Take a Tour of World Cities





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Take a Tour of World Cities

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Certificate of Completion

Make a Travel Brochure for Amsterdam!

Use the information below to fill in the brochure on the next page. Then, use the map below to draw your own map of the city of Amsterdam.

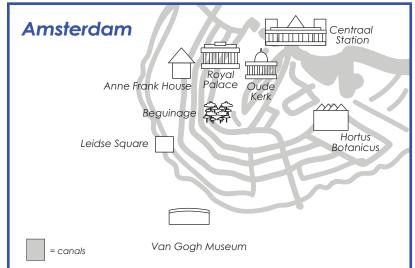
The History of Amsterdam

Amsterdam formed during the 12th century, when a group of herring fishermen settled along the Amstel River. The city was officially founded in 1275. In 1380, canals were built to help control the flow of water and help with trade. In 1519, Amsterdam became a part of the Spanish empire. 1579, the Dutch republic was created, with Amsterdam as its most important city. The 1600s are known as Amsterdam's Golden Age. The city became a center for arts, culture, and commerce, and the Dutch East India Company and the Dutch West India Company were founded. France invaded in 1795, but were overthrown in 1814. Amsterdam became part of a new state, the Netherlands. The train station known as Centraal Station opened in 1889, connecting Amsterdam to other European countries by rail. The Netherlands remained neutral during World War I, but was invaded by Germany during World War II. Amsterdam suffered only minor damage during the war, but famine hit the north and west parts of the Netherlands after the war. Amsterdam began to recover and today is the largest city in the Netherlands and an international tourist destination.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Flower Market is a floating floral market on the Singel Canal, one of Amsterdam's oldest canals. Anne Frank and her family hid for two years during World War II in what is now the Anne Frank House. Oude Kerk is the oldest church in Amsterdam, first built in the 14th century. The Beguinage is a courtyard that dates back to the 14th century. Centraal Station is the main hub of transportation in the Netherlands. The 3-acre Hortus Botanicus, or Botanical Garden, began as an herbal garden in 1638. Leidse Square began hundreds of years ago as a parking lot for farmers entering the city to sell their wares. The Van Gogh Museum contains the largest collection in the world of the art of Vincent van Gogh. The Royal Palace first opened in 1655 and serves as a site for government functions today.

Famous ResidentsArrFamous residents of Amsterdaminclude philosopher BaruchSpinoza; artists Jan van Amstel,Rembrandt van Rijn, and Vincentvan Gogh; novelist andphilosopher Albert Camus; writerAnne Frank (whose Holocaust-eradiary is one of the most famousworks of the time); and jazzmusician Nina Simone.



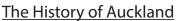
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NETHERLAN

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Make a Travel Brochure for Auckland!

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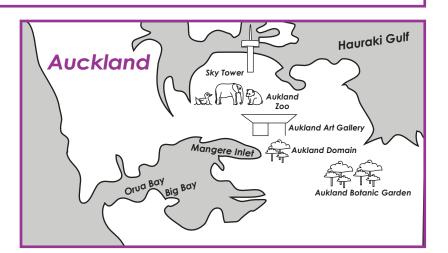


The area now known as Auckland was first settled by the Maori people around 1350. They built their villages on the volcanic peaks, and warred with one another for territory. They thrived on fish and the crops they cultivated until their first contact with Europeans. The British explorer James Cook navigated the area in 1769. Beginning in the 1790s, the waters of New Zealand were often visited by British, French and American ships, which came to trade goods for Maori food, water and other provisions. In 1788, New Zealand was made a part of the British colony New South Wales, which also included a large part of Australia and many nearby islands. New Zealand became a separate British colony in 1840, and the city of Auckland was officially founded. It was named for George Eden, the First Earl of Auckland, an English politician who contributed funds to found the city. In 1842, Aukland was designated the capital of New Zealand. In 1865, the capital was moved to Wellington. In 1861, construction began on a highway connecting Auckland and Wellington, called the Great South Road. In 1871, the Auckland City Council was established, and Philip Philips became the first mayor. New Zealand officially became an independent country in 1947. In 1983, Catherine Tizard became the first female mayor of Auckland. Today, Auckland is one of New Zealand's largest cities, with a population of over 1.4 million people.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

Sky Tower is 60 stories high, and offers panoramic views from its observation deck. Auckland Domain is Auckland's oldest park, and is located inside a volcanic crater! The Auckland Art Gallery, or "Toi o Tamaki" in Maori, has New Zealand's biggest collection of national and international art. The Auckland Zoo features many plants and animals native to New Zealand. The Potter Children's Garden, with replicas of natural environments from around the world, is located in the Auckland Botanic Gardens, which contain more than 10,000 plants.

