

Name: _____



Fantastic Places of the World

Cambodia: A Country to Discover

The first time I heard the name of the country of Cambodia I could not even locate it on a map of the world. It was during a conversation I had with my parents at dinner on a February afternoon. They were considering moving from the United States to Cambodia in December because my father had been offered an engineer job there.

I froze and didn't know how to react. I had to find out more details and information about Cambodia to be prepared to move to a country so far away.

Cambodia is in Asia; it takes more than 30 hours to fly there. It is a relatively small country; its territory is about two hundred thousand kilometers and its population is about twenty million.



I think the most complicated thing for me is going to be understanding the people, since Khmer is their official language. The Khmer language has the longest alphabet in the world, which makes it harder to learn the language. Fortunately, a part of the population also speaks French which will make it easier to communicate with other people.



Angkor Temple

Its flag has 3 horizontal stripes, blue - red - blue; a temple is in the center of the red stripe which represent Angkor Wat with its three towers. The temples of Angkor Wat are the most famous of the country. They have filmed many internationally known movies at the temples, such as Tomb Raider's starring my favorite actress, Angelina Jolie.



Angkor Temple

Also, Cambodia borders other countries that I have always been curious about, such as Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. We may have the opportunity to travel to some of them when we moved there.

I want to go see the Mekong River, also known as Big River, because fishing is one of my hobbies. The Mekong River, which is 4880 km long, is home to hundreds of species of fish. Among them, I would love to see the huge catfish of Mekong and the Irrawaddy Dolphin which has a beluga-like head and is more than two meters long.



On the banks of the river, you can see floating houses and shops. It must be tough to construct these buildings so that they do not sink into the water. The river also allows them to grow rice in abundance, it is the main meal for most of the people of Cambodia.

As for their food, I have read that in addition to rice as the main food, they also eat greens and vegetables, meat, and fish. Their food is spicy because they add in Asian spices and herbs. It will be strange not eating hamburgers, pizza, or fast food, since they don't usually have them there.

I also want to try exotic fruits, such as the durian, which supposedly has a very special flavor even though it has an unpleasant smell.

The clothes that are worn there will be a bit different from the ones I usually wear in New York. Because the heat and sun are so strong, they always wear clothing that covers their arms and legs and hats to cover their heads. Clothing made of synthetic materials is not worn very much. Silk is used to make special traditional clothes. The colors of these clothes are rich and



varied. Depending on the quality of the embroidery on the clothes, the price can vary greatly. It is important to always carry an umbrella during the rainy season since heavy rains are common.

The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian riel. When I go, I will collect its coins and bills to put in my world money album.

I am curious to find out if Cambodian literature is similar to American literature. The music is different than in America; they use percussion instruments made of materials like bamboo. I think it would be interesting to take some traditional music and mix those melodies with my piano, which I learned to play when I was about 5 years old. I am sure my sister will sign up for dance classes. I have read that Cambodian dances are very beautiful, and that they represent different themes.

What surprises me the most are the important celebrations or events. Christmas, for example, isn't celebrated with decorated trees and lights like in America. In fact, being a mainly Buddhist country, Christmas is not usually celebrated. One of Cambodia's holidays is the Khmer New Year, which is celebrated in the middle of April. The Cambodian Water Festival is a very large festival that is celebrated in November and marks the end of the rainy season.



Now that I have read about Cambodia, I am excited that we are moving there to live, even though we will be far away from our family and friends. I think it will enrich our lives and that I'll learn a lot of new things. When the time comes, I will write down everything I am experiencing in a small notebook, so I won't forget anything. Maybe one day I will let you read it and share my experiences with you. See you later, friends!

Name _____



ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



1. Why did the main character of the story freeze and was unable to react?
 - a. Because he was cold.
 - b. Because in Cambodia, they speak another language and he didn't know how to speak it.
 - c. Because he was very surprised at the possible move to Cambodia.
 - d. Because he didn't want to go to Asia, but to Africa.

2. When people in another country, like Cambodia, speak a different language____.
 - a. It can be difficult to communicate with the people.
 - b. One can communicate with gestures to make oneself understood.
 - c. You have to try to learn their language.
 - d. All the answers are correct.

3. If you moved to another country, what do you think would be the most difficult for you? Choose two options from below and explain why.
 - a. The weather.
 - b. Food.
 - c. Language.
 - d. The distance from your family and friends.
 - e. Leisure and hobbies..

