

Naming Your Country

There are really no rules you have to follow here. Country names can be descriptive (Iceland), colorful (Greenland) or directional (South Africa). Or they can say something about who's in charge (Kingdom of Sweden; People's Republic of China). They can be simple (Togo) or fancy (Most Serene Republic of San Marino).



Want to name your country after yourself? To be honest, this doesn't happen all that often in the real world. Simón

Bolívar was one of the few people who had this honor. Bolivia was named after him in 1825 because he led its struggle for independence from Spain. But if you insist ... just chop off the last bit of your name (first or last) and add "a" or "ia."

Another popular option is to tack on "land" or "stan," as in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. ("Stan" means "land" in several languages.) This may not work if your name is Stan.

Some countries choose a name that says something about their citizens. The "tuk" in Turkey and Turkmenistan means "strong." Why not go with something like Bravestan or Lazyland or Popularia?



Just one warning: You'll need to work your country's name into a national anthem (page 14), so you might want to make it something hum-able. We are pretty sure the folks in Equatorial Guinea didn't think this through.



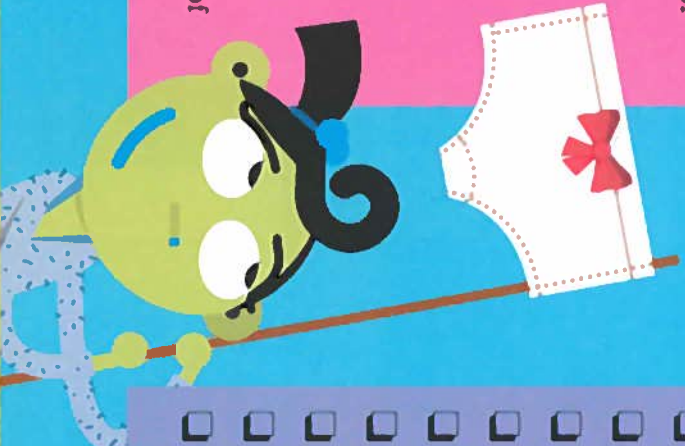
U-Name-It

If you get really stuck and can't seem to settle on the perfect name for your country, use this handy chart to help you pick one. Choose the first half from Column A, and then pick a fitting description from Column B. Presto! You've got yourself a name.

- Column A**
- ☐ Independent Republic of
 - ☐ United Federation of
 - ☐ Dominion of
 - ☐ Kingdom of
 - ☐ Principality of
 - ☐ Union of
 - ☐ Queendom of
 - ☐ Empire of
 - ☐ Sovereign State of
 - ☐ People's Republic of

+

- Column B**
- ☐ Very Large Underpants
 - ☐ Smiley Faces
 - ☐ Bob
 - ☐ the Medicine Cabinet
 - ☐ Donuts
 - ☐ Guys with Spears
 - ☐ Tonsils
 - ☐ Wing Nuts
 - ☐ the Sock Drawer
 - ☐ Insomnia



Name Changes

Don't worry if you use your name for a while and decide you don't particularly like it. No problem. Many countries change names, sometimes several times. Today's Iran was known as Persia until 1935. Ceylon was renamed Sri Lanka in 1972. Upper Volta became Burkina Faso in 1984. (No wonder they changed — who would want to be called an Upper Voltan?) But, for the most part, countries tend to hang onto their names, only renaming themselves if there's been a revolution or other big change in power.

