

# Anglophone Culture and Civilization





EDITORIAL

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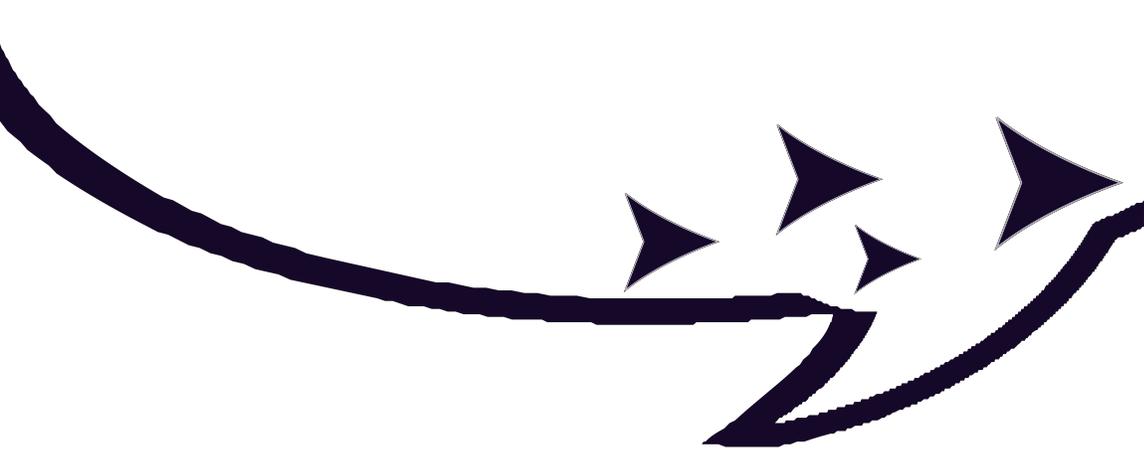


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## **Anglophone culture**

Do you learn a language through its culture or do you learn culture through its language?

It is a question that may not yet have an answer, but I think they are both connected. You cannot learn a language without knowing its culture and you cannot learn about a culture without exploring its language.

When you are teaching a language, in this case English, you have to connect students to the Anglophone culture in order for them to have a real sense of its different accents, its everyday expressions, its collocations, aphorisms, its growth and color. English is a language that has been influenced by millions of immigrants from all over the world.

Another aspect to take into account when you are learning about Anglophone culture is the arrogance of a culture that has provided trends such as the way we dress, the way we live socially, believes we strongly have in freedom of speech; a culture that has provided a way of communicating and accessing information, a new language on internet and social networks where practically everyone knows our deepest secret, not to forget entertainment such as movies, music and video games.

When you are learning English you have to become familiar with Anglophone cultural issues such as how they dress, socialize, express themselves, work, spend their leisure time and holidays, how they view and care for their resources and surroundings, how they communicate with other cultures, the way of doing business, what type of language is used informally and formally, just to name a few aspects. All of these

ingredients can make a difference in what type of language we use when we address an Anglophone person.

Those who had the opportunity to experience the culture first hand have realized how difficult it is for those who are learning the language in a non-English speaking country. Being exposed to the language at all times makes a difference. For those who have not had the opportunity to travel to an Anglo speaking country can be a little more difficult to visualize and understand the culture even if they study it using virtual tools which are great to interact from the distance.

In conclusion, language and culture are connected. If you truly want to understand how the language functions, then through its culture you can learn in which contexts you can interact. This is a process and depending on how deep you want to go; it is how deep you have to submerge yourself in that language.

If your purpose is just to study the language, to learn the basic requirements to communicate, then you do not need to understand its culture fully; you just need to know the basic linguistic components of the language, its etiquette and have enough communicative competences to make yourself understood.

**Juan Manuel Ardila Prada**

**Language Institute Director**

**Autónoma de Occidente University**

**Guest Writer**

## **The United Kingdom**

**Capital city:** London.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** It is located in the North Atlantic Ocean near Europe.

**Currency:** The Pound Sterling (GBP).

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (full name) is made up of four countries which are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland while Britain is made up of three countries which are England, Scotland and Wales. People from the UK are called British. The United Kingdom is a unitary state under a constitutional monarchy Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state of the UK.

England is one the most recognized countries in the UK, its name come from the old name Englalund and it has a very long tradition of conquers all around the world.

There are many iconic places in England. People visiting this country must see Big Ben, The London Eye or The Millennium Wheel, The Thames River, Buckingham Palace, and many Cathedrals. Visitors should definitely ride the double decker red buses.

England is home of the two oldest universities in the English speaking world, the oldest which is Oxford University and the second oldest which is Cambridge University. They are also two of the best.

British cuisine is very delicious; tea is the most common beverage and art is a passion for British people.

England is a country to visit any time of the year. There will be many things to do all year round.

**By Professor Heriberto González Valencia**

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## **The United States of America**

**Capital city:** Washington D.C. (District of Columbia).

**Official language:** English is a De facto Language.

**Location:** It is located in the North America Continent.

**Currency:** The US Dollar.

The United States of America is one of the most interesting countries around the world. Its strong economy has made it one of the most powerful countries. Many people from different countries live, work, and study there. It is made up of 50 states and a federal district. Its fifty states are represented in the country's flag; one star per state and the flag also has thirteen stripes which represent the thirteen original colonies.

