***Ghana***

Political Geography

Ghana is a country located in West Africa along the Guinea Gulf bordered by the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Togo. Ghana is also one of the only eight countries that passes through the Prime Meridian. The country is made up of 10 regions. The capital, Accra, is in the southeast of Ghana along the coast. The tribal and ethic regions are the Mole-Dagbani peoples who are in the north. The north central area has the Guam group. The southeast is dominated by the Ewe and Ga-Adangme people. And the west, center, and south areas are where you can find the Akan and Ashanti peoples.

Ghana is a constitutional republic, but they still have a king, or disputably, meaning “regional kings”. They act more like cultural figureheads rather than governmentally sanctioned legislators; however, these kings still hold a prominent position of influence in society. The most notable and powerful king would be the monarch, Asantahene Nana Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.

Physical Geography

 The largest man-made lake, fed by the Black, White, and Red Volta rivers, is Lake Volta. The Akosombo Dam takes up 4% of Ghana’s land. This dam produces much of the electricity for the entire country. The country is divided into four geographic terrestrial plains. These plains are the Coastal Plain, the Ashanti-Kwahu, the Volt Basin, and the Northern Plains. The south is wetter, and the north is drier.

Demographics

 Ghana is Africa’s first main Sub-Saharan contact to Europe. Ghana is seen as a beacon of democracy in Africa in which Flight Lt. John Rawlings handed over power to John Kufour, making it the first peaceful democratic transition since independence in 1957.

They have about 27 million people (about the population of Texas) and usually scored in the topmost democratic, transparent, staple, and safe nations in all of Africa. The country is made up of over 70 different tribes and over 200 different dialects, however most of them fall under five main ethic groups. The majority belongs to the Ashanti or Akan, making up half the population, the Dagbani and Mole at around 17%, Ewe at 14%, other tribes at 16%, and the remaining 2% are made up of Non-Africans and Whites.

Ghana is deeply religious. About three quarters of the population is Christian, about 15% are Muslim and the rest follow to traditional beliefs and faiths.

Language

 Each of the main people groups has a very distinct culture that contrasts with the others along with mutually unintelligible languages. English is used for cross-communication by most of the population as it was a former British colony. The most widely spoken native language would be Twi, spoken by the Akan and Ashanti people. Ga is spoken in the southeast. Ewe is a language more dominant to Togo. The Mossi language is spoken by the Dagbani and Mole. The English language was inherited from the colonial era. It is also the standard language used for educational instruction. English is also mainly used for government and business affairs. Ghana means “Warrior King” in the Soninke language.

Why Should We Celebrate Ghana?

I believe we should celebrate Ghana to get an amazing experience about their culture and the way they leave could influence us. We will get to learn more about their history, and more about our ancestors.

Why am I Interested?

I am interested because travelling out of the country will not only be a wonderful experience for me, but educationally wise, I would be more knowledgeable about a whole new way of life. I want to get to know the people there and learn more about Africa itself. Therefore, I am interested in traveling to Ghana.