

Resources

NOTE: Please choose the resources that are most appropriate for your age group.

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic, a central European nation southeast of Germany, puppetry is an art form with a rich tradition reaching back to the 1700s. The country's history is rich, too—and turbulent. In the twentieth century alone, Girl Guiding was disbanded three times because of the country's turmoil. Still, the Czech Republic flourished. Use the resources below to discover more about life in the Czech Republic, including its beautiful landscape and intriguing culture.

Websites

General Resources

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ez.html>
Information and statistics on the geography, people, government, military, and important issues.

A Cultural Profile Project: www.cp-pc.ca/english. Family life, traditions, spirituality, and communication.

Official website of the Czech Republic: www.czech.cz/

Information on the Czech Republic's history, foreign policy, economy, tourism, sport, arts, and folk culture.

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_republic

Information and further links on the Czech Republic's history, geography, economy, and culture.

Arts, Culture, and Food

Czech way of life: www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/W/wearefrom/czechrepublic/way_of_life.html

Links to Czech recipes: www.europeancuisines.com/TheRestOfEuropeTheCzechRepublic.html

Puppets as an important folk tradition: goeasteurope.about.com/od/czechrepublic/a/puppetscz.htm

Traditional costumes: www.angelfire.com/tx5/texaszech/Folk%20ways/Kroje/Kroje%20Article%202.htm

Guiding and Scouting

Czech Girl Guides: www.skaut.cz/mezinarodni/index.php?lang=en

History of Boy Scouting and Girl Guiding in the Czech Republic, with information about their Promise and Law, uniforms, age groups, songs, and favorite camp food.

History

History and legends of the Czech Republic: <http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech-history/>

Historical information. Good for younger readers: www.historycentral.com/nationbynation/Czech/History1.html

Land

Climate: www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT003480

Environmental issues: www.milieukontakt.nl/index.php?show=general&country_id=5#environmentalissues

Books

Cottrell, Robert. *The Czech Republic: The Velvet Revolution*. Chelsea House: New York, 2005. Detailed history on all eras, with some pictures. Good for older girls.

Lerner Publishing Group. *Czech Republic in Pictures*. Visual Geography Series. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, January 2003. Information and pictures on the land, the history, the government, the people, and the economy. Good for younger girls.

Scholastic Library Publishing. *Lands and Peoples*, Volume 4. New York: Scholastic Library Publishing, 2005.

Sioras, Efstathia. *Czech Republic: Culture of the World*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1999.



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Lebanon

Lebanon, a crossroads of civilization for millennia, is a land of vibrant cultures, traditions, customs, and religions. Located on the warm Mediterranean Sea, the country has a mild climate that supports the growth of citrus fruits, olives, beans, and other crops. Since 1937, Lebanese Girl Guides have been involved in activities ranging from farming to reforestation projects to hiking.

Websites

General Resources

CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/le.html>
Information and statistics on Lebanon's geography, people, government, military, and transnational issues.

A Cultural Profile Project: www.cp-pc.ca/english. Family life, traditions, spirituality, and communication.

Tourism in Lebanon: www.tourisminlebanon.com/about.asp

Information about Lebanese art, climate, shopping, geography, currency, and education.

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon>

Information and a variety of links on the history, geography, demographics, politics, economy, and culture of Lebanon.

Arts, Culture, and Food

The arts: www.britannica.com/eb/article-23417

Daily life: www.lebanonatlas.com/geninfo.htm

Folklore, clothing, cultural heritage, and recreation: www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-Mali/Lebanese.html

Loads of recipes, both sweet and savory: <http://lebaneserecipes.com/Lebanese.htm>

Traditional handicrafts: www.destinationlebanon.com/craftsmore.asp

History

Lebanese history from 1920 to today: www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107710.html

Land

Climate: www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002560

Geography: <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-23386>

Photos: http://www.lgic.org/en/lebanon_photos.php

Books

Amari, Suad. *Cooking the Lebanese Way*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 2003. Information on the customs, history, people, geography, and cuisine of Lebanon.

Cahill, Mary Jane. *Lebanon*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1998. The history, culture, people, and topography of Lebanon. For ages 9–12.