The United States of America has lived a wonderful evolution throughout time. The railroad around the country which brought a lot of development; airplanes, electricity, the telephone, TVs, and many other things. But it has also had difficult times, many wars, a devastating civil war (1861-1865) which divided the country in two. The South (Confederate States) and the North (The Union), it was mainly a war about slavery. The southern states used many slaves to work in their fields and they did not want to abolish slavery.

The country is ruled by amendments; the first ten amendments of the constitution are called The Bill of Rights. Although there were many hard times about the country's equal rights, today The United States of America is one of the countries which protects every person's constitutional rights. Martin Luther King was one of the greatest leaders who worked really hard to get constitutional rights for black people in America.

Thanksgiving is the most important holiday in the United States; roast turkey with gravy, mash potatoes, pies and sodas are a very common

meal on that day. Other celebrations include Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>), Easter, Christmas, and New Year's Eve.

There are also many iconic places which are very representative from The United States of America, such as The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and donated by France in 1886. Disney World, which is one of the most visited places around the world, was created by Walter Disney who wanted to have a place for kids and adults to enjoy together. Then, there is Hollywood, home of many movie stars; McDonald's, Burger King, Wal-Mart, MicroSoft, and many others.

Harvard University is one of the most recognized universities around the country due to its contribution to research and education. It is one of the oldest universities in the whole world.

The United States of America is considered one of the best countries in the world for people to visit and enjoy a great adventure.

**By Professor Heriberto González Valencia**

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## **Canada**

**Capital city:** Ottawa.

**Official languages:** English and French.

**Location:** It is located in the northern hemisphere of America.

**Currency:** Canadian Dollar (CAD).

Canada is also called Dominion of Canada; it is the second largest country in the world after Russia. It has a considerable economic, industrial, and natural resources development with the United States and Mexico. Canada is one of the best places to live for quality of life; it is a bilingual nation with English and French being the official languages.

This country has more lakes and inland water than any other country in the world in addition to the Great Lakes on the border with the United States occupy Canadian territory, except Lake Michigan. The most important lake is Great Bear Lake and the river is Mackenzie. Canada is made up of ten provinces; Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, and three territories; Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut.

Canada has a number of national symbols such as objects, hymns, events, activities, and people that have a special meaning for the nation. The Beaver is the animal which represents the trade and economic activity. The Red Maple Leaf is the most popular symbol; the flag symbolizes the armed forces because it represents the blood spilled in the war.

The bank of Canada is responsible for the design and circulation of notes and provides information on the history of Canada. They are made in Ottawa (bills and coins) in English and French. It is important to know that each of the Canadian Provinces and territories have their own symbols.

Canada is located in the north; as a result, the general weather conditions are extremely cold. The temperatures are a little more moderate in the southern regions. Canada is a member of economic institutions and international groups including the G-8, G-20, OAS, and APEC. In December 11, 1931, Canada became member Commonwealth Country.

The most attractive place in Canada is Niagara Falls. It is made up of three waterfalls: the "Canadian Falls" (Ontario), the "American Falls" (New York), and the smaller "Bridal Veil Falls".

Since they were discovered by European settlers they have become very popular, not only because of its beauty but also as a source of power and a challenging project for environmental preservation. It is a place of tourism shared by the cities of Niagara Falls (New York) and Niagara Falls (Ontario).

Things to do in Canada: in Ottawa people can visit Parliament Hill, a stunning group of buildings that house Canada's parliament. Free tours are offered throughout the year.

The most beautiful place in Quebec is the Chateau Frontenac, a hotel where visitors can see the Saint Lawrence River.

The CN tower is the tallest free standing structure in the world and it is located in downtown Toronto. Tourists are naturally drawn to tall buildings where they can get a bird's eye view of a city.

A prized national treasure, Banff National Park is one of five national parks in the Canadian Rocky Mountains that attracts millions of visitors each year for camping, hiking, biking, skiing, fishing, or just relaxing. The resort towns of Banff and Lake Louise are both located within Banff National Park and offer a full range of accommodations, restaurants, and shops.

Hockey is the most famous sport in Canada. The National Hockey League was founded in the early twentieth century and remains the main ice hockey federation in North America. The Canadian national

team usually occupies the top positions in the world championships and the Olympics.

There are also important festivals, such as Independence Day (on July first), and Canadians Day (on November eleventh) that is celebrated to commemorate those who served their country during the war.

Canada has a variety of typical food but it is characterized by French food, like Tourtières (in French), a meat pie that can be made from pork or beef. Maple Syrup elaborated from the boiled sap of those trees which may accompany desserts like Trempettes.

**Anny Urrea**

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## **Republic of South Africa**

**Capital cities:** Pretoria, Cape Town, and Bloemfontein.

**Official languages:** Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, English, White South African, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga, and Venda.