Option A: I have chosen _____
because _____

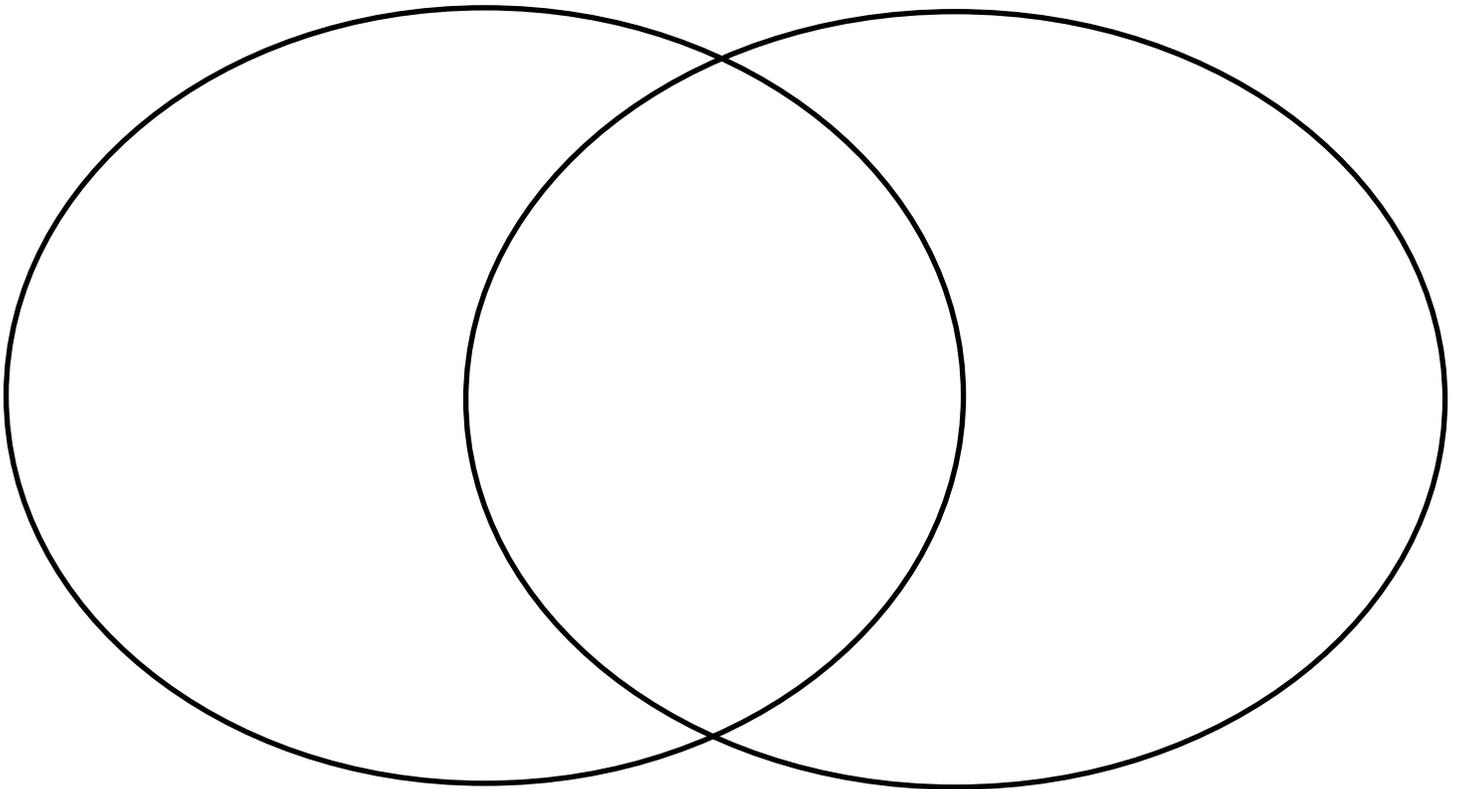
Option B: I have chosen _____
because _____

Name _____

4. Reading the text, point out how it is similar to your country and how it differs. To do this, complete the Venn diagram.

Cambodia

My Country



5. After reading the text, think of an ideal country and describe it.

- a. The weather is _____
- b. The food consists of _____
- c. The typical music is _____
- d. The language is _____
- e. The fauna y la flora is _____
- f. The main holidays are _____

6. Cambodia is a country of contrasts, because it can be very hot, or it can have heavy rains in the rainy season.

- a. True
- b. False