Roop, Peter, Margaret J. Goldstein, and Sam Schultz. *Lebanon in Pictures*. Lerner Publishing Group, 2004.

Sheehan, Sean. *Lebanon*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1998. Children's book with photographs about the culture, history, and geography of Lebanon.

Willis, Terri. *Lebanon*. New York: Children's Press, 2005. For ages 12 and up.



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Mexico

Mexico, the land of the Mayas and the Aztecs, is our next-door neighbor. You might think you know all about this land south of the border, but there's plenty to discover. Did you know, for example, that Mexico gave chocolate to the world? Below are resources offering information on contemporary Mexico, including its culture and cuisine, as well as Mexican history. Don't forget to "visit" Our Cabaña: <http://www.ourcabana.org/en/home>, one of the four world centers of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Websites

General Resources

CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mx.html>

Information and statistics on the geography, people, government, military, and transnational issues of Mexico.

A Cultural Profile Project: www.cp-pc.ca/english. Family life, traditions, spirituality, and communication.

Mexico for Kids: www.elbalero.gob.mx/index_kids.html

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico>

Information on the history, geography, demographics, politics, administrative divisions, economy, and culture of Mexico.

World Almanac for Kids: <http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/nations/mexico.html>

Arts, Culture, and Food

Daily life in the city and rural areas: www.worldbook.com/features/cinco/html/wayoflife.htm

Doña Blanca, a traditional fiesta game: www.boopadoo.net/page-Mexican+Fiesta+Game:+Do%F1a+Blanca.htm

The history of chocolate: www.mexconnect.com/mex_/mexfact/mexfactchoc.html

How to make a piñata: http://nh.essortment.com/pinatamexican_rzfa.htm

Mexican culture: www.mexicodesconocido.com.mx/english/cultura_y_sociedad/fiestas_y_tradiciones/

Recipes from appetizers to desserts: www.gourmetsleuth.com/mexican_recipes.htm

History

History of Mexico, organized by era: www.mexican-embassy.dk/history.html

History of Mexico split into the periods of pre-twentieth century, modern history, and recent history: www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/north-america/mexico/essential?a=culture

Land

Air pollution: <http://greennature.com/article827.html>

Geography and environment: www.worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Mexico

National Geographic tour of Mexico; www.nationalgeographic.com/mexico/a006.html

Books

Dahl, Michale. *Mexico*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 1997.

Milord, Susan. *40 Activities to Experience Mexico Past and Present*. Minneapolis: Sagebrush Education Resources, 1999. Aimed at grades 3-7, with activities such as making Ojo de Dios, piñatas, Spanish games and recipes and historical and contemporary information.

Stein, Conrad. *Mexico: A Golden Past: A Hopeful Future*. Englewood, N.J.: Silver Burdett Press, 1996: Information on various areas of life in Mexico and a chapter on Mexican Americans.

Stein, Conrad R. *Mexico City*. New York: Scholastic Library Publishing, 2006. All about Mexico City, from bullfighting and children's games to pollution and unemployment.



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Rwanda

Home to the famous mountain gorillas, Rwanda is also known for its music, for traditional dances that commemorate epic stories, and for its artwork, including stunning handwoven baskets, traditional woodcarvings, and ceramics. Since 1962, when Rwanda joined WAGGGS, the Girl Guide Movement has been involved in projects ranging from running agricultural cooperatives to teaching girls vocational skills.

Websites

General Resources

CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rw.html>

Information and statistics on Rwanda's geography, people, government, military, and contemporary issues.

A Cultural Profile Project: www.cp-pc.ca/english. Family life, traditions, spirituality, and communication.

Official website of Rwanda: www.gov.rw/

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda>

The history, geography, demographics, politics, administrative divisions, economy, and culture of Rwanda.