**Location:** It is located in the southern part of the African Continent.

**Currency:** The Rand (R).

South Africa is a really large country. It is the only country in the world which has three capital cities because every one of them has different functions of the government, Pretoria (Executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial), and Cape Town (Legislative). South Africa is the 25th largest country in the world with 53 million people. Soweto and Johannesburg are the cities with the most population. South Africa is a multiethnic society (80% are of black ancestry and 8.9% are white). There are a large variety of cultures.

There are also nine provinces in South Africa, which are Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, Limpopo, North West, Free State, and Western Cape. South Africa has eleven languages and many religions although most South Africans are Christians.

South Africa has a variety of important symbols, some of them being the national coat of arms, national orders, the Springbok which is the national animal, the Blue Crane which is the national bird, the Galjoen which is the national fish, and the Protea being the national flower. South Africa is considered a developing nation; it has a large economic, political, military, cultural, and scientific development growth.

Climate in South Africa is great. They have four seasons in different months of the year but the most representative season is summer

during December and February. South Africa is the third richest country in the world in biodiversity.

Education in South Africa spans 12 years with pre-primary year, then students can go to the Tertiary Universities (Academic) or Technology Universities.

On June 11, 2010, South Africa hosted the World Cup of Soccer which is also the most famous sport in South Africa. This country was the first African nation to host the world cup.

South Africans have many holidays, some of them are; New Year's Day on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Human Rights Day on March 21<sup>st</sup>, Freedom Day on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day on December 25<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Day on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and Day of Goodwill on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

The following dates take an important place in the history of South Africa. The first one was in 1400 when the biggest ethnic group (Bantu) came over from different parts of Africa. Zulu and the Xhosa were the major historic groups in that period of time. In 1652 the first Europeans to settle in South Africa were the Dutch; they established the port of Cape Town. One of these important Dutch men was Jan Van Riebeeck. In 1852, Cape Town was taken over by the British.

From 1948 to 1994 there was a system of racial segregation in South Africa called the Apartheid. One of the most important and historic dates in the history of South Africa is 1994 when Nelson Mandela was elected president. His real name was Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela and a teacher gave him the English name Nelson. He was the first black person elected to that office post.

South Africa has multiple places where people can do many things. Cape Town is the most romantic and the most visited city where people can have a relaxed vacation. There, visitors can find a lot of restaurants, hotels and tours around the city. Kruger National Park is one of the most famous parks of South Africa. It has a wide variety of wildlife and it is the size of a small country. People can have an exciting experience with animals.

Winelands are located to the east of Cape Town, among beautiful mountains creating some stunning views. The region has cultural and historic backgrounds from the Dutch's architecture dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are really good hotels, restaurants, and obviously excellent wine.

In South Africa, people can eat different kinds of meat with side dishes, such as green salad, vegetables, corn, and mashed potatoes. The most popular dish in South Africa is the Biltong, a simple dish, which is composed of air dried beef (a type of beef jerky). On the other hand, you can also eat fruit and seafood. South Africans are one of the world's top producers of wine.

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## **Trinidad and Tobago**

**Capital city:** Port of Spain.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** It is in the southern island in the Caribbean; its location is seven miles of Venezuela's north eastern coast.

**Currency:** The Trinidad and Tobago Dollar (TTD).

Once upon a time, a navigator called Christopher Columbus decided to travel around the earth because some people thought that earth was flat and not round. Then Christopher Columbus with his sailors began to travel across the Atlantic Ocean, and he completed four trips where one of the beautiful places was called Trinidad and Tobago. Thus, Christopher Columbus landed with his sailors, and he discovered a beautiful land with friendly people.

Trinidad and Tobago is located in the southern island where people from Africa and India are the majority of the population. Its official language is English, and other languages are Hindi and Chinese. Trinidad and Tobago independence was on August 31, 1962.

Trinidad and Tobago has several festivals such as the Carnival Fetes and Diwai, a celebration or parade combining some elements such as circus, masks, etc. where people walk on the public streets. Carnival season begins on Boxing Day on December 26<sup>th</sup>, and "Festival lights" that people celebrate as an ancient Hindu tradition every year. Its symbols are the coat of arms, honor music, and national instruments.

This country has different types of clothing being a basic clothing style, but it depends on the weather conditions and temperature. The traditional clothing is a turban and safari where turban is for men and safari is for women.

Trinidad and Tobago has been influenced by many immigrants, who brought their languages and culture but this place has been only under Spanish tradition; its official religion is Roman Catholic.

The country has different dishes as Fried or Curry Bodi, Aloo Choka, Shark, and Chicken Skewers. Its tourist places are the main entertainment, places such as Aripo Caves (a home to oilbirds, or rare species), Maracas Beach, Fort George (a beautiful landscape to set up a picnic), and Caroni Bird Sanctuary (a place where people find a number of birds and mammals).

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## **Switzerland**

**Capital city:** Bern.

**Official languages:** German, French, Italian and Romansh.

**Location:** It is located in the Western and Central Europe.

**Currency:** The Swiss Franc.

Switzerland is one of the most interesting countries around the world; its strong economy has made it one of the most powerful countries. It is one of the countries that have a lot of foreign population because many people have moved in from different countries, and they have worked and studied there. It is a landlocked country geographically which is divided by cities between the Alps, the Swiss Plateau, and the Jura.

