

FABULOUS FOOD

Thiéboudienne is considered the national dish of Senegal. It was invented by Penda Mbaye, a famous nineteenth-century cook, and consists of fresh fish, dried fish, rice, and tomato-garlic-onion-chili puree, all served with vegetables such as pumpkin, cassava, eggplant, and carrot.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Sheikh Ahmadu Bamba Mbacke, or 'Ahmadu Bamba' was born in 1270 AH (1853) into a family of scholars and spent the entirety of his youth in worship. He was a man of incredible scholarship and amazing miracles.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish, peanuts, phosphates, gold, titanium, and iron ore

FUN FACTS

Senegal has a pink lake called Retba. (Lac Rose)

MUSLIM POPULATION

95%



rabata

Africa

is not

a country.

Seychelles is
a country.



Seychelles



LANGUAGES

Seychellois Creole, French, and English

FABULOUS FOOD

Bouillon brede is a type of Seychellois soup that features different kinds of greens such as bok choy, chum choy, and Chinese lettuce. Other staples of the Seychellois diet are fresh grilled fish, coconut curry, and lentils.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Antoine Abel was considered the father of Seychellois literature. He wrote in three languages, and his novels, poems, and short stories brought Seychelles to the attention of the wider world.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish, coconuts, and cinnamon trees

FUN FACTS

The capital of Seychelles, Victoria, is the smallest capital in the world. You can explore the entire city on foot in less than a day.

MUSLIM POPULATION

1.60%



rabata

Africa
is not
a country.

Sierra Leone is
a country.



Rabata.org

Sierra Leone



LANGUAGES

English, Mende, and Temne. Krio (an English-based Creole) serves as a lingua franca and a first language for 10% of the population.

FABULOUS FOOD

Sierra Leone is also famous for its okra stew, which is made with dried fish, meat, okra, tomatoes, onions, and peanut butter.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Prof. Monty Jones is the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa and co-winner of the prestigious 2004 World Food Prize. He discovered a genetic process that creates New Rice which offers higher yields, shorter growth cycles, and more protein than its Asian and African parents.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, and chromite

FUN FACTS

Sierra Leone is home to a giant snail species that can grow up to 12" long and 6" wide. These snails are both tasty and have become popular as pets in the West - thus they are often confiscated at airports.

MUSLIM POPULATION

78.6%



rabata

Africa
is not a country.

Somalia is
a country.



Somalia



LANGUAGES

Somali (official), Arabic (official), Italian, and English

FABULOUS FOOD

Anjara, spongy pancake-like bread and Sambusas, savory triangle-shaped pastries are popular. In addition, Somalis often accompany their rice or pasta with bananas.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Jama Musse Jama is a prominent Somali ethnomathematician and author. He won the Cultura della Solidarietà award in 2014 for his efforts to "promote cultural knowledge and inquiry in Somaliland," and is noted for his research on Somali board games.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Uranium and largely unexploited reserves of iron ore, tin, gypsum, bauxite, copper, salt, natural gas, and likely oil reserves

FUN FACTS

Somalia is one of the world's largest producers of frankincense and myrrh.

MUSLIM POPULATION

99%



Africa

is not
a country.

South Africa
is a country.



South Africa



LANGUAGES

Afrikaans, English, Venda, Zulu, Xhosa, Southern Sotho, Tswana, Tsonga, Northern Sotho, Swati, and Ndebele

FABULOUS FOOD

Bobotie, a mixture of curried meat and fruit with a savory custard topping, is the national dish of South Africa. Chakalaka (a spicy tomato-bean relish) and biltong (seasoned, dried, and cured meat) are also popular.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, anti-apartheid leaders, and Zain Bhikha, Islamic nasheed singer

NATURAL RESOURCES

Gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, and natural gas

FUN FACTS

South Africa is the only country to hold World Cups in soccer, rugby, and cricket.

MUSLIM POPULATION

1.9%



rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

South Sudan
is a country.



South Sudan



LANGUAGES

English (official), Arabic (includes Juba and Sudanese variants), regional languages include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, Zande, and Shilluk

FABULOUS FOOD

Kisra, a sorghum pancake, and Ful Medames, Sudanese fava beans

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Khamis Leyano is a South Sudanese football striker. He captained the team in the 2012 CECAFA Cup in the absence of Richard Justice and James Moga.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hydropower, fertile agricultural land, gold, diamonds, petroleum, hardwoods, limestone, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, and silver

FUN FACTS

South Sudan is the youngest country in the world, having broken off from Sudan in 2011 after a bitter civil war.

MUSLIM POPULATION

6.2%

Africa

is not

a country.



rabata

Sudan is a country.

Sudan



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, and Fur

FABULOUS FOOD

Goraasa be dama - beef stew; Ful medames - fava beans; Tamia - Sudanese falafel; and Kisra - a thin sorghum flour flatbread

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Mohamed H. A. Hassan is chairman of the Council of the United Nations University (UNU) and has served as Dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Khartoum since the 80s. Manute Bol was a 7'7" NBA basketball player whose professional career spanned from 1985-1998.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, small reserves of iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Sudan is home to numerous pyramids built by the Nubians as burial tombs for their rich and royal citizens.

MUSLIM POPULATION

70%

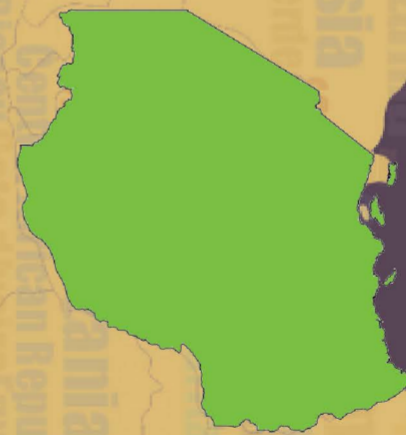


rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

Tanzania is
a country.



