

# Optional Africa (Extra Credit) “COUNTRY IN A BOX” Project

Students who would like extra credit in Social Studies are welcome to create a “Country in a Box” project, like we did for Latin America, but on an **African** country of their choosing. Country choices must have teacher approval before beginning and projects must be turned in to Mrs. Steele by **Friday, May 16**.

This project is worth up to 36 points of extra credit, which should be enough to raise overall grades by one full letter (example: C+ to B+). These projects will be graded using the attached rubric.

**Websites to help with your researching are included on Mrs. Steele's classroom website under the Social Studies tab (<http://SteeleSixthGrade.weebly.com>).**

**Chosen Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Outside Cover/Lid:

This will be the first impression that people see when they look at your project. Therefore, your cover should be inviting, colorful, and should make people want to open your box and explore what is inside.

Therefore, there should not be much blank space on the cover. Your cover must include the following:

- Country Name
- Your Name
- Colors that represent your country (this is likely the colors from your country's flag)
- Pictures that represent the culture, traditions, and landscape of your country

## Inside of the Lid:

This part of the project will include specific information about your country. This area is designated for “Quick Facts” about your country, which should be displayed in a neat and creative way. This section must include the following details:

### Name of Your Country

#### Quick Facts:

1. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** – This is the value of all goods and services produced within your country each year. It is an indicator of your country's overall wealth.  
GDP for the United States in 2012, as a point of comparison, was \$15.68 trillion.
2. **Per Capita GDP** – This is the amount of money that each person in the country would have if the country's GDP was shared equally between all members of the population. Per Capita GDP is an indicator of the country's standard of living.  
Per Capita GDP for the United States in 2012, as a point of comparison, was \$49,965.27.
3. **Life Expectancy for Males and Females** – This is the average age that people die in your country.
4. **Literacy Rate** – This is the percent of people who are considered literate (able to read and write).  
As a point of comparison, the entire world's literacy rate in 2010 – the percent of people living on our planet who were 15 years old or older and could read and write – was 84.1% and 88.6% for men and 79.7% for women.
5. **Infant Mortality Rate** – This is the number of infant deaths (babies under 1 year old) per 1,000 live births. This is often used as an indicator of a country's level of health.  
As a point of comparison, the Infant Mortality Rate in the United States was about 5.2 in 2013.

6. **Arable Land** – This percent of total land area tells the amount of land in your country that is used for farming or animal grazing.
7. **Population Density** – This is the number of people that would live on each square mile or square kilometer of land in your country, if the homes of all members of the population were equally spaced between your country's borders.
8. **Poverty Rate** – This is the percent of people in your country who live in poverty, defined as lacking both money and the basic necessities needed to successfully live, such as food, water, education, healthcare, and shelter.

As a point of comparison, the United States' poverty rate was about 15.1% in 2010.

9. Name of Currency (money) and Exchange Rate with the U. S. Dollar
10. Language(s) Spoken
11. Two historical events that have happened in your chosen country during your lifetime. A concise description of these events should include the date(s), any important names, and location.

#### **Customs and Courtesies:**

1. Describe at least two important customs in your country.
2. Describe at least two ways that people greet each other.

#### **Government:**

Name and describe/define the type of government in your country. Use sixth grade language.

#### **Climate:**

Name and describe/define the climate type in your country. Use sixth grade language.

#### **Bottom (Where the pizza would be placed):**

This part of your project will contain structures that are representative of your country. You must build a model of a geographical feature that is detailed, but small enough to fit in a closed pizza box.

#### **A major geographical feature (mountain range, rain forest, canyon, volcano...)**

1. Name of the geographical feature (label)
2. Colors that represent the feature (snowcapped mountains, green trees...)
3. A brief description of facts about the feature (height, depth, length, location, type...)

#### **Flag:**

1. Colored sketch or picture of the flag of your country
2. A short description of the flag, including what the colors symbolize, what the symbols represent, etc.
3. The country's Independence Day and who they won their independence from.

#### **Map:**

1. Download the appropriate map from Mrs. Steele's website.
2. Color your country.
3. Name your country's capital city and indicate its location on the map.
4. Tell your country's absolute location (latitude and longitude coordinates)
5. Write 2 or 3 sentences about your country's relative location, or location in relation to other countries, oceans, large bodies of water, etc.