Famous Residents Famous past and present residents of Auckland include dancer Peta Murgatroyd; musicians Gin Wigmore and Lorde; and mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, who, along with Tenzing Norgay, was one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



NEW ZEALAND

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Make a Travel Brochure for **Beijing!**

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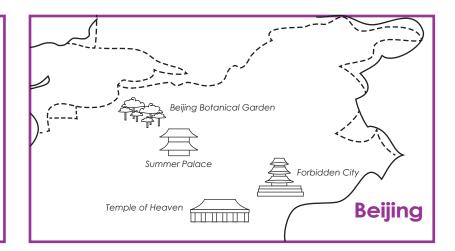
The History of Beijing

Prehistoric humans lived in the area that would become Beijing from around 27,000 years ago. For most of China's ancient history, the country was run by dynasties, families who ruled for multiple generations. The first was the Xia Dynasty, which held power from 2070 B.C.E.-1600 B.C.E. The city was first established as Ji City, the capital of a kingdom named Ji, in 1045 B.C.E. Construction of the Great Wall of China began during the Qin Dynasty, which ruled between 221 B.C.E. to 206 B.C.E. Around 226 B.C.E., China was unified into one country. Around 1261, Kublai Khan, ruler of the Mongolian Empire, invaded the city. He renamed it Dadu, meaning Great Capital, and made it the political center of China. Kublai Khan became Emperor of China, establishing the Yuan Dynasty. In 1368, the Ming Dynasty was established by Zhu Di. He renamed the city Beiping, meaning Northern Peace. The city's name, and its status as capital, would change multiple times over the next 600 years. The Great Wall of China was completed during the Ming Dynasty. In 1912, China became a republic, ending thousands of years of dynastic rule. After a long civil war, the Nationalist political party was defeated by the Chinese Communist Party. In 1949, the Communist Party established the People's Republic of China, with Beijing as its capital. In 2008, Beijing hosted the Summer Olympics.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Forbidden City is a palace built as a royal residence during the Ming Dynasty, and has been home to 24 emperors. The Temple of Heaven was built in 1420 and is the largest collection of buildings for religious worship in China. The Beijing Botanical Garden is 136 acres of gardens, groves, temples, and shrines. The Summer Palace is actually a number of palaces, lakes, and gardens. It was built in 1153 for an emperor of the Jin Dynasty, and today is a popular public park and tourist attraction. The Great Wall of China is 2,000 miles long, with 370 of those miles running through the city of Beijing.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Beijing include actors Jet Li, Zhang Ziyi, and Chow Yun-Fat; poet Bei Dao; artist Ai Weiwei; Nobel Prize-winning physicist Chen Ning Yang; Nobel Prize-winning writer Mo Yan; and Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer, professor and activist Liu Xiaobo.



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CHINA

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Use the information below to fill in the brochure on the next page. Then, use the map below to draw your own map of the city of Berlin.

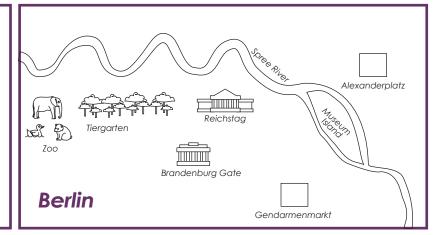
The History of Berlin

Berlin was established around 1163 by Albert I, commonly known as Albert the Bear. A fire in the town's center in 1380 damaged many of the written records of Berlin's early history. In 1576, the plague came to Berlin and about 6,000 people lost their lives. The Thirty Years' War, waged from 1618-1648, diminished the population further. In 1701, Berlin became the capital of the country of Prussia, and by 1709, the population had risen to 55,000. Under Prussian rule, Berlin became a center of arts and culture. In 1871, Prussia joined with other German states to become the German Empire, with Berlin as its capital. A revolution resulted in Germany becoming a republic, a state in which the citizens are allowed to elect their representatives, in 1919. Bombings during World War II, 1939-1945, destroyed much of the city. After the war, Germany was split into two countries, one called the Federal Republic of Germany and the other the German Democratic Republic. Berlin was split in two as well, with half of the city belonging to each of the new countries. A wall was built through the middle of Berlin to split the city in two. Germany was reunified in 1990, and Berlin was regained its position as a major world city.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Brandenburg gate, which opened in 1791, became a symbol of unity for German citizens when many flocked there in 1989 to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall. Since 1999, the historic Reichstag building has been home to Germany's Parliament. The original building was completed in 1894. Alexanderplatz is a plaza that's been in use since the Middle Ages. Museum Island is home to one of the greatest collections of museums in the world. Gendarmenmarkt is a square that began as a marketplace in the 1600s, and today contains important buildings such as the Concert Hall, German Church, and French Church. The Tiergarten is the oldest public park in Berlin and contains many attractions, including the Zoologischer Garten, or zoo.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Berlin include Prince Frederick of Prussia; Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (authors of Grimm's Fairy Tales); actor Marlene Deitrich; American professor and Civil Rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois (who attended the University of Berlin); and artist Lucien Freud..



