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PASSPORT SERIES

AFRICA



Author: Heather Knowles
Contributors: Nancy Klepper
Editor: Jonathan Gross
Original Illustrations: Larry Nolte
Design and Layout: Kati Baker

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*All statistics are based on information from 2010.

**For further information on pronunciations, research foreign language dictionaries and/or the Internet.

Metric Conversions

The purpose of this page is to aid in the conversion of measurements in this book from the English system to the metric system. Note that the tables below show two types of ounces. Liquid ounces measure the volume of liquids and have therefore been converted into milliliters. Dry ounces measure weight and have been converted into grams. Because dry substances such as sugar and flour may have different densities, it is advisable to measure them according to weight rather than volume. The measurement unit of the cup has been reserved solely for liquid, or volume, conversions.

| Conversion Formulas | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------|
| when you know | formula | to find | | |
| | | when you know | formula | to find |
| teaspoons | $\times 5$ | milliliters | $\times .20$ | teaspoons |
| tablespoons | $\times 15$ | milliliters | $\times .60$ | tablespoons |
| fluid ounces | $\times 29.57$ | milliliters | $\times .03$ | fluid ounces |
| liquid cups | $\times 240$ | milliliters | $\times .004$ | liquid cups |
| U.S. gallons | $\times 3.78$ | liters | $\times .26$ | U.S. gallons |
| dry ounces | $\times 28.35$ | grams | $\times .035$ | dry ounces |
| inches | $\times 2.54$ | centimeters | $\times .39$ | inches |
| square inches | $\times 6.45$ | square centimeters | $\times .15$ | square inches |
| feet | $\times .30$ | meters | $\times 3.28$ | feet |
| square feet | $\times .09$ | square meters | $\times 10.76$ | square feet |
| yards | $\times .91$ | meters | $\times 1.09$ | yards |
| miles | $\times 1.61$ | kilometers | $\times .62$ | miles |
| square miles | $\times 2.59$ | square kilometers | $\times .40$ | square miles |
| Fahrenheit | $(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times \frac{5}{9}$ | Celsius | $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32$ | Fahrenheit |

Equivalent Temperatures

$32^{\circ}\text{F} = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ (water freezes)
 $212^{\circ}\text{F} = 100^{\circ}\text{C}$ (water boils)
 $350^{\circ}\text{F} = 177^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $375^{\circ}\text{F} = 191^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $400^{\circ}\text{F} = 204^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $425^{\circ}\text{F} = 218^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $450^{\circ}\text{F} = 232^{\circ}\text{C}$

Common Cooking Conversions

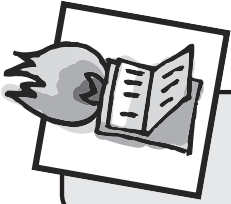
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup = 120 milliliters
 12 fluid ounces = 354.88 milliliters
 1 quart (32 ounces) = 950 milliliters
 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon = 1.89 liters
 1 Canadian gallon = 4.55 liters
 8 dry ounces ($\frac{1}{2}$ pound) = 227 grams
 16 dry ounces (1 pound) = 454 grams

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Welcome to Botswana!

Botswana, formerly the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland, is a landlocked country in southern Africa. The country is flat—70% of it being the Kalahari Desert. Since its independence in 1966, Botswana has risen from being one of the most impoverished countries in Africa to one of the most successful. Botswana's economy has developed and grown due to its diamond, tourism, and manufacturing industries.



FAST FACTS

- Official Name:** Republic of Botswana (*Lefatshe la Botswana*)
- Location:** Botswana is located in southern Africa, to the north of the country of South Africa.
- Population:** 2,029,307 (2010 estimate)
- Capital City:** Gaborone (also the largest city)
- Area:** 224,711 square miles
- Major Languages:** English, Setswana
- Major Religions:** Traditional religions and Christianity, as well as Islam, Hindu and Baha'is
- Currency:** The *pula*; 1 pula = 100 thebe
- Climate:** Botswana has a semiarid climate. The winters are warm and the summers hot.
- The Land:** Botswana features mostly flat or gently rolling tableland. The Kalahari Desert is found in the southwest.
- Type of Government:** Parliamentary Republic
- Flag:** The Botswana flag is light blue, with a horizontal black stripe across the middle. On either side of this black stripe is a small white stripe. The light blue color symbolizes rain and the white and black bands represent racial harmony.
- Coat of Arms:** The Botswana coat of arms features a traditional African shield, a zebra rearing on each side. The shield features three cogwheels, representing industry; three waves, symbolizing the country's need for water; and a bull's head that emphasizes the importance of cattle herding. Each of the zebras holds an item: on the left, an ivory tusk (once an important trade industry in Botswana); on the right, an ear of sorghum (a major crop in Botswana).
- Official Animal:** Zebra
- Motto:** "Pula" (Rain)



Natural Environment

Botswana is landlocked, surrounded by South Africa on the south and east, Namibia to the north and west, and Zimbabwe and Zambia to the northeast. Much of the land is low hills and rolling plains. The highest point, Tsodilo Hill (5,922 feet), is located in the northwestern corner of the country. The Okavango River is extremely important to the country, bringing vast amounts of water from the highlands of Angola to Botswana's dry regions. Instead of flowing into the sea, the Okavango River flows into a large depression known as the Okavango Swamp and Ngami Lake in the northern part of the Botswana plateau.