Arts, Culture, and Food

The arts and cultural institutions: www.britannica.com/eb/article-40776

Country profile: www.cp-pc.ca/english/rwanda/rwanda_eng.pdf#search=%22traditional%20rwanda%20culture%22

Eating and cooking in Rwanda: <http://www.cp-pc.ca/english/rwanda/eating.html>

Hotel Rwanda: Information on the PG-13 film, including a teacher's guide: www.hotelrwanda.com/main.html

Images of Rwanda: http://rwanda.ded.de/cipp/ded/custom/pub/content_lang_2/oid,1284/ticket_g_u_e_s_t/~/Pictures.html

National Ballet of Rwanda: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1083/is_8_78/ai_n6142333/pg_1

Recipes from Rwanda: <http://fooddownunder.com/cgi-bin/search.cgi?q=rwandan>

Rwanda's culture, including traditions, dancing, and arts and crafts: <http://www.rwandatourism.com/culture.htm>

History

Brief outline of Rwandan history, focusing especially on the 1994 genocide: <http://history1900s.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107926.html>

History of the 1994 genocide and its causes: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1288230.stm>

More detailed outline of the whole of Rwandan history: <http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-rwanda>

Land

Climate: http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/city_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT000520

Environmental issues and landscape: www.rwandagateway.org/article.php3?id_article=178&lang

Images of the Rwandan countryside, animals and people: www.trekearth.com/gallery/Africa/Rwanda/

Books

Foster, F. Blanche. *East Central Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1981.

The geography, history, industry, and way of life of these five East African nations.



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Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, an island nation in the Indian Ocean south of India, is endowed with ancient temples and heritage sites. The country was devastated by a tsunami in 2004, and is still troubled by fighting between the Sinhalese and Tamil Tigers. Girl Guiding came to Sri Lanka in 1917 when the country, then known as Ceylon, was a British colony, and now plays a vital role in providing a place where Sinhalese and Tamil girls can get to know one another.

Websites

General Resources

CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ce.html>
Information on Sri Lanka's geography, people, government, and military, and its current issues.

A Cultural Profile Project: www.cp-pc.ca/english. Family life, traditions, spirituality, and communication.

Sri Lanka Tourist Board: www.srilankatourism.org/lang/en/traveller/facts_at_glance.php

Information on Sri Lanka's population, ethnic mix, and government, as well as interesting facts, such as the national flower.

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka

Information and links on the history, geography, demographics, politics, administrative divisions, economy, and culture of Sri Lanka.

Arts, Culture, and Food

Art, music, and dance: www.info.lk/srilanka/srilankaculture/srilankaart.htm

Classical dances, masks, ancient customs, and food: <http://asiarecipe.com/srilanka.html>

Dance, handicrafts, architecture, and art: <http://sri-lanka.saarctourism.org/art-of-sri-lanka.html>

Kabaddi, a traditional game: <http://library.thinkquest.org/11372/data/kabaddi1.htm?tqskip1=1&tqtime=0410>

Photos: www.infolanka.com/photo/

Traditional recipes: www.infolanka.com/org/srilanka/food/recipes.html

Young girl who was once a Tamil fighter and left the group:

www.thehumanist.org/humanist/articles/Mitchell-SeptOct06.pdf#search=%22girl%20tamil%20fighters%22

History

Brief history, focusing especially on the civil war: www.factmonster.com/ce6/world/A0861291.html

Detailed historical information: www.britannica.com/eb/article-214602

Land

Climate: www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT002810

Geography: <http://countrystudies.us/sri-lanka/30.htm>

Images and information about Sri Lanka by locale: www.srilankatourism.org/lang/en/traveller/nature_main.php

The tsunami's effect on the environment: www.nature.org/pressroom/press/press1797.html

Books

Bennett, Gay. *A Family in Sri Lanka*. New York: Lerner Publishing Group, 1985: Depicts life in a small Sri Lankan village. For ages 7–10.

Hoffman, Sara E. *Sri Lanka in Pictures*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 2006.

Wettasinghe, Sybil. *The Umbrella Thief*. La Jolla, Calif.: Kane/Miller, 1987: A folktale for ages 5–8 about a man who travels repeatedly to the city, and each time his umbrella is stolen—by a monkey.

Zimmerman, *Sri Lanka*. New York: Scholastic Library Publishing, 1992. The geography, history, culture, industry, and people of Sri Lanka.



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