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☆ Berlin

GERMANY

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Make a Travel Brochure for **Buenos Aires!**

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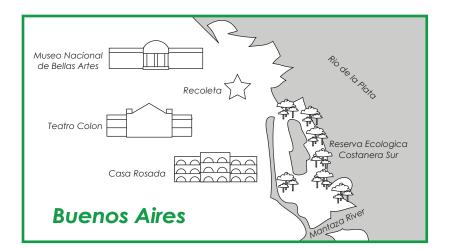
The History of Buenos Aires

Early European exploration of the area that would become Buenos Aires was driven by rumors of plentiful silver. In 1536, Spanish soldier and explorer Pedro de Mendoza tried to establish a city at the spot that would become Buenos Aires. He named the city Ciudad de Nuestra Senora Santa Maria del Buen Ayre, meaning City of Our Lady Saint Mary of the Fair Winds. "Buen Ayre" eventually became Buenos Aires. When the Spanish settlers tried to steal food from the native peoples, the natives attacked, and the Spanish were eventually driven out. The first permanent fort was established by Spanish conquistador Juan de Garay in 1580. In 1776, Spain made Buenos Aires the capital of the colony known as the Vicerovalty of Río de la Plata, which included present-day Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and part of Bolivia. The British attempted to invade in 1806 and again in 1807, but local residents and militias successfully repelled the invasion. In 1810, Buenos Aires declared its independence from Spain, establishing its own government. In 1853, the city became the capital of the State of Buenos Aires, a country which existed until 1860. In 1880, Buenos Aires became the capital of Argentina, which had declared independence from Spain in 1817. The citizens of Buenos Aires elected their first mayor in 1996, after the Argentinian government granted the city the right to elect its own representatives.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes has a large collection of 19th- and 20th-century Argentine sculptures and paintings, as well as many important works by European masters dating back to pre-Renaissance times. Casa Rosada has been the presidential residence since 1882, and houses many of Argentina's national treasures. The Recoleta is a neighborhood of cafes, shops, and art galleries, and hosts a street fair every weekend. Teatro Colon is the most famous theater in South America, and is considered one of the best in the world. The Reserva Ecologica Costanera Sur is a nature reserve with lagoons, marshland, forests, and trails.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Buenos Aires include writer Jorge Luis Borges; film director Miguel Bejo; Jorge Mario Bergoglio, better known as Pope Francis; tango musician Astor Piazzolla; and Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine winner Dr. Bernardo Alberto Houssay.



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Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA

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Make a Travel Brochure for **Dublin!**

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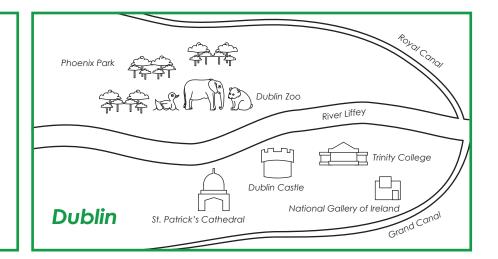
The History of Dublin

Vikings were the first known settlers of the area that would become Dublin. The Viking settlement dating from around 841 was called Dyflin. The town of Dublin benefitted from trade with England, and it prospered during the 11th century, becoming the most important town in Ireland. In 1169, the Norman people, who had conquered England in 1066, invaded Ireland. Dublin would remain under English rule for the next 700 years. The Scots attacked in 1317, but Dublin still flourished. By the end of the century, its population had reached 8,000. In 1541, Dublin became the capital of the Kingdom of Ireland, which was ruled by King Henry VIII of England. Trinity College, one of the oldest European universities, was founded in 1592. By 1650, Dublin's population had grown to over 20,000. In 1801, the kingdoms of Ireland and Great Britain were united, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Dublin was no longer a capital city, and its economy suffered as a result. The years of 1845-1849 brought famine to the city. Long-standing conflicts between the Gaelic Irish and the English settlers, as well as between the Protestants and the Catholics, helped lead to a rebellion in 1916. Those who wanted an independent Ireland rose up against the English rulers, but Ireland did not become an independent republic until the War of Independence in 1922. Northern Ireland chose to rejoin Great Britain, and they remain separate nations to this day.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

Dublin Castle was founded in 1204 as a defensive post for the city. The National Gallery of Ireland has works by many of the European masters, including Picasso, Van Gogh, and Monet. St. Patrick's Cathedral was built between 1220 and 1260, one of Dublin's only remaining buildings from medieval times. The Book of Kells, one of the most beautiful illuminated manuscripts in the world, was made around the year 800 and is housed at Trinity College. The Dublin Zoo is located in Phoenix Park, right in the heart of Dublin.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Dublin include writers Samuel Beckett and James Joyce; actors Gabriel Byrne and Johathan Rhys Myers; painter Francis Bacon; and Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Michelle Smith.



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NORTHERN

IRELAND

Dublin

RELAND

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Make a Travel Brochure for Lisbon!