The western and southern two-thirds of the country are part of the large Kalahari Desert. The country experiences light rainfall and droughts, which vary from year to year in their severity. Most precipitation occurs in the summer, which takes place from October through April (since Botswana is located in the southern hemisphere). Summers are hot, with temperatures reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the day. Winters are considerably cooler, with temperatures around or below freezing.

Dry scrub and small trees are located in the savanna regions of the north, and the desert is home to sparse thorn bushes. The vast amounts of sand and dry soil make agriculture virtually impossible. But the country has significant mineral deposits of diamonds, copper, coal and nickel.

Botswana is home to Blue Wildebeests, antelopes, African Wild Dogs, flamingos and other birds, and many mammals. One of the country's national parks, Chobe National Park, has the world's largest population of African elephants. The Chobe and other parks and reserves attract safari-taking tourists.



A HISTORY OF BOTSWANA

Botswana's modern history began around the end of the 18th century, when the Tswana people entered the territory and overtook the local people, called the San. During the 19th century, the country was invaded by several neighboring tribes. Khama III, chief of the Tswana's Bamangwato tribe, appealed to Britain for assistance. The British provided protection from the invaders. In 1885, this alliance established the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland.

In the early 20th century, rule was divided between British authority and an evolving tribal government. In 1934, tribal rule was regularized, though the British continued to consult and advise. In 1964, Britain accepted tribal proposals for a democratic self-government. In 1965, a constitution was enacted, which allowed general elections to take place. Botswana achieved independence on September 30, 1966, under the presidency of election-winner Seretse Khama.

In the years following independence, Botswana maintained no armed forces. Attacks by Rhodesian and South African troops, however, led to the formation of the Botswana Defense Force in 1977. The United States had a large role in the training and development of the organization's leadership. In the absence of military threat, the BDF focuses on disaster preparation, enforcement of poaching restrictions, and foreign peacekeeping. Ian Khama, son of Botswana's first president, resigned his leadership of the BDF in order to assume the presidency in 2008.

Botswana's economy is one of the fastest growing in the world. The country, one of the world's poorest countries at their independence, is now considered a middle-income country. Much of Botswana's economy is found in mining, particularly diamonds.

While the economy booms, Botswana's citizens face difficult challenges. Poverty and unemployment are high, and the developing education system has difficulty adequately training workers for the advanced economic conditions. The population is also being devastated by the AIDS pandemic. Botswana has one of the highest infection rates in the world, with approximately one in every six citizens affected. The young government is working hard to overcome these problems while continuing to lead Botswana to a promising future.

In Your Classroom

Using colorful paper or poster board and paints, have students make Botswana flags to hang in your classroom.

Draw a map of Botswana, labeling its major cities, rivers and desert. Make this map large enough to hang in the classroom so everyone can see it and use it for reference when discussing the country.



Daily Life

More than half of Botswana's population lives in rural areas. Many of these people farm only enough to feed themselves. Others raise livestock – primarily cattle, which is exported for profit. Some of the largest cities in Botswana include the capital of Gaborone, along with Francistown and Molepolole. There are still many *Bushmen* living in the country, though their population has dropped beneath 10,000. These people live in the wild as traditional hunter-gatherers.

Education

Since its independence, Botswana has made vast improvements to their education system. The discovery of diamonds and resultant economic wealth allowed the government to direct more efforts towards education. Students are guaranteed ten years of basic schooling, after which they are awarded a Junior Certificate. Secondary school is available, but not required; students must pay their own way, as well. After two years of secondary education, a Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education is awarded.

The brightest students can continue at one of six technical colleges around the country. Two of the best and most popular of these, the University of Botswana, Botswana College of Agriculture and the Botswana Accountancy College, are located in Gaborone. Training schools are also a popular option for those with a secondary education certificate.

Entertainment

The people of Botswana can pass the time with natural pursuits. There is much to see in this beautiful country. Game and bird watching is common in places like the Okavango Delta and the Chobe Game Reserve. The environment provides numerous sightseeing and outdoor activity opportunities. At home, people can listen to radio stations or watch BTV (Botswana Television). They can also surf the Internet.

The Daily Life of Bushmen

Life is quite different for members of Bushmen tribes. This dwindling society lives off of the land and what nature provides. Villages are mobile, usually centered on a reliable source of water. Water is extremely important, as droughts can occur at any time. The men of a village do most of the hunting, though women sometimes participate, as well. Women gather other necessities, such as fruit, berries, and ostrich eggs. Many of the tribes have converted to agriculture-based societies as a result of the country's push for modernization.



Children are expected to play with one another, and little else. In fact, relaxation and recreation are important parts of Bushmen life. Much time is spent on conversation, music, and dance. Concepts of government and economy are more relaxed, with many village decisions made by consensus. The economy is often gift-based. Villagers will give one another important items on a regular basis, rather than trading or buying and selling.