

MONGOLIA

Here are some basic facts about Mongolia:

- **Capital:** Ulaanbaatar
- **Currency:** Togrog/Tugrik
- **Prime Minister:** Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh (13th)
- **Government:** Semi-presidential republic with a multiparty unicameral legislature
- **Official Language:** Mongolian; note that there are numerous dialects widely spoken such as Khalkha Mongol
- **Population:** 3,103,428 (as of 2020)
- **Land Area:** 604,200 square miles (1.5 million square kilometers)
- **Population Density:** 2 per Km² (about 47 times smaller than the United States)
- **Writing Systems:** Mongolian Cyrillic; traditional Mongolian script

Mongolia is a large country located in Central Asia. It shares a border with Russia in the north and China in the south, and much of Mongolia's history is linked with these two nations. Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire which became the largest land empire in world history. Mongolia later came under Chinese rule and gained its independence from China in 1921. The Mongolian People's Republic was then established under Soviet influence. Following the breakup of the socialist regime, Mongolia established a parliamentary democracy. Mongolia is divided into 21 provinces, with Ulaanbaatar as the capital. The official language of Mongolia is Mongolian, and the currency is the Mongolian tugrik

The history of ancient Mongolia dates back to the third century BC when the Xiongnu came to power among many other nomadic tribes. Due to illiteracy and nomadic lifestyle -- Mongolia is one of the last few places on the planet where nomadic life is still a living tradition -- little was recorded by Huns of themselves. They first appear in recorded Chinese history as "barbarians" against whom the walls were built. Today, these walls are famously known as the Great Wall of China!

Mongolia's area is 1.5 million km² (604,200 mi²), four times the size of Japan and almost double that of Eastern Europe. It is more than twice as big as Texas and nearly the same size as Alaska.

Mongolia is also known as the "Land of Blue Skies," because there are about 250 sunny days throughout each year.

Mongolia has gone through a very rapid social, economic, and political transition and established a democratic system underpinned by free and fair elections with separated government institutions. Today, it has established a well functioning market economy.



*A gate in front of the Pagoda of Fogong Temple in Shanxi province
Credit: [By Patrick Streule](#) - Wooden Pagoda, CC BY 2.0*

K-12 RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS

- [**A Brief History of Mongolia**](#)
An overview of Mongolia History by the Embassy of Mongolia. This resource can be used as a pre-reading activity to build on prior knowledge.
- [**Genghis Khan**](#)
This resource provides you in depth information on Genghis Khan's early years, how he established his empire, unites with Mongols, and his empire after his death. Mongolian warrior and ruler Genghis Khan created the largest empire in the world, the Mongol Empire, by destroying individual tribes in Northeast Asia. This resource can be used to build in-depth knowledge about a Mongolia leader.
- [**Discover Mongolia: Culture, Art & History**](#)
Discover Mongolia has laid out a great resource guide on Mongolia Nomad lifestyle, their religions, traditions, music & songs, festivals, games, etc. A great resource to help students differentiate between cultures- the U.S. vs Mongolia!
- [**Mongolian Languages**](#)
This resource provides a detailed description of the different languages spoken in Mongolia. It also includes the traditional mongolian script (along with pronunciation guides) which might particularly be of interests to students. It can be used as an in-class activity to instill interest in students to learn a new language together.
- [**Mongolian Food**](#)
This resource includes information about Mongolian food, eating habits, exotic nomad dishes, restaurant styles, etc. Food found in Mongolia maintains links to the country's

nomadic traditions and also is influenced by food from Russia, China and other Central Asian countries. A great resource to use while introducing Mongolian culture.

POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY TOPICS

- [**COVID Underdogs: Mongolia**](#)
Mongolia has had one of the strongest COVID-19 responses in the world. Not only do they have zero recorded deaths, they also have zero recorded local transmissions. In Mongolia, there simply wasn't an epidemic at all. This would be a great resource to teach a positive example, or rather a COVID-19 success story, to students.
- [**Mongolian Political System**](#)
This resource provides a brief description of how the Mongolian Political system has evolved over the centuries. A great resource to teach students about governmental and societal transition from communism to democracy.
- [**Can Mongolia Shape the Modern World Once Again?**](#)
“With the U.S. as its partner, Mongolia could make a significant contribution to the region.” An interesting article to learn about the current effects of U.S.-Mongolia ties.
- [**Music In Mongolia: Communism And After**](#)
When the Soviet-inspired Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party took power in 1924, the role of music in Mongolia was to undergo some drastic changes. Mongolian music had to be “nationalist in form, socialist in content.” Read on to learn how music revolutionized in Mongolia.
- [**What mongolian nomads teach us about the digital future.**](#)
The population of Mongolia is 3 million. Half of them live in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, which may be the least green city in the world. The other half of Mongolians live in deeply rural areas. While nomads mostly rely on their DIY tech, three modern technologies have become common on the steppe. An interesting read on decreasing nomadic population in Mongolia and how current generation nomads are aiming for a digital nomadic lifestyle.

NEWS, MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

- [**Montsame**](#)
An influential news agency in Mongolia delivering news on domestic and foreign policy of Mongolia and local events and promoting the Mongolian positive image abroad and national development growth to the audience outside of Mongolia, secondly, providing ongoing news reports to the domestic authorities and government agencies, media outlets and the general public in a timely manner and thirdly, conveying latest breaking

news stories and current international events from around the world to the Mongolian audience.

