



MAP DETECTIVE

BUILD THE EVIDENCE

Use maps to investigate where a country is, identify geographic patterns, and build an explanation supported by evidence.



YOUR MISSION

Build a useful map of the country, compare two maps to uncover a geographic pattern, and use evidence to explain what the pattern may reveal.

NAME _____



DATE _____



COUNTRY _____



BOOK _____



1 QUICK PROFILE

Capital: _____

Major language(s): _____

Currency: _____

Continent: _____

Population: _____

One major world region: _____

DRAW THE FLAG



Choose one color or symbol. What does it represent?

2 BUILD YOUR REFERENCE MAP

Add a blank country map or sketch its outline. Create a reference map another student could use to understand the country.

3 ESTABLISH THE LOCATION

Describe the country's relative location.

Where is it in relation to a continent, ocean, region, or nearby countries?

How might its location influence its connections to other places?
Consider trade, transportation, migration, climate, or shared culture.

Which physical feature most shapes the country's geography? Why?

MAP CHECK

- ☐ Capital
- ☐ Two neighboring countries or nearby bodies of water
- ☐ Two important physical features
- ☐ One important human feature
- ☐ Compass rose
- ☐ Map key
- ☐ Scale or approximate distance
- ☐ Map title

A human feature could be a city, port, road, railroad, dam, or farming area.

MAP DETECTIVE ANALYZE THE EVIDENCE



4 COMPARE TWO MAPS

Choose two maps that show different kinds of information. At least one should show physical geography.
Examples: climate + population, elevation + transportation, rainfall + agriculture, rivers + major cities.

MAP A

What does the map show?

What important pattern or detail do you notice?

Source: _____

MAP B

What does the map show?

What important pattern or detail do you notice?

Source: _____

PUT THE EVIDENCE TOGETHER

What relationship or pattern appears when you compare the maps?

How might geography help explain this pattern?

What evidence supports your explanation?

What can these maps not prove or explain?

5 ANALYZE A REGION

Choose one physical, cultural, economic, or political region connected to the country.

REGION: _____

TYPE: ☐ Physical ☐ Cultural ☐ Economic ☐ Political

What characteristic connects the places in this region?

What evidence shows that this country belongs—or partly belongs—to it?

Why might someone draw the region's boundaries differently?

6 CLOSE THE CASE

GEOGRAPHIC CLAIM

Complete the statement using evidence from your maps:

The country's geography influences _____

because _____

Best supporting evidence: _____

BOOK LENS

Did the book support, complicate, or add a human perspective to anything shown on the maps?

SOURCE RECORD

1. Map title / creator / website or publication:

2. Map title / creator / website or publication:

3. Other source:



MAP DETECTIVE REMINDER

Maps reveal patterns, but patterns do not prove cause. Compare sources, consider what the maps leave out, and support your explanation with evidence.

