

20 LESSONS

COUNTRIES **OF THE** **WORLD**

Reading passages, Factual Q&A,
Discussion Questions, Vocabulary &
Place Name Exercises



BOOK 1

ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE RESOURCES

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Please note: In 2021, the government of Turkey changed the spelling of the country's name to Türkiye (pronounced *Tur-kee-yeah*) through the United Nations. On 5 January 2023, a US State Department spokesman made the following announcement: "The Board on Geographic Names retained both 'Turkey' and 'Republic of Turkey', the previous spelling, as conventional names, as these are more widely understood by the American public. The department will use the spelling that you saw today [Türkiye] in most of our formal diplomatic and bilateral contexts, including in public communications, but the conventional name can also be used if it is in furtherance of broader public understanding." This learning resource acknowledges the change of official name but uses the conventional spelling of the country's name.

ARGENTINA

Argentina is located on the eastern coast of South America. It is the eighth largest country in the world and the second largest in South America after Brazil. The country



is bordered by Chile to the west, Bolivia and Paraguay to the north, Brazil to the northeast, Uruguay and the South Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Drake Passage to the south. The country has a diverse landscape that includes the Andes Mountains in the west, the flat Pampas grasslands in the center, and subtropical forests in the northeast.

The climate in Argentina is mainly temperate and arid, but it can vary from tropical in the north to subpolar in the south. The population of

Argentina is over 44 million people. Spanish is the official language, although many people also speak Italian and German.

The capital city is Buenos Aires. Other important cities include Cordoba, Rosario, Mendoza, and Mar del Plata. The currency used in Argentina is the Argentine peso. Argentine cuisine is known for its beef and wine, and is also influenced by Italian and Spanish cuisine. Music is an important part of Argentine culture and includes genres such as tango, folk, and rock.

Tourist attractions in Argentina include the Iguazu Falls, the Andes Mountains, the Perito Moreno glacier, and the city of Buenos Aires itself.

Argentina was a major destination for immigrants during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Political and economic instability during the 20th century led to periods of military dictatorship and economic crisis. In recent years, the government has taken steps to improve the economy and restore stability, leading to a resurgence of hope for a bright future.

Place names

Andes Mountains	Chile	Pampas
Argentina	Cordoba	Paraguay
Atlantic Ocean	Drake Passage	Perito Moreno Glacier
Bolivia	Iguazu Falls	Rosario
Brazil	Mar del Plata	South America
Buenos Aires	Mendoza	Uruguay

Questions

1. Which countries border Argentina?
2. What are the different types of landscapes found in Argentina?
3. What is the official language of Argentina?
4. What is the population of Argentina?
5. What is the capital city of Argentina?
6. What is the currency used in Argentina?
7. What are some famous tourist attractions in Argentina?

Exercises

Read the definitions of words and phrases. Then complete each sentence with one of the bold words or phrases.

- a. **resurgence**: a revival or increase of something that had been weak or inactive
- b. **subtropical**: relating to the regions between the tropics and the temperate zones
- c. **economic crisis**: a situation where a country or region faces serious problems with its economy, such as high inflation, unemployment, or debt
- d. **military dictatorship**: a form of government where the political power is held by the armed forces and their leader
- e. **political instability**: a situation where the government or the political system is weak, uncertain, or unpredictable
- f. **tango**: a type of dance and music that originated in Argentina and Uruguay
- g. **folk**: relating to the traditional culture and customs of a group of people
- h. **arid**: very dry, having little or no rain
- i. **immigrant**: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country
- j. **subpolar**: relating to the regions near the North or South Pole

1. Florida has a _____ climate, which means it has hot and humid summers and mild winters.
2. She is an _____ from China who moved to Canada when she was 10 years old.
3. The festival celebrates the _____ music and art of the local community.
4. Some parts of Australia have a very _____ climate, making it hard for plants and animals to survive.
5. The _____ in the region makes it difficult for foreign investors to trust its future prospects.
6. The _____ is a passionate and elegant dance that requires skill and coordination.
7. There has been a _____ of interest in classical music among young people in recent years.
8. The people suffered under a _____ for many years until they finally gained their democracy.
9. The country faced an _____ in 2008, which resulted in many people losing their jobs and homes.
10. Antarctica is a _____ continent that has very low temperatures and long periods of darkness.

Choose the correct words in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. The capital city of Argentina is [Cordoba / Buenos Aires / Mendoza].
2. Other major cities in Argentina include [Cordoba and Mendoza / Rosario and Bolivia].
3. Argentina is bordered by the [North Atlantic Ocean / South Atlantic Ocean].
4. Argentina shares borders with [Bolivia and Paraguay / Brazil and Colombia].
5. Argentina's diverse landscape includes the [Andes / Alps] Mountains in the west, and the flat [Tundra / Pampas] grasslands in the center.
6. The largest city in Argentina is [Mar del Plata / Buenos Aires].
7. Argentina is located on the [western / eastern] coast of South America.
8. Tourist attractions in Argentina include the [Rosario / Iguazu] Falls and the [Perito Moreno / Amazon] glacier.

Discussion

1. Argentina has a diverse landscape that includes the Andes Mountains, the flat Pampas grasslands, and subtropical forests. Have you ever visited or lived in a country with a landscape like Argentina? How does the landscape of your country compare to Argentina's landscape?

2. Music is an important part of Argentine culture and includes genres such as tango, folk, and rock. What type of music is popular in your country? How does it compare to the music of Argentina?

3. Tourist attractions in Argentina include the Iguazu Falls, the Andes Mountains, the Perito Moreno glacier, and the city of Buenos Aires itself. Which of these attractions would you like to visit if you had the chance? Are there any famous attractions or natural wonders in your country that tourists like to visit?