

Having Trouble Finding a Chunk of Land?

Don't despair. Many people who have wanted to build a country have had this problem. Here's how they've overcome it:

Assemble a country out of bits and pieces

A group of artists set up the Kingdom of Elgaland-Vargaland by claiming the land along the borders of the world's countries plus strips of ocean beyond their territorial waters. Sure, their micronation* is made of snippets scattered all over the globe, but it's still theirs. Or so they claim. Take a tip from them and look for scraps of land that aren't clearly owned by anyone.

Get out your magnifying glass

All around the world are tiny parcels of land that no one has ever bothered with. Some are islands that have recently surfaced in the oceans. In 1997, Gregory Green laid claim to a teeny coral isle poking up in the South Pacific for the New Free State of Caroline. Unfortunately, a mere two years later, the nearby country of Kiribati took the island for itself.

Nothing succeeds like secession

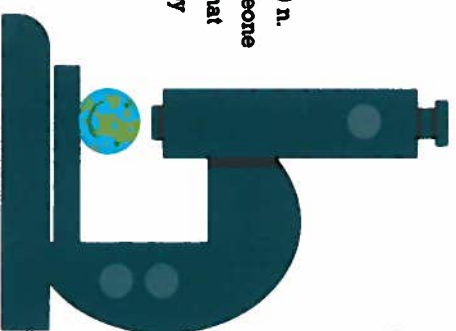
Secession (breaking away from an existing country) is a surefire way to start a new country. The Republic of Molossia (population: four) is a micronation Kevin Baugh formed by breaking away from the state of Nevada. So far, the United Nations has not recognized Molossia as an independent country.

Go virtual

Who says you need land to have a country? Several countries exist only on the Internet. Lizbekistan, for example, was an e-country that lasted for three glorious years until its founder, Liz Stirling, shut it down in 1999. Lizbekistan once had several thousand e-citizens.

* Mi-cro-na-tion

(my-'tro-'nay-'shun) n.
A country that someone has made up and that is not recognized by real countries.



STEP #1: Stake Out Your Identity

If you're going to start a country, you've got to let the world know you exist. Why? Because having a public profile will help you attract a population and maybe even tourists. A name, a flag, a national anthem and a motto shout, "Hey, we're here!"

They can also be used to say something about your country. Bathmatia, for example, may only be the size of a large bathmat, but its flag (and national haircut) say it's a very clean and orderly nation.