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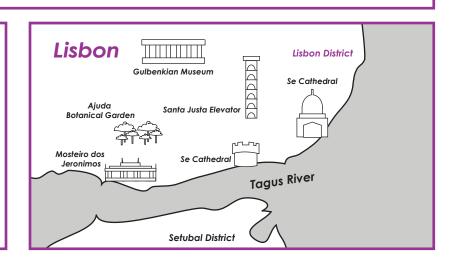
The History of Lisbon

The area that would become Lisbon was first occupied as early as 1200 BCE. The beginning of its history saw Lisbon invaded by Celtic, Roman, barbarian, Carthaginian, and other armies. During Roman times, Christianity was on the rise, and it became the main religion of the region. In 711, Lisbon was conquered by Muslim tribes from North Africa and the Middle East. Some of the mosques built by these peoples still stand, and some Arabic place names remain from that time. In 1108, the city was conquered by Norwegians. Only three years later, another North African force, the Almoravids, conquered the city. In 1147, Lisbon was conquered by Portugal, and Christianity once again became the state religion. Many mosques were either destroyed or turned into churches. In 1255, Lisbon was made the capital of Portugal. The 15th century began Portugal's Age of Discovery. The period was a great one for Portugal as it began to trade with more and more countries, but a difficult one for the peoples it conquered as it expanded its territory. Rule of Portugal was taken over by the king of Spain in 1580, but in 1688, Portugal regained its independence. In 1755, Lisbon was devastated by an earthquake. It destroyed much of the city, and tens of thousands of its citizens lost their lives. The city rebuilt, only to be invaded by the French emperor Napoleon in 1807. Portugal's last dictatorship was overthrown in 1974. In 1999, Portugal relinquished control over Macau, its last overseas colony.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Sé Cathedral was built during the 12th century and is one of Lisbon's best-known landmarks. The Gulbenkian Museum features art from as far back as 2000 BCE. The Santa Justa Elevator was built in the 19th century to save residents from climbing Lisbon's steep hills. The Mosteiro dos Jeronimos monastery, constructed in the early 16th century, is one of Lisbon's most impressive structures. The Sao Jorge Castle was built in the 11th century as a residence for the rulers of Lisbon, and overlooks Alfama, the oldest neighborhood in Lisbon. The Ajuda Botanical Garden is the oldest botanical garden in Portugal.

Famous Residents Famous past and present residents of Lisbon include poet, writer, literary critic, and translator Fernando Pessoa; neuroscientist Antonio Damasio; soccer star Christiano Ronaldo; Baroque-era painter Josefa de Obidos; and English novelist Henry Fielding.



PORTUGAL

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Make a Travel Brochure for Melbourne!

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The History of Melbourne

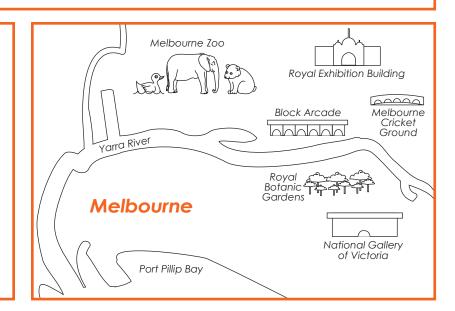
The indigenous people of the area that would become Melbourne lived in the area for at least 31,000 years before European contact. Dutch explorers first encountered Australia in 1606, but no European visited the area of Melbourne until 1797. That year, British explorer George Bass was the first European to enter the waters between Australia and the land that would become Tasmania. In 1803, David Collins, British administrator of Australia, was sent from Sydney to establish a settlement. In 1834, English pioneer Edward Henty established the first long-term European settlement in the area. Melbourne was officially founded in 1835, and in 1847, Queen Victoria of Great Britain declared it a city. Victoria, in which Melbourne is located, officially became a colony in 1851. By 1861, the population of the city of Melbourne had reached 125,000. Melbourne's population grew larger than that of Sydney by 1865. In 1901, Victoria and the other five colonies of the continent combined to form the Commonwealth of Australia. Melbourne became the capital of the new commonwealth. In 1956, Melbourne hosted the Summer Olympics.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Royal Botanic Gardens were established in 1846 and are considered some of the most important in the world. The Melbourne Zoo opened in 1862 and houses 320 species of animals. The Melbourne Cricket Ground was built in 1853 and is the largest statium in Australia. The National Gallery of Victoria is the oldest public art gallery in Australia, and holds more than 68,000 works of art in its two locations. The Block Arcade is a shopping center built in the 19th century. The historic Queen Victoria market has sold fresh produce to locals and tourists alike since 1878. The Royal Exhibition Building was built in 1880 to hold the first Commonwealth Parliament of Australia in 1901. Beside it stands the Melbourne Museum and Royal Exhibition Building, a gallery full of hands-on activities especially for kids.

Famous Residents

Famous residents of Melbourne include actors Liam, Chris, and Luke Hemsworth and Cate Blanchett; musicians Kylie Minogue and Flea of the band Red Hot Chili Peppers; Olympic gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King; and conservationist Steve Irwin, better known as "The Crocodile Hunter."



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AUSTRALIA

Melbourn

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Make a Travel Brochure for Mexico City!