Switzerland's habitants have a good quality of life, personal care, good provision, medical care, and public transportation. Switzerland's economy is based on highly skilled workers in specialized areas such as micro-technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, as well as banking, and protection. Besides that, it is the major importer and exporter of properties and service. That's why it is one of the best places in the world to be born.

Switzerland is extensively recognized as an international research center, CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, and European laboratory of the high-tech company IBM in Rüslikon (Zurich), with a private and public sector powerfully promoting science and technology. Moreover, the birth of modern-day Switzerland was accompanied by the creation of a federal constitution that laid the permanent foundations for national cohesion and the search of the common good.

In addition to the diversity, Switzerland has over 1,500 lakes and the protection of the lakes and rivers is written into The Swiss Constitution. The daily water consumption per person is approximately 400 liters.

Switzerland is a small country; its attractions are near each other, and they can be reached quite easily as Mountain resorts, lakes, forests, castles, museums, and ancient or modern architecture that make this federal republic an excellent tourist destination. The three most important places visitors should go are: “The Matterhorn” one of the world's most famous mountains, “The Swiss National Park” the finest place to see the views of Alps, and “The Chillon Castle”, each hall of the Castle provides spectacular views of Lake Geneva.

People from Switzerland enjoy music activities such as Open-air rock pop festivals, Jazz festivals, Classical music festivals, among others.

**Olga Lucia Grueso Lemos**

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**\* Switzerland is not an Anglophone country but this student wanted to show a wonderful country with a unique culture around the world.**

## **The Bahamas**

**Capital city:** Nassau.

**Official language:** English is the official language spoken with a British-sounding accent.

**Location:** It's an archipelago, located in the Atlantic Ocean at the east coast of Florida and north of Cuba.

**Currency:** The Bahamian Dollar.

The Bahamas, officially the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, is a group of 700 islands, cays and islets. However, not all the islands are inhabited. The first settlers were the "Lucayans" (Lukku-cairi) or island people; they were a branch of the Arawak Indians who were originally from South America. They moved through the Caribbean and finally arrived in the Bahamas around the 9th Century.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus landed in San Salvador but the Spanish never colonized the Bahamas. Columbus found the Arawak natives and exchanged gifts with them. Later Spanish slave traders captured all the native Lucayans and put them to work in gold mines in Hispaniola. Within 25 years, all the Lucayans had died due to different diseases.

The Bahamas were a haven for pirates. The geography of the islands attracted pirates, then it became the golden age of piracy and by 1700 the pirates ruled Nassau.

During the English Civil War in 1647, religious refugees, called Puritans, migrated from Bermuda to the Island of Eleuthera forming the first British colony. Other groups of settlers travelled to the Bahamas and tried to form settlements in the islands but the isolated cays sheltered pirates and wreckers throughout the 17th century, as Nassau was the main port used by pirates during that time.

In 1717, the Bahamas became a British crown colony when the pirates were driven out by the British.

On July 10, 1973, the Bahamas received its independence from the United Kingdom. The Bahamas became an Independent Commonwealth country retaining Queen Elizabeth II as its monarch. They also have a governor appointed by the queen as well as a prime minister.

When Cuba was closed to US citizens in the 1950's, the Bahamas became one of the world's most popular tourist destinations and still is. The Bahamas attracts millions of tourists each year. Visitors come to enjoy its mild climate, fine beaches, and beautiful forests. Tourism generates employment and income. The places to visit are: Atlantis Paradise Island, Paradise Island, Dean's Blue Hole, Blue Lagoon Island, The Cove Atlantis, and more.

Bahamian culture is expressed most colorfully in "Junkanoo" street celebrations which feature rhythmic music, dance, and elaborate costumes and masks. They have parades twice a year, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and the 26th of December.

Each island has its own food and traditions. Fish is often the main ingredient for a traditional Bahamian dish. One of the most favorite seafoods is Conch, a mollusk prepared in many different ways, including stews, soups, fritters, and salads. Most Bahamian desserts have coconut in them. One of the most well-known Bahamian drinks is "Bahamas Mama" It is made up of bitters, nutmeg, citrus juice, rum, grenadine, and crème de cassis.

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## **Republic of Singapore**

**Capital city:** Singapore.

**Official languages:** English, Mandarin, Tamil, and Malay.

**Location:** It is an island-country located in Southeast Asia.

**Currency:** The Singapore Dollar (SGD).

Singapore is made up by an island and 62 smaller islets. It was discovered by Sang Nila Utama who founded and named it in the ancient times. In 1824 British obtained the sovereignty over Singapore and the Island was occupied by Chinese people during the Second World War. In 1963 Singapore declared their independence and joined other islands to form Malaysia but two years later the Prime Minister of Malaysia decided the expulsion of Singapore because of distrust and ideological differences.

Now Singapore is a mixture of Chinese, Malaise, and Indian people and that is why the culture, the languages, the sports, and the religions are so varied.

The two favorite activities to do in Singapore are shopping and eating. Visitors can find many places, like Little India. There are beautiful landscapes and some artistic demonstrations of Orchids (The Singapore National Flower). The Singapore Zoo is very famous for its orangutans. The Singapore Flyer, a giant Ferry similar to The London Eye, offers a panoramic view of the island.