- **[UB Post](#)**
The UB Post was first founded in 1996 and has since become Mongolia’s leading English-language news outlet. As part of the broader Mongol News Group, The UB Post provides comprehensive coverage of social, economic, and political developments in Mongolia and elsewhere.
- **[The Magnolia Journal](#)**
Mongolia Journals provides access to Mongolian published research and increases worldwide knowledge of indigenous scholarship. It is a database of journals published in Mongolia, covering the full range of academic disciplines. The objective of the journal is to give greater visibility to the participating journals, and to the research they convey.
- **[The Mongolia Society](#)**
The Mongolia Society publishes on an irregular basis. The journal contains material on a wide range of topics related to Mongolia, including travel and cultural news from Mongolia and Mongol communities.

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

Elementary (Prek-5)	Middle School (6-8)	High School (9-12)
National Geographic Kids: Mongolia	Genghis Khan (Scholastics)	Mongol Empire
Mongolian Herder’s Home	Mongolian Herder’s Home	Mongolian Women: Then Vs. Now
Mongolia Geography	Mongolia Culture	Mongolian Herders: Exploring Cultural Sustainability
Mongolia Culture	Mongolia History	Mongolian Women- Then and Now
Life in Mongolia	Life in Mongolia	Mongolian Nomads- Exploring Cultural Sustainability
	Mongols- Pax Mongolia	
	Mongols Influence on China and Japan	

Lesson Plan Resources

[East Asian National Resource Center- Mongolia](#)

[Kids National Geography- Mongolia](#)

[Lesson Plan- Mongolia Teacher Resources](#)

[Teacher Pay Teachers \(Fee Applicable\)](#)

Exchange Programs for Students

[Youth for Understanding:
Intercultural Exchange
Program](#)

Program Description:
Students traveling to Mongolia through the exchange program are placed with local volunteer host families in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. Ulaanbaatar is a cultural hotspot full of museums, soviet-era buildings, and ancient monasteries! YFU students in Mongolia also have the unique opportunity to spend 4 days of their summer living with a nomadic host family in the countryside.

Eligibility: 15 to 18 years
Fee: \$15995
Scholarship: [Available](#)

[ASSE Summer Immersion
Program](#)

Program Description:
Choose a 6-week summer program or a School year/Semester program; As an ASSE exchange student to Mongolia, you may live in a "ger," the traditional, round tent made of canvas and white felt which can be easily disassembled and transported. You'll learn from your ASSE host family the importance that Buddhism still holds in this country filled with traditions of the past, but eagerly looking toward the future's possibilities. During your ASSE exchange year, you may sip from a beautiful tea bowl or learn the favourite Mongolian sport of horseback riding. By spending your ASSE exchange year in this intriguing country, you will learn the fascinating culture and language of the Mongolian people.

Eligibility: High School Students
Fee: \$7500 for Summer Immersion; \$9950 for School year/Semester
Scholarship: [Available](#)

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- [**Embassy of Mongolia**](#)
The Mongolian Embassy in Washington, D.C. is the diplomatic mission of Mongolia to the United States. It is located at 2833 M Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. in the Georgetown neighborhood. Visit the website to learn more about Mongolia and U.S.-Mongolia relations.
- [**American Center for Mongolian Studies**](#)
The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports academic projects and exchanges in Mongolia and the Inner Asian region, which includes Mongolia and the neighboring areas of China, Russia and Central Asia.
- [**Friends of Mongolia**](#). Friends of Mongolia (FOM) mission is to develop partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and human development. In fulfillment of this mission, FOM offers various events representing Mongolia culture
- [**Mongolia Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley**](#)
The Mongolia Initiative was established as the result of a generous gift from the government of Mongolia to UC Berkeley and the Institute of East Asian Studies. This initiative has worked to bring together UC Berkeley's diverse resources related to Mongolia.
- [**Center for Strategic & International Studies \(CSIS\)**](#)
The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges.
- [**The Brookings Institution**](#)
The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national, and global levels.
- [**The Wilson Center**](#)
The Wilson Center, chartered by Congress in 1968 as the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson, is the nation's key non-partisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue to inform actionable ideas for the policy community.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE DMV AREA

- [**D.C. Tsagaan Sar Celebration**](#). March
The Mongolian Lunar New Year, commonly known as Tsagaan Sar, is the first day of the year according to the Mongolian lunisolar calendar. The annual Washington DC area is sponsored by the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area (MSNCA) and the Friends of Mongolia in the DMV area. Celebrate the biggest holidays in Mongolia with traditional Mongolian food and drinks.

- **Mongolian Naadam Festival**. July
The event held annually in the Mongolian capital celebrates that country's three main sporting pastimes: Mongolian wrestling, archery and cross-country horse racing. This annual event is held in Arlington with the wrestling competition being the main attraction.

Reference

“Mongolia Country Profile.” *BBC News*, BBC, 26 Feb. 2018,
www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15460525.

“Overview.” *World Bank*, www.worldbank.org/en/country/mongolia/overview.

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