

AREA STUDY ORGANIZER



Record facts and information about a geographical or cultural area. Organize the information into cultural/social, geographic, political, and economic characteristics.

Cultural/Social

What are the beliefs and customs of the people in this area? How do people behave, interact and organize their lives?

Cultural

- **What guides the behavior of the people in the area?** Beliefs, norms, stigmas, values, and ideology.
- **Religion:** Rites and rituals, Holy Books, sin/salvation, views on life after death, etc.
- **Customs, traditions, and rituals.**
- **Language and symbols.**
- **Artifacts:** Material objects, architecture, and artistic creations.
- **Technology:** Knowledge/techniques used to create goods and services such as clothing, shelter, weapons, and medicine.
- **Art, music, dance, literature and cuisine.**

Social

- **Equality:** How are various segments of the population (e.g. ethnic, religious, gender, LGBT, and other relevant groups) treated? Are they guaranteed equal rights and protection?
- **Health:** Access to health care (availability and cost), life expectancy, common illnesses and conditions, etc.
- **Education:** Cost of schooling, years of schooling, literacy rates, etc.
- **Security:** Crime, violent conflicts, civil war, etc.

Geographic

What are the physical features of the area? How do the physical features of the area impact the lives of the people living there?

Physical environment

- **Location**
- **Climate, seasons and natural disasters**
- **Natural resources**
- **Oceans and rivers**
- **Mountains**
- **Soil and vegetation**

Human environment

- **Population**
 - Increases and decreases
 - Distribution and density
 - Migration
- **Urban areas vs. rural areas**
- **Epidemics, famines, and droughts**
- **Pollution**

Political

What form of government do they have? How much political/civil freedom do the people have?

- **Form of government:** E.g. monarchy, autocracy, or democracy.
- **Political leaders:** E.g. king, president, or dictators.
 - How did the leader(s) come into power? E.g. heredity, election, or by force.
- **Are elections free and fair?** Does everyone have a right to vote? How easy is it to vote?
- **Branches of the government** (e.g. executive, legislative, judicial) and their powers.
- **Civil liberties:** Do people have the freedom to express their views? To what extent does the government interfere in people's lives? Is the media free and independent?
- **Rule of law:** Is the judiciary independent? Are the criminally accused given a fair and public hearing? Does law enforcement operate professionally, independently, and with accountability?
- **International relations:** Alliances, treaties, conflicts, wars, etc.

Economic

How are people making a living and acquire the things they need? What goods and services are produced or traded?

- **Economic organization and government control:** E.g. laissez-faire, communism, feudalism, etc.
- **Money/Currency**
 - Medium for exchanging goods and services: E.g. gold/silver, coins/paper bills.
 - What determines the value of the currency?
- **The wealth of the society:** GDP, wealth per person, etc.
- **Labor market:** What jobs are available? How many are unemployed?
- **What are the most important industries?** E.g. agriculture, retail, oil/gas, and tourism.
- **International trade:** Exported and imported goods, trade organizations, trade routes, etc.

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NAME:

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TOPIC:

Cultural/Social	Geographic
Political	Economic