Fort Siloso, a historical place where visitors can find original guns, cannons, tunnels, pictures, and films from the Second World War.

The most popular dishes are result of the mixture of Chinese, Malay, and Indian cultures. Some of them are: Chili crabs, a crab in a piquant hot sauce from Malaysia, Rojak, a kind of salad from India, and The Chicken Rice from China.

Singapore is known as one of the Four Asian Tigers together with Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan because of its financial development and progress. It is considered as one of the least corrupt countries in the world and it is also a country with strong laws.

**Laura Isabel Galarza**

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## **Jamaica**

**Capital city:** Kingston.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** It is located in the Caribbean.

**Currency:** The Jamaican dollar.

Jamaica is a beautiful country where visitors can find a diverse culture with mixture people. Here are some things about its history and culture.

Jamaica was inhabited by Arawak Indians when Columbus explored it in 1494 and named it St. Lago. It remained under Spanish rule until 1655 when it became a British possession. Buccaneers operated from the capital city Port Royal until it fell into the sea in an earthquake in 1692. Disease decimated the Arawaks, so black slaves were imported to work on the sugar plantations.

Jamaica became independent on August 6, 1962. Michael Manley, of the socialist People's National Party, became Prime Minister in 1972.

Their national symbols are representative of their rich history and culture. The symbols are: the flag, the coat of arms, The Ackee fruit, The Swallow Tail-Hummingbird, The Lignum Vitae flower, and The Blue Mahoe tree.

The Jamaica National Flag was first raised on Independence Day, August 6, 1962. It signified the birth of their nation. The Flag brings to mind memories of past achievements and gives inspiration towards further success. It is flown on many triumphant occasions, showing the pride that Jamaicans have in their country. The black color represents the strength and creativity of people, yellow for the golden sunshine and green for the lush vegetation of the island.

Jamaican national motto is "Out of Many One People". It was based on the population's multi-racial roots. The motto is represented on the

Coat of Arms, showing a male and female member of the Taino tribe standing on both sides of a shield which bears a red cross with five golden pineapples. The crest shows a Jamaican crocodile mounted on the Royal Helmet of the British Monarchy.

Jamaica is divided in 81 cities, 4 of them are major cities: Montego Bay, Mandeville, Spanish town and Port Antonio. The most important touristic places from Jamaica are in those cities. Doctor's Cave Beach in Montego Bay frequently tops the list of favorite places to visit with its sugary white sands and calm, aquamarine waters.

In Port Antonio visitors will find the nature's most perfect work. They will find hummingbirds, butterflies, and more orchids than anywhere else on earth.

In Mandeville people can explore the South Coast of Jamaica on the Black River Safari Tour. It includes a boat ride up Jamaica's largest navigable river through Jamaica's largest wetland area where visitors will spot some of the 100 species of birds that have been recorded there.

Jamaican culture is also richly flavored by its cuisine. The aromatic spices of the Caribbean have allowed the island's kitchens to create one of the most unusual fusions of flavors in the world. The most popular on the menu is the jerk, a marinade that can be added to almost anything. The spicy sauce includes many of the island's native ingredients. Seafood is also prevalent on the island.

The big movement known as a Rastafarianism is another important thing for the culture in Jamaica. This movement was developed in Jamaica in the 1930s among the black working-class.

The Rastafarian movement or Rasta takes the Bible as its sacred text but interprets it in an Afro-centric way in order to reverse what Rasta see as changes made to the text by white powers.

Rastafarians have a vegetarian approach to preparing food, cooking, eating, and they have introduced unique vegetarian dishes. They do not eat meat, including fish.

The movement took Haile Selassie I as its spiritual head, former Emperor of Ethiopia who was lauded for being a black leader in the heart of Africa. To the Rasta, Haile Selassie became Jah or God incarnate.

The Rastafarian movement spread around the globe from Jamaica thanks in part to the huge popularity of its most famous member, Bob Marley who was the most important singer of reggae music in Jamaica and all over the world.

The reggae star's lyrics were full of Rasta doctrine and encapsulated the spirit of the movement.

In addition to Marley, other Rasta symbols include dreadlocks and cannabis. Although not worn by all Rastafarians, the movement believes the hairstyle is supported in the bible.

The smoking of cannabis, commonly known as Ganja among followers, is regarded as a spiritual act, and often accompanied by Bible reading. Rastafarians believe smoking cannabis is sanctioned by the Bible, cleans the body and mind, and takes the soul closer to God.

As already named the most popular form of Jamaican music is reggae which has a sound that is very easy to enjoy. Reggae may be the most well-known style of music but there are many more, for example jazz, rocksteady and ska.

Celebrations are also important in the culture. Here are some of the most important celebrations for Jamaicans:

- Accompong Maroon Festival (January 6).
- Rebel Salute (January).
- Bob Marley's Birthday (August 6 ).
- Montego Bay Race (February).

- Jamaica Carnival (April).
- Trelawny Yam Festival (April).
- Caribbean Fashion Week (June).
- Ocho Rios International Jazz Festival (June).
- Reggae Sunfest (July).
- Jamaica Independence Day (August).
- Reggae Marathon (December).

