

CultureGrams

Frequently Asked Questions



Updated April 2012

Q. Who writes CultureGrams?

A. Each World Edition report is written by a native or long-term resident of the country in coordination with a CultureGrams editor. Writers are selected for their education, knowledge of a national language, experience with different regions and socioeconomic groups, recent residency in the country, and access to current information. Once an acceptable draft is prepared, independent reviewers (also natives or long-term residents) with similar qualifications but varying backgrounds provide additional perspectives and insights before the new text is submitted to a CultureGrams editor for final editing and publication.

The Kids Edition reports are written by CultureGrams editors, but with extensive input from reviewers. These contributors meet the same qualifications as the World Edition writers. The Provinces Edition reports are also written by CultureGrams editors and evaluated by qualified Canadian reviewers. The States Edition reports are written by CultureGrams editors and submitted to state historical experts for review.

Q. What countries are covered in the World Edition?

A. The World Edition includes more than 200 country-specific reports. These provide complete coverage of every sovereign country recognized by the United Nations, plus several foreign dependencies.

Q. Why are some countries included in the Kids Edition, but not others?

A. The Kids Edition is a relatively new product and our editorial team is adding new texts each year. At present over 100 countries are represented. The countries included are chosen because 1) they are among those most requested by teachers and schools, and 2) they reflect a diversity of regions and cultures around the world.

Q. How often do you update CultureGrams?

A. The product is updated weekly. The World and Kids editions of CultureGrams are updated annually. Each report is updated with the latest statistics and government leaders, and approximately one-fifth of the reports in the CultureGrams series is reviewed by independent reviewers (native or long-term residents) annually, ensuring that every report in the series is revised on a five-year cycle. The States and Provinces editions are also updated annually by CultureGrams editors.

Q. What sources do you use for your statistics?

A: Most statistical information (e.g., population, adult literacy, infant mortality, life expectancy) presented in the World and Kids editions of CultureGrams comes from the Human Development Report, published by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, or the CIA World Factbook. Statistics from other sources (such as a government ministry) may be used on occasion. In the States Edition, statistics come from the U.S. Census Bureau. In the Provinces Edition, statistics come from Statistics Canada and the Census of Canada. With the exception of the statistics, virtually all of the information in the CultureGrams series is provided by our network of writers and reviewers.

Q: In the usage stats, how is a user session determined?

A: A new session is created when a user a) **logs out**/shuts down the computer; b) **closes all instances** of the browser they were viewing the product in on the computer they were using. If a user only closes the window with CultureGrams, but leave other browser windows open, the session will not renew; or c) leaves the product open within a browser for thirty minutes or longer with **no activity**. Aside from those actions, the session will persist.

Q: Is there a foreign language version of CultureGrams?

A: Not at this time. Aside from the occasional use of foreign cultural terms, CultureGrams are entirely in English.

Q: Under what circumstances can I print or copy an item of CultureGrams content?

A: Subscribers may print and/or copy all CultureGrams material for personal use or for use by others associated with the subscribing institution. Printing and/or copying CultureGrams materials for use by non-subscribers is prohibited.

Q: What is ProQuest's policy about republishing content from CultureGrams?

You may not, without explicit written permission, republish or redistribute CultureGrams content in any electronic or print form, for commercial or non-commercial use, including web sites, blogs, magazines, newspaper articles, journals, books, etc. with two exceptions:

Small excerpts of CultureGrams written content (less than one category) may be used in scholarly/academic reports and publications.

CultureGrams subscribers may (and are encouraged to) use photos, videos, and other CultureGrams media for fair use educational purposes, such as reports, class presentations, and other assignments. These may be posted on secure, password-protected school intranets but not on the open web.

For specific questions about copyright policy for CultureGrams, please e-mail permissions@proquest.com with your question.

Q: Is it possible for an individual to purchase a single CultureGrams report?

A: Yes, there is a Yahoo! Store created for that purpose: <http://culturegram.stores.yahoo.net/> Individual reports may be purchased along with copy privileges for distribution of the purchased report.

Q: Can I still buy CultureGrams in softback or binder print formats?

A: No. CultureGrams is available online only. The World Edition of CultureGrams Online has all of the same content formerly found in the print editions. However, the Online version has extensive additional content and is more frequently updated than the print editions were. The Online Database also includes the Kids, States, and Provinces editions, which are written for upper elementary school students and teachers.

The CultureGrams Online Database also features:

- photo gallery with hundreds of images
- citation generator
- downloadable slideshows
- downloadable and streaming videos
- build-your-own sortable data tables and graphs
- recipes for each country
- short biographies of famous people for each country
- interviews with natives of various countries
- printable detail and outline maps
- color flag images and flag outlines
- sound files providing national anthems and country name pronunciation
- state bird sound files
- world time feature
- distance calculator
- currency converter
- teaching activities
- list of national curriculum standards met by CultureGrams
- keyword searching ability throughout entire product
- printable PDF files of each CultureGrams text
- text-only reports (to meet all level-one guidelines of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act)

Q: What's happening with the World Conflicts Today product?

A: World Conflicts Today (WCT) will no longer be offered as a unique product after June 30, 2012. The WCT texts have been archived within the SIRS Issues Researcher and History Study Center products. Go to <https://www.proquest.com/trials/requestTrialInput> to request a trial of either of these (or any other) ProQuest products.