

# The *Country fact sheets* teacher's guide

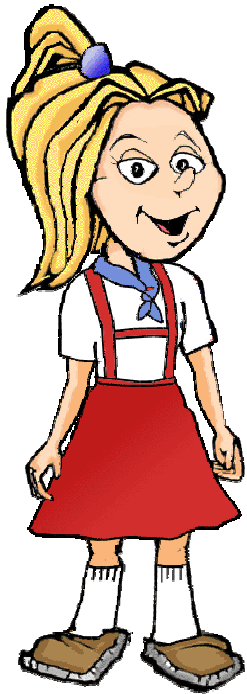


Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

The **Country Fact Sheets** series is presented to you by the Réseau In-Terre-Actif and produced with the support of the government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

## What are the 'Country Fact Sheets'?



The ***Country Fact Sheets*** are presented to you by the Réseau In-Terre-Actif, and were created in collaboration with the Canadian Government through the Canadian International Development Agency.



The *Country Fact Sheets* were created for students in their final year of primary school, and are composed of 10 educational guides that each explore a developing nation.

The guides embody an educational approach that encourages action, interaction, and engagement on the part of students as they explore the challenges of international development.

Furthermore, the guides develop in students an awareness of global challenges that encourages critical thinking, and students' participation in their community.

Note that teachers and educational presenters are free to use the guides in their entirety, or to select and employ sections of the guides to meet their educational objectives.

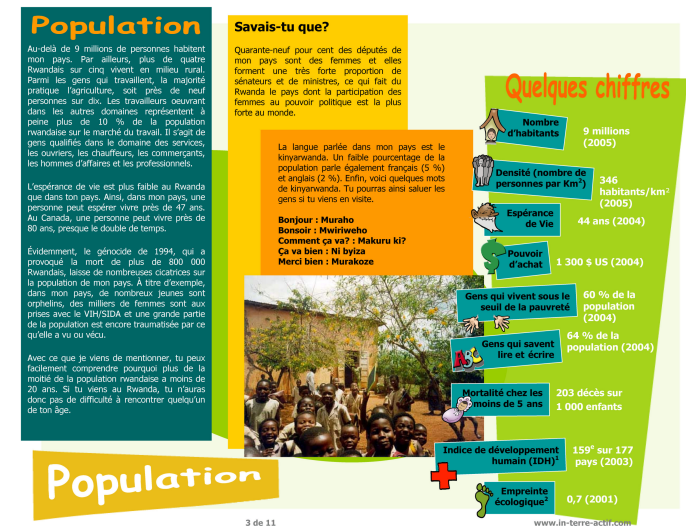
## Generally speaking, the guides consist of:

- A character from the country accompanies the students in their discovery;
- Factual information on each country (description of the country, population, history, culture, etc.);
- Highlight of an international development project funded by the Canadian Government in the country, and the impacts on the local population;
- Suggestions to students of actions they can take, and how they can contribute (in their own way) to improve the world;
- An educational game created for students;
- Pertinent referencing of information;
- A glossary of the more difficult words;
- Pictures, maps, and illustrations that enrich students' learning experience;
- Visual and audio content (whenever possible).

## How to use the *Country Fact Sheets* with your students?

Here are some ideas on how to use this educational tool:

- Split students up into workgroups. Each group explores a guide, writes down their most interesting discoveries (for example on Bristol board), and presents them to the rest of the class. The posters are put up in the class or in the school.
- The students explore a guide in workgroups. Each workgroup explores a specific theme or issue, and presents their discoveries to the rest of the class.
- After having explored a country, students are invited to research Canada in order to compare similarities and differences between the two countries.
- The teacher questions students after they have read a guide to ensure comprehension on the part of the students.
- Following the exploration of a guide, the teacher and students prepare questions and invite a person originally from the country studied (or a person who has visited the country) to the class.
- The teacher proposes that students support an international cooperation project in the country studied.
- Students organize kiosks in the school to present the countries and to share the associated educational games with others.
- During one class, students complete one or two educational games from the guide that was studied.



- Students live the culture of a country during a special activity day (ex. a day with traditional food, songs, poems, clothes, etc.) following supplementary research on the Internet and through examining photos.
- Students write to the Réseau In-Terre-Actif to share their activities and what they learned. They can send photos by email ([rita@in-terre-actif.com](mailto:rita@in-terre-actif.com)) or by visiting the website [www.in-terre-actif.com](http://www.in-terre-actif.com) (click « Send us your texts »).

## What are the links between the Guides and Positive Change ?

The *Country Fact Sheets* incorporate various skills that youth must master during their education. Here is a list of some of the competencies included in the Guides :



- ☐ Research skills
- ☐ Critical thinking skills
- ☐ Efficient work habits
- ☐ Creative skills
- ☐ Cooperation
- ☐ Communication skills
- ☐ Development of personal identity

The Guides can be employed to supplement curriculum in various disciplines including; social sciences, languages, the arts, personal development, and social development.

Furthermore, the teacher can use the Guides to evaluate their students' acquisition of various competencies.

The *Country Fact Sheets* contribute to the development of students' reading skills, their understanding of how a country is organized, the exploration of how a society and country can change, and foster an open-mindedness to other countries and cultures.

By using the *Country Fact Sheets* in French or English courses, students read the various texts (text, tables, statistics, etc.) and can write their own various texts, and communicate their knowledge, discoveries, and opinions orally.

In the arts disciplines, students can apply and develop their creative talents through educational games included in the Guides. Equally, they can develop an appreciation for art from other cultures, and can use these new influences to inspire their own artistic creations.

Finally, in the area of personal development, students gain an understanding of other ways of life. This understanding and experience in turn informs their sense of morality. Thus students are empowered with the ability to take well-informed positions on issues that are defined by moral ambiguity.