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The History of Mexico City

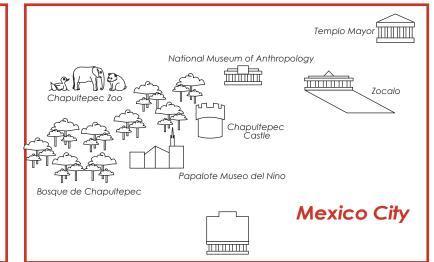
The area now called Mexico City was originally founded by the Aztec people. The city-state was founded in 1325 and named Tenochtitlan. In 1430, Tenochtitlan joined with two other Aztec city-states and became the capital of the Aztec Empire. In 1521, Spain conquered the area and destroyed most of the Aztec structures. The Spanish added Tenochtitlan to the colony of New Spain and renamed it Mexico City. In 1821, Mexico finally won its battle for independence from Spain. Mexico became a republic in 1824. In 1847, United States forces occupied Mexico City, forcing an end to the Mexican-American war. Mexico signed a treaty giving most of its northern territory to the U.S. In 1862, the Mexican army defeated the French to keep its independence. That victory is still celebrated every year as the holiday Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May. In 1910, the Mexican people rose up against their oppressive government, beginning the Mexican Revolution. In 1917, the people finally won, and Mexico adopted a new constitution. In 1968, it hosted the Summer Olympics. Another major earthquake struck in 1985, causing major destruction. The city rebuilt again, however, and today its population stands at over 123 million people.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

Templo Mayor was one of the most important Aztec temples, and its ruins can still be seen in the middle of the city. The National Museum of Anthropology holds more ancient Mexican art than any museum in the world. The Zocalo was the ceremonial center in the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, and is the main square of modern Mexico City. The National Autonomous University of Mexico, or UNAM, is the biggest university in Latin America. Its main campus contains murals by some of Mexico's most important artists. Bosque de Chapultepec is the largest city park in the Western Hemisphere. It includes historic ruins, a castle, the Chapultepec Zoo, and the Papalote Museo del Nino, a museum especially for kids.

Famous Residents

Famous residents of Mexico City include artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera; writers Carlos Fuentes and Nobel Prize in Literature winner Octavio Paz; actors Diego Luna and Lupita Nyong'o; singer and songwriter Placido Domingo; and film director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.



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MEXICO

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Make a Travel Brochure for Oslo!

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The History of Oslo

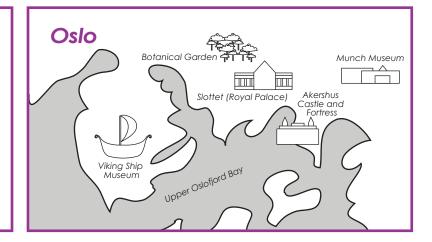
The city of Oslo was founded around the year 1049. Around the 1290s, Akershus Fortress was built to defend the city from invaders. Oslo was made the capital of Norway around 1300. In 1350, the plague reached Oslo, and only a guarter of the population of the city survived. In 1352, a major fire destroyed the cathedral and all the nearby churches. In 1380, the kingdoms of Norway and Denmark were united. In 1397, the kingdom of Sweden was added to the union. In 1537, Norway became a province, or division, of Denmark. The city of Oslo was destroyed by fire again in 1624, and it was rebuilt at a location closer to Akershus Fortress. The city was renamed Christiania in honour of King Christian IV, who was king at the time. In 1686, a third fire destroyed about a guarter of the city. The University of Oslo was founded in 1811. In 1814, Denmark allowed Norway to become a part of Sweden. Norway fought a 14-day war to keep its own king, but it lost the war, so Sweden's king remained in power. In 1837, the city got its first mayor. The spelling of the city's name was changed to Kristiania in 1877. In 1905, Norway became independent. In 1920, Norway joined the League of Nations, which has since been replaced by the United Nations. In 1925, the city's Norwegian name, Oslo, was reinstated. Since there is archaeological evidence of human residence in Oslo beginning around 1000, Oslo celebrated its 1,000-year jubilee.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Munch Museum is dedicated to Edvard Munch, one of Norway's most important artists, and holds more of his works than any other museum in the world. Royal Palace, or Slottet in Norwegian, was built for the French-born King Charles III, who reigned as king of Norway and Sweden, and is still the official residence of the Norwegian monarch. Viking Ship Museum is part of the Museum of Cultural History of the University of Oslo, and houses Viking ships built in the 9th century. The University Botanical Garden opened in 1814, making it Norway's oldest botanical garden. Its grounds also contain a natural history museum and a geologic museum. Akershus Castle and Fortress has survived every siege of Oslo for over seven hundred years.

Famous Residents

Famous past and present residents of Oslo include explorer Roald Amundsen, who led the first expedition to reach the South Pole; Nobel Peace Prize-winning scientist and humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen; playwright Henrik Ibsen; and Nobel Prize in Literature winner Knut Hamsun.



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NORWAY

Oslo

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Use the information below to fill in the brochure on the next page. Then, use the map below to draw your own map of the city of Paris.