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## **Republic of the Sudan**

**Capital city:** Khartoum.

**Official languages:** Arabic and English.

**Location:** It is located in The African Continent.

**Currency:** The Sudanese Pound (SDG).

Republic of the Sudan is located in the African Continent and its capital is Khartoum, the most modern city in this country. It is bordered by Egypt, the Red Sea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and South Sudan to the south, The Central African Republic, Chad, and Libya. It is the tenth largest country in Africa.

Its main cities are: Khartoum, Port Sudan, Kassala, Ed Damazin, and El Geneina. An important point that must be emphasized is that this country has many tourist places to visit.

Khartoum has a wealth of tourist attractions that include the National Museum and the Omdurman camel market. The coastline of the Red Sea is one of the major attractions in Sudan. Dinder National Park is one of the largest wildlife parks in the world which houses a wide variety of wild animal species. Jebel Marra is one of the most beautiful places because of its volcanic lakes, lovely resorts, waterfalls, and moderate climate.

Sudan falls within the Sahara desert region. Most of the country receives little rain and vegetation is sparse. Temperatures in the capital can reach 38°C any month of the year and therefore, it is a hot, dusty and windy country. However, when the rainy season arrives it can last for two-three months.

An important aspect of this country is the agriculture and the economy level because Sudan is one of the countries with the highest exportation of products such as: peanuts, sesame seeds, molasses, sugar cane, and cotton. Another important exportation in Sudan, in addition to those mentioned, is the crude oil and the mineral wealth

extraction, the coal, metal, steel, aluminum, and others precious metals.

In the sociocultural aspect and the foreign languages, Sudan has 597 groups that speak over 400 different languages and dialects.

This is important to understand the different cultures in the world. For us as Foreign Languages students is a natural curiosity going further and understanding many things that are still a mystery for our acquisition and assimilation of knowledge related to others cultures totally different from ours.

The Sudanese Arabs are by far the largest ethnic group in Sudan because most people speak Sudanese Arabic; some other Arab tribes speak different Arabic dialects like Awadia, Fadnia, Bani Arak, Najdi Arabic, Bani Hassan, Al-Ashraf, Kinanah, and Hejazi Arabic.

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## **The Commonwealth of Australia**

**Capital city:** Canberra.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** It is located in the Oceanic Continent.

**Currency:** Australian Dollar (AUD).

The commonwealth of Australia is a country colonized by Britain in 1770. It is the world's sixth largest country by total area and one of the most developed economies in the world.

This country is full of diversity. Some important facts are that it has one of the most diverse cuisines in the world but it does not have a national dish.

Australia is predominantly Christian but Australian people are free to practice any religion they choose. More than 6.5 million migrants have settled in Australia since 1945. The national language is English but other languages are valued.

Australia has beautiful landscapes. Some of the most relevant touristic places in Australia are Tasmania Island, Uluru Rock, Kakadu National Park, Sydney as the most touristic city in Australia, and much more.

There are multiple things and activities to do during the different seasons that Australia has, e.g. in summer you can go to the beach and do some outdoor activities like surfing, and camping. In fall you can do some walking and rock climbing. In winter you can do all the sports that involves snow in some parts of Australia. Finally, in spring you can also do some outdoor activities, visit different museums and important history places of the country.

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## **Republic of India**

**Capital city:** New Delhi.

**Official languages:** English and Hindi.

**Location:** It is located in the South of Asia.

**Currency:** The Indian Rupee.

The Republic of India is a beautiful country made up of twenty-eight states with a population of 1.2 billion people. It is the second-most populous country and the seventh largest in the world. Its president is Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

They celebrate all kinds of festivals. Some of the most famous or traditional are Diwali “Festival of Lights”, Holi “Festival of Colors”, Kerala Temple Festival, and Ganesh Chaturthi. There are also many beautiful places to visit such as The Lotus Temple, the India Gate in the center of New Delhi (a war memorial).

The Taj Mahal is located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh State. It was built by Emperor Mughal in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal who died when birthing her 14<sup>th</sup> child.

The Indian Cuisine is made up of very delicious dishes such as butter chicken, naan bread, goan fish curry which is a popular dish in Goa, and one of the most common and cheapest curries that you will find on the menu there.

A tradition of Indian citizens is art, they do a lot of beautiful things, e.g., Bindi from Sankrit bindu, meaning "a drop, small particle, dot". It is a small forehead decoration worn in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Traditionally it is a bright red dot applied in the center of the forehead close to the eyebrows but it can also consist of other colors with a sign or piece of jewelry worn at this location.

Henna has been used since antiquity to dye skin, hair, and fingernails, as well as fabrics including silk, wool, and leather. The name is used

in other skin and hair dyes, such as black henna and neutral henna, neither of which are derived from the henna plant.

The decoration Rangoli is thought to bring good luck. It is traditionally done by women. Generally, this practice is showcased during occasions such as festivals, auspicious observances, marriage celebrations, and other similar milestones and gatherings.