Tanzania



LANGUAGES

Kiswahili or Swahili (official), English (official, primary language of commerce, administration, and higher education), Arabic (widely spoken in Zanzibar), and many local languages

FABULOUS FOOD

Ugali, cornmeal with sauce, is the national dish. Palao is also beloved. It is a biriyani-like rice dish made with fragrant spices and the chef's choice of protein.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Fatuma binti Baraka has been called the "Queen of Taarab and Unyago Music" and won many awards for her music. She was inspired by Siti binti Saad, and many of her performances are available on Youtube.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hydropower, tin, phosphates, iron ore, coal, diamonds, gemstones, gold, natural gas, and nickel

FUN FACTS

Tanzania is home to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Great Wildebeest Migration, and 120 ethnic groups.

MUSLIM POPULATION

35.2%



Africa

is not
a country.

Gambia is
a country.

The Gambia



LANGUAGES

English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, and other indigenous vernaculars

FABULOUS FOOD

Benachin - rice cooked with meat or fish, vegetables, and tomatoes; and Domoda - meat stewed in peanut butter and served with rice

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta is a renowned Gambian educator now working with UNESCO. Ms. Isatou Ceesay is an environmentalist educating rural communities in The Gambia about the positive recycling of plastic waste.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish, clay, silica sand, titanium (rutile and ilmenite), tin, and zircon

FUN FACTS

The Gambia is the smallest country in mainland Africa. At 205 miles long by about 30 miles wide, it is smaller than Yorkshire, England.

MUSLIM POPULATION

96%



Africa

is not
a country.

Togo is a country.

LANGUAGES

Togo's two national languages tend to be used regionally: Ewé in the south from Lométo to Blitta and Kabiye in the north from Blitta to Dapaong.

FABULOUS FOOD

Fufu, a ball of boiled cassava, yams, or plantains served with soup is the national dish of Togo.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Victoire Tomegah Dogbé, elected in September 2020, is Togo's first female Prime Minister.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Phosphates, limestone, marble, and arable land

FUN FACTS

Togo means 'house of sea' in the Ewe language.

MUSLIM POPULATION

20%



rabata

Africa

is not

a country.

Tunisia is a
country.



Tunisia



LANGUAGES

Arabic (official, one of the languages of commerce), French (commerce), and Berber (Tamazight)

FABULOUS FOOD

Brik - thin fried pastry with savory fillings; Harissa - hot chili pepper paste; Couscous - tiny steamed balls of semolina flour (pasta); Shashouka - eggs poached in a spicy tomato sauce

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ibn Khaldun, an early scholar, was the author of al-Muqaddima - a brilliant book which is a historiography as well as a treatise on sociology.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Petroleum, phosphates, iron ore, lead, zinc, and salt

FUN FACTS

Rome's major rival, Carthage, was located in Tunisia. It was the most important trading hub. The founder of Carthage was Queen Alyssa.

MUSLIM POPULATION

98%



rabata

Africa
is not a country.

Uganda is a
country.



Uganda



LANGUAGES

English (official), Ganda or Luganda, other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili (official), and Arabic

Fabulous Food

Rolex, an egg and veggie omelette wrapped in a chapati is a popular dish. Matoke, or Plantains, are also cooked in a variety of ways from being steamed to pounded into meal.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Okot p'Bitek was a Ugandan poet whose major works were odes to urban and rural lifestyles in Uganda. Halimah Nakaayi is an Olympic middle-distance runner.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land, and gold

FUN FACTS

There are about 1245 different species of butterflies in Uganda.

MUSLIM POPULATION

13.7%



rabata

Africa

is not

a country.

Zambia is a
country.



Zambia



LANGUAGES

Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Chewa, Nsenga, Tumbuka, Lunda, Kaonde, Lala, Lamba, English (official), Luvale, Mambwe, Namwanga, Lenje, and Bisa

FABULOUS FOOD

Nshima - a maize flour porridge served with stew and vegetables;
Vitumbuwa - sweet fried dough balls commonly found at markets around Zambia and served wrapped in newspaper.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Henry Tayali was a sculptor, lecturer, and printmaker who has been described as the most famous painter in Zambia. Throughout his career, he uplifted and honored Zambian and African art.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Copper, cobalt, zinc, lead, coal, emeralds, gold, silver, uranium, and hydropower

FUN FACTS

Zambia is home to a near-blind species of rat called Ansell's mole-rats, which can actually see magnetic fields.

MUSLIM POPULATION

0.5%



rabata

Africa

is not
a country.

Zimbabwe
is a country.



zimbabwe



LANGUAGES

Zimbabwe's main languages are Shona, spoken by roughly 70% of the population, and Ndebele, spoken by roughly 20%. English is one of the 16 official languages.

FABULOUS FOOD

Sadza is the Shona word to describe a thickened porridge prepared from any grain, similar to the Ugali of East Africa and Fufu of West Africa, that is popular in Zimbabwe.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Chido Govera founded "The Future of Hope Foundation." She promotes the establishment of mushroom crops to feed and nourish the world's growing population.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Coal, chromium ore, asbestos, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore, vanadium, lithium, tin, and platinum group metals

FUN FACTS

The sound of the Victoria Falls can be heard as far as 40 kilometers away.

MUSLIM POPULATION

1%