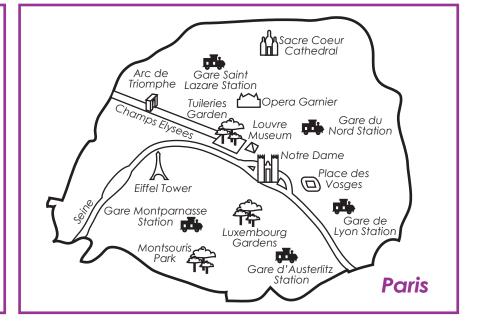
The History of Paris

Between the years of 9,000 and 5,000 B.C.E. the first known settlements were made in what would later become Paris. The Parisii, a Celtic tribe for whom Paris would be named, founded a town between 250 and 225 B.C.E. Around 522 C.E., Clovis I, the king of the Franks, made Paris his capital. Between 845 and 861, the Vikings attacked Paris four times. Around 1120, teachers and students began living along the left bank of the Seine River, an area that would become an important center of arts and culture for hundreds of years. From 1348-1349, the bubonic plague ran through Paris. In the late 1400s, the Renaissance began in Paris, making the city a center of art, science, and architecture. On July 14, 1789, the French Revolution began. Napoleon Bonaparte ruled as Emperor of France from 1804 - 1815. In the mid-1800s, construction began on most of the Paris that remains today. Through the 1920s and 1930s, Paris was an important center of art and literature, featuring such artists as Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso, and writers like Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein. In 1940, the Nazis occupied Paris. In 1944, Paris was liberated from Nazi control.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Louvre Museum is one of the most famous art museums in the world. Sacre Coeur Cathedral boasts a view of the whole city from the top of its tower. The Arc de Triomphe honors those who fought for France in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. The Champs-Elysees is the famous avenue running from the Tuileries Garden past the Arc de Triomphe. The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair. The Place des Vosges is the oldest planned square in Paris. Notre Dame cathedral is a famous example of the French Gothic architectural style.

Famous Residents Famous past and present residents of Paris include artists Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Elisabeth Vigee Le Brun; actors Brigitte Bardot, Julie Delpy, and Maurice Chevalier; scientists Leon Foucault, Henri Becquerel; and writers Francois Villon, Jean-Paul Sartre, and George Sand.



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🕁 Paris

FRANCE

Title and Introduction:	י 	Summarize the main tourist attraction in the city:	ns 	List the main historic events in order of when they happened:
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Use the information below to fill in the brochure on the next page. Then, use the map below to draw your own map of the city of Prague.

The History of Prague

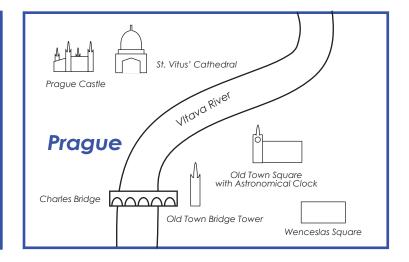
Prague Castle was built in 870, the first permanent building in what would become the city of Prague. In 1085, Vratislav II became the first Czech king. The area known as the Old Town was founded in 1231, and the Lesser Town in 1257. During the 14th century, Prague became the cultural capital of Central Europe. The Prague Castle area, called Hradcany, was founded around 1320. King Charles IV, perhaps the most important Czech king, ruled from 1346-1378. In 1348, Charles University was founded, becoming the first university in Central Europe. In 1355, Prague became the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. During the 16th century, Prague was a center of science and alchemy. Famed astronomer Tycho Brahe was drawn to the city, as were many other important scientists of the time. In 1784, Old Town, Lesser Town, Hradcany, and New Town were united. In 1918, Prague became the capital of the newly formed country of Czechoslovakia. During World War II, Czechoslovakia was occupied by Nazi Germany. The Communist Party took power in 1948. In 1990, Czechoslovakia became democratic and was divided into two independent countries, Czech Republic and Slovakia, with Prague as the capital of the Czech Republic.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The President of the Czech Republic resides at Prague Castle. St. Vitus' Cathedral is the largest and most important church in the Czech Republic. The Old Town Bridge Tower is a Gothic tower built in the 14th century. The Charles Bridge was completed in 1402 and is known for the statues of saints lining both of its sides. Wenceslas Square was a horse market during the 14th century, and is now Prague's central boulevard. The Old Town Square is full of a range of important and beautiful buildings, such as the Tyn Church, the Kinsky Palace and the St. Nicholas Church. It also contains an astronomical clock dating from medieval times. Its oldest parts date back to 1410. Every hour, the clock chimes, and an array of statuettes and moving figures pop out and put on a show.

Famous Residents

Famous residents of Prague include tennis champion Martina Navratilova; writers Rainer Maria Rilke, Franz Kafka, and Nobel Prize winner Jaroslav Seifert; composer Antonin Dvorak; and scientists Tycho Brahe, and Albert Einstein (who worked as a professor at Charles-Ferdinand University in Prague).