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## **Wales**

**Capital city:** Cardiff.

**Official languages:** English and Welsh.

**Location:** It is located in the West of the Island of Great Britain.

**Currency:** The Pound Sterling (GBP).

Wales is one of the most interesting countries in the United Kingdom. It's very easy to travel from England, just two hours away from the center of London by train or by car.

Cardiff, the capital city, is the center of all commerce across the country and at the same time, the meeting point of the youngest population who has moved to the capital in order to take advantage of all the cultural attractions that the city offers.

Visitors can go to many national parks and beautiful landscapes that could blow your mind with its magnificence and beauty.

Another interesting fact about Wales is its Celtic heritage, and also the castles scattered throughout the country, more than six hundred to be more precise.

Wales is a very fascinating country that can offer all the adventures, for the reckless; and all the tranquility, for those seeking a personal experience with nature, then you expect to come to discover your own journey. So, what are you waiting for to travel and discover your own journey?

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## **Nigeria**

**Capital city:** Abuja.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** it is located in Western Africa.

**Currency:** The Nigerian Naira (NGN).

Nigeria is one of the countries located in Western Africa. It characterizes because it is one of the best creating movies, it also has so much oil and their people are really proud of their country. Although, many people always have believed Nigeria is a poor country with people suffering and not having any expectative of a good life, some Nigerians say that is wrong.

In a documentary, a Nigerian woman said that when she arrived to The United States to study a major, many people were surprised because she spoke English really well and because she told them she had never been hungry. She also told people that her parents were professionals and they help other Nigerians.

Sometimes, when we read African's books we find writers telling terrible and violent stories where these people are considered slaves with no value, and when we watch some movies we can see the same things (people fighting for oil or pretty stones, people who suffer and women who are raped).

The history of this country started when European people traveled to Nigeria to buy pepper and slaves, something that brought many wars. It happened in the fourteenth and fifteenth century.

In 1960 British conquered Nigeria militarily. Years before, they have found oil that contributed a lot to the Nigerian economy but it also brought problems.

Their flag is simple; it has only two colors, green and white. The first one represents love, hope and joy and the second one represents

peace. They are distributed in vertical stripes, two green colors and white in the middle.

They speak many languages but the official language is English which they use to do business and to learn in school; when they are in their houses they speak their own languages. They are really strict, e.g., if someone is gay and that person says that in public, he/she is sent to prison for many years.

Citizens in the South of Nigeria are Christian but in the North they are Muslim. Muslims have a different style of life and they practice many rituals, e.g., in the ninth month they do not eat anything, they just drink water but when it finishes they have a party and eat all they want.

Nigerians are nice because they always take the time to ask someone about their family, if they meet someone and they only say hello, it is a rude action. They give presents when they visit someone, if the person is a man, they cannot to say it was from him, and they never give the presents with their left hand.

Nigeria has some pretty places like Yankari National Park, where you can find a variety of wild animals, birds and reptiles. Tourists travel by jeep. Niger river is 42,000 kilometers long and people say it is so clear that it is like a mirror, The Cataracts of Owu, located in Kwara, has 140 meters and its water is icy.

The weather is called “the nation of contrasts” because it changes constantly and at night temperatures are very low. Sometimes people become sick because the weather changes suddenly. The food is healthy but they do not have a main dish. Nigerians almost always include bitter leaf, cassava, coconut, rice, some fruits, and plantain in their meals.

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## **Northern Ireland**

**Capital city:** Belfast.

**Official languages:** English, Irish and Ulster Scots.

**Location:** It is located in North-East of the Island of Ireland.

**Currency:** The Sterling Pound (GBP).

Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and it was created in 1921. The country has six counties, Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone. The patron in Northern Ireland is Saint Patrick's; he was the first person who founded the first Christian church. He also taught the religion with a shamrock to pre-Christians.

Northern Ireland is divided in two political groups; they are the unionist and the Irish nationalist. The unionist group feels very comfortable being part of the United Kingdom because the UK has one of the best economies in the world. On the other hand the Irish nationalist group considers that they are Irish and that is why Northern Ireland and Ireland should be only one country. Both groups think different and it causes many problems, fights and some complains.

This country has touristic places to visit; some of them are the Belfast city hall, Carrickfergus castle, and Donaghadee Harbour. Visitors to Northern Ireland cannot leave the country without tasting the typical breakfast that is Ulster fry which usually consists in bacon, sausages, and eggs.

They practice some sports like rugby union, Gaelic football, basketball, hockey, cricket, and tennis. Sports take an important place in Northern Ireland.

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## **New Zealand**

**Capital city:** Wellington.

**Official language:** English.

**Location:** It is located in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean.

**Currency:** New Zealand Dollar.

New Zealand history is one of the most interesting around the world due to the fact that was the last habitable landmass to be discovered. It was discovered by the ancestors of the Maori in the 13th century who lived in tribal groups making tools, weapons, ornaments, catching fish, and birds.

The European settlements began in 1770. The first settlers tried to convert the Maori people to Christianity. They also taught them farming skills, reading, and writing. As more settlers arrived the British government decided to take control of the land. In 1840, the Maori signed the Treaty of Waitangi with representatives of the British Queen; they were promised ownership of their lands and the right to be British citizens.

