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Get to Know: Philippines

The Philippines is an island country rich in history and culture. How much do you know about this country? Set off on a webquest to explore the Philippines and find out!

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about the Philippines, you can start by searching the key word "Philippines." Write the answers below each question or in the space provided.

1. The Philippines consists of more than _____ islands, but only about _____ of them are inhabited.
2. The capital of the Philippines is _____.
3. The ancestors of Filipinos came from _____ and _____.
4. Look at the image "Philippines flag and coat of arms." What colors are in the flag of the Philippines?
5. When did the Philippines become independent? From what country did the Philippines become independent?
6. In addition to English and Tagalog, about _____ native languages are spoken in the Philippines.
7. Click on "The 10 largest cities in the Philippines." What is the most populated city in the Philippines?
8. The highest mountain is _____.
9. Most of the islands form three groups. Which islands make up each group?
10. What natural disaster often occurs on the islands?

***Users of the Advanced database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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True or False

Write "True" if the statement about the Philippines is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

_____ 11. Fabian de la Rosa wrote novels that criticized Spanish authority in the Philippines.

_____ 12. The Philippine Trench is one of the shallowest spots in the oceans.

_____ 13. Tarsiers live only in the Philippines and the East Indies.

_____ 14. The Panay island produces coconuts and tobacco.

_____ 15. Filipinos farm about one-third of the nation's land.

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Identify the President

In the line provided, write to which president the description belongs. (Hint: For this question, see the "Presidents of the Philippines" table in the "Government of the Philippines" article.)

16. President of the First Philippine Republic _____

17. President during the Japanese occupation _____

18. President who preceded Elpidio Quirino _____

19. First woman president of the Philippines _____

20. President who served from 2010 to 2016 _____

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Find It!

21. What does the blue stripe on the flag of the Philippines represent? (Hint: For this question, see the “Philippines flag” article.)
22. Why does the sun on the Philippines flag have eight rays? (Hint: For this question, see the “Philippines flag” article.)
23. Why did many people oppose the Philippine-American War? (Hint: For this question, see the “Philippine-American War” article.)
24. The congress modeled the Malolos Constitution on the constitutions of which European nations? (Hint: For this question, see the “Malolos Constitution” article.)
25. When did the government transfer the capital from Manila to Quezon City? (Hint: For this question, see the “Quezon City” article.)
26. What is a lingua franca? (Hint: For this article, see the “Tagalog language” article.)
27. The Philippine Independent Church granted sainthood to which four Philippine patriots? (Hint: For this question, see the “Isabelo de los Reyes.”)
28. What was the purpose of La Liga Filipina (the Philippine League)? (Hint: For this question, see the José Rizal article.)
29. Many of the mountains on Mindanao are what? (Hint: For this question, see the “Mindanao” article.)

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Timeline

Complete the timeline of the history of the Philippines by putting the events in the correct order. Write the letter in its correct space. (Hint: For this question, see the “History of the Philippines” article.)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. _____ | A. Spain gave the Philippines to the United States |
| 2. _____ | B. The Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth |
| 3. _____ | C. Spanish explorers colonized the Philippines |
| 4. _____ | D. The Philippines became independent |
| 5. _____ | E. Andres Bonifacio formed the Katipunan |
| 6. _____ | F. Filipinos voted to approve a new constitution |

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Extension Activity 1

Imagine that you are a travel agent who wants to promote your new vacation spot—the Philippines! Create a travel brochure for prospective travelers that includes pictures and descriptions. Below are suggested topics to include in your brochure:

- The kind of climate and environment that travelers should expect to experience
- The recreational activities the travelers might try
- The kinds of foods the travelers will eat
- The tourist sites the travelers will want to visit
- The animals and plants that the travelers will see

Use your imagination, but make sure that the information is accurate.

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Extension Activity 2

Imagine you could interview José Rizal. What three questions would you ask him? Explain why you asked him those questions.

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Extension Activity 3

Write either a one- or two-page letter from the perspective of a person living during the First Philippine Republic, telling you (a student in the future!) what a typical day is like for him or her.

Teacher Page

Answers

1. The Philippines consists of more than 7,000 islands, but only about 1,000 of them are inhabited.
2. The capital of the Philippines is Manila.
3. The ancestors of Filipinos came from Indonesia and Malaysia.
4. White, yellow, blue, and red are in the Philippines flag.
5. The Philippines became independent in 1946 from the United States.
6. In addition to English and Tagalog, about 70 native languages are spoken in the Philippines.
7. Quezon City is the most populated city in the Philippines.
8. The highest mountain is Mount Apo.
9. The northern group of islands consists of Luzon and Mindoro. The central group, called the Visayan islands, is made up of about 7,000 islands. The southern group consists of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, a group of about 400 islands that extend south and west.
10. Earthquakes occur frequently on the islands.
11. False. José Rizal wrote novels that criticized Spanish authority in the Philippines.
12. False. The Philippine Trench is one the deepest spots in the oceans.
13. True.
14. False. The Panay Island produces coconuts and sugar cane.
15. True.
16. Emilio Aguinaldo was president of the First Philippine Republic.
17. Jose P. Laurel was president during the Japanese occupation.
18. Manuel Roxas preceded Elpidio Quirino.
19. Corazon C. Aquino was the first woman president of the Philippines.
20. Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino, III served from 2010 to 2016.
21. The blue stripe on the flag of the Philippines represents patriotism.
22. The sun's eight rays honor the eight Philippine provinces that rebelled against Spanish colonial rule in the late 1800's.
23. Many people opposed the Philippine-American War because they saw it as an example of American imperialism.
24. The congress modeled the Malolos Constitution on the constitutions of Belgium and France.
25. The government transferred the capital from Manila to Quezon City in 1948.
26. A lingua franca is a language that allows people who do not share a common native language to communicate.

27. The Philippine Independent Church granted sainthood to José Rizal, José Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora.
28. La Liga Filipina (the Philippine League) was devoted to promoting unity and reforming the colony.
29. Many of the mountains on Mindanao are active volcanoes.
30. Timeline

The correct order of the events is:

1. C. Spanish explorers colonized the Philippines
2. A. Spain gave the Philippines to the United States
3. E. Andres Bonifacio formed the Katipunan
4. B. The Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth
5. D. The Philippines became independent
6. F. Filipinos voted to approve a new constitution

Extension Activities 1, 2, and 3: Answers will vary