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☆ Prague

CZECH REPUBLIC

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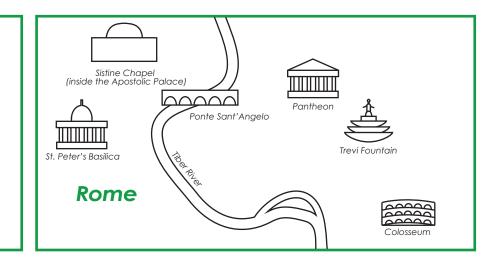
The History of Rome

No one knows for sure when Rome was founded. According to myth, the brothers Romulus and Remus, sons of the god Mars, established Rome in 753 BCE. Rome was ruled by kings until 509 BCE, when it became a republic. In 451 BCE, Rome developed its first code of law, called the Twelve Tables. In 312 BCE, construction of the first aqueduct began. Rome used concrete for the first time in 200 BCE From 73 to 71 BCE, the gladiator Spartacus led a slave revolt. Then in 27 BCE began the empire age, with Augustus Caesar as the leader. By this time, the population of the city of Rome, capital of the Roman Empire, had reached one million people. It was likely the first city in the world to achieve a population of that size. The volcano Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, covering the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum in ash and lava. Between the years 96 and 138, the Roman Empire reached its largest size, 1,930,511 square miles. In 476, the Western Roman Empire was taken by the Goths. The remaining Roman Empire continued to lose power until, by the beginning of the 15th Century, the population of the city of Rome had dropped to 20,000. The city was an important center of art and architecture during the Italian Renaissance, however, which helped Rome regain its importance. In 1871, Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1946, of the Italian Republic. In 1960, Rome hosted the Summer Olympics. In 1993, Rome got its first directly elected mayor.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

The Pantheon was constructed between 118 and 128 as a temple to the Roman gods, and is used a church today. The Colosseum was built between 72 and 80, and is the largest amphitheater ever made. Trevi Fountain was built in 19 BCE and once supplied an ancient aqueduct. St. Peter's Basilica is the most renowned work of architecture of the Renaissance. The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was famously decorated by the artist Michelangelo. The Ponte Sant'Angelo is a bridge over the Tiber River that was completed in the year 134.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Rome include Italian Renaissance artists Michelangelo and Raphael Sanzio; poet Dante Alighieri; film directors Roberto Rossellini and Federico Fellini; and actors Sophia Loren and Isabella Rossellini.



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ITALY

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The History of Tokyo

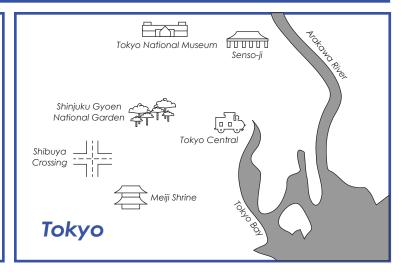
The first inhabitants of the area that would become Tokyo lived there as early as 10,000 BCE. These early peoples were hunters, fishers, and gatherers. The city was founded in the 12th century, during the period when shoguns, or military dictators, ruled the country. Around 1450, local ruler Edo Taro Shigenada built a castle there. The city was then named Edo, after its founder. Over the next three centuries, the city expanded rapidly, growing to over a million residents by the end of the 1700s. It became the cultural and political capital of Japan. In 1868, the city's name was formally changed to Tokyo, meaning "eastern capital" in Japanese. In 1869, Emperor Meiji made the city's status official when he made it the capital of Japan. The earthquake of 1923 was the biggest disaster in the history of Japan, ruining much of the city and causing widespread fires. During World War II, large sections of the city were destroyed by bombings, once in 1944 and again in 1945. The city eventually rebuilt, and in 1964, Tokyo hosted the Summer Olympics. It was the first time the Olympics were ever held in Asia. Major earthquakes hit Japan in 1995 and again in 2011, but Tokyo's earthquake-resistant infrastructure saved it from major damage. Today, the population of the city of Tokyo stands at 12 million people.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

Tokyo National Museum is the largest art museum in Japan, and contains a full collection of artworks and archaeological objects from Asia. Tokyo has the world's busiest metro system, with Tokyo Central Railway Station at its heart. The Samurai Museum contains armor, swords, and other artifacts from the 700-year Samurai warrior period. The Shibuya Crossing is one of the busiest intersections in the world. All traffic lights turn red at the same time, allowing pedestrians to spill into the intersection from all sides. Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden has over 75 different species of cherry tree, and you can attend a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. Senso-ji is the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo.

Famous Residents

Famous residents of Tokyo include musician and artist Yoko Ono; film directors Hayao Miyazaki and Akira Kurosawa; actor Masi Oka; Major League Baseball players Masanori Murakami, the first Japanese player to pitch for a Major League team, Ichiro Suzuki, and Hideki Matsui; and painter and printmaker Katsushika Hokusai.



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JAPAN

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Make a Travel Brochure for Vancouver!