From 1860 to 1880, war broke out and the Maori were pressured to retrieve their lands, which were confiscated or bought by settlements. New Zealand made money by selling wool and gold overseas; in 1870, the government helped British citizens start a new life in New Zealand. Railways were built and towns expanded.

From 1890 to 1940, New Zealand had a great social change; it was the first country to give women the right to vote. During the First World War New Zealand joined Britain to fight against Germany. They suffered from the world wide depression and voted for a government that helped the working class to give everyone a decent living standard. During the Second World War New Zealand troops served overseas.

In 1950, New Zealand wanted to expand its horizons and saw beyond Britain which had been the main market for the country, and it began to sell its goods to different countries. It was increasingly influenced by the United States of America. At the same time it managed to keep its identity as an independent nation.

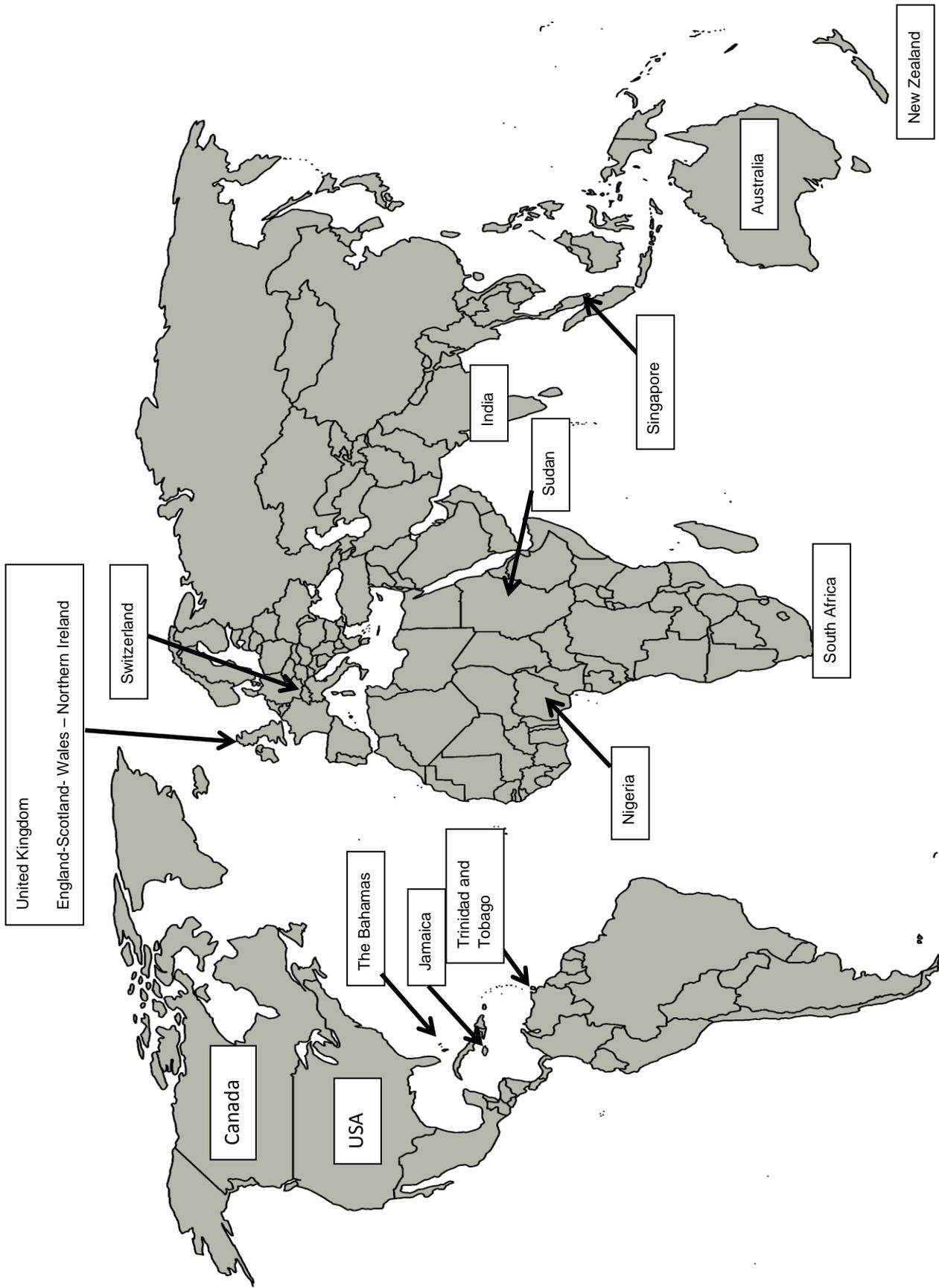
After the Second World War a lot of the Maori moved to the cities and the government began to take their claims and concerns about the treatment received by the government seriously. The Maori started to revive their culture and language traditions.

Since 1970, many people from around the world have been allowed to settle in New Zealand, making it a warm welcoming country, full of rich different cultures from many different ethnicities from around the world.

A strong economy, political stability, and low crime levels have given New Zealand the sixth place on the top ten countries to live in, according to lifestyle9.com.

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