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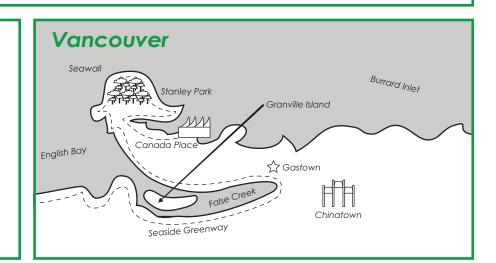
The History of Vancouver

The original inhabitants of the area that would become Vancouver lived there at least 8,000 years ago. Vancouver covers the traditional territory of three indigenous tribes: the Squamish, the Tsilel-Waututh, and the Musqueam. Members of these tribes still live there today. Europeans probably made first contact with these tribes when Spanish explorer Jose Maria Narvaez traveled there in 1791. Vancouver would eventually be named for British naval captain George Vancouver, who explored and charted the area in 1792. Simon Fraser, an explorer and trader born in what was then British America, was the first person of European ancestry to arrive in the area over land in 1808. The first permanent non-native settlers were Irish brothers Fitzgerald and Samuel McCleery, who arrived in 1862. In 1863, the first sawmill began operating. Lumber became the most important export from the area. The city was officially given the name Vancouver on April 6, 1886. The same year, a great fire destroyed much of the town, but the city guickly rebuilt. In 1887, it became the terminus, or final station, for the Canadian Pacific Railroad line. This new access to the city increased its population to 120,000 by 1911. Its railway station and port made Vancouver a major point along international trade routes, bringing commerce and wealth to the city. It remains an important port city to this day.

Tourist Attractions and Famous Locations

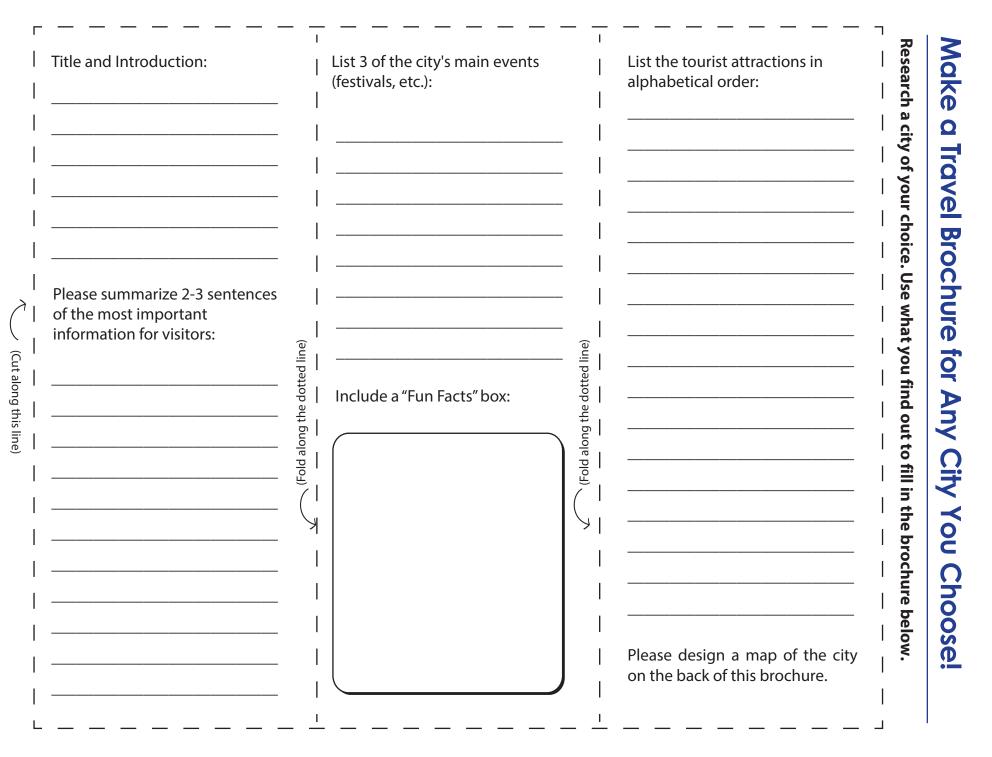
Stanley Park is 988 acres of forest trails, beaches, landmarks, and other attractions. The Seaside Greenway is the world's longest waterfront path and includes the Seawall, which goes through Stanley Park. Gastown is where Vancouver was originally founded, and is now east of the main downtown area. Vancouver has the largest Chinatown in Canada. Granville Island, once filled with sawmills and steel factories, now has shops, theaters, a water park, and a marketplace just for kids. Canada Place is an iconic structure built for the World's Fair of 1986 that resembles the sails of a boat. It's now a ferry terminal and convention center.

Famous Residents Famous residents of Vancouver include actors Ryan Reynolds, Hayden Christensen, Carrie-Anne Moss, and Kristen Kreuk; musicians Grimes and Michael Buble; and National Ballet of Canada dancer Heather Ogden.



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