

Finding a Population

No one says you need to have a huge population, especially if your country is only the size of a bathmat. But you'll need some sort of population, because without citizens your country will be ... well, just another bathmat.

Start by asking friends and family members to move to your country. If they won't cooperate, here are some other possibilities:

Attract immigrants

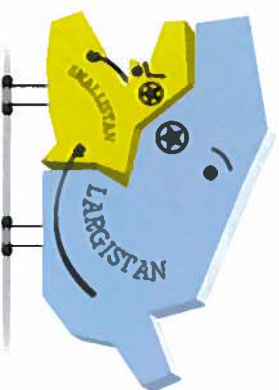
These are people from other countries who might be willing to move to your country in search of a better life. In the early 1900s, for example, Canada offered free farmland to immigrants.

Conquer a neighboring country

Conquering is definitely a risky business, as nations all through history have discovered. Most countries don't want to be invaded, so doing it requires a lot of force. And beware: They may not stay conquered forever. Mexico was captured by Spain in 1519, but then threw out its rulers and declared independence in 1810.

Annex a neighboring country

This is a more peaceful and sometimes legal variation of conquering. It means that you take over a country and make it part of your own. Like conquered countries, annexed countries may not be happy about giving up their independence. East Timor was annexed by Indonesia in 1975, but the East Timorese fought for independence, which they regained in 2002. Their country is now called the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



Welcome refugees

People who are forced to flee their homeland because they are in danger may be eager to move to your country. Vietnamese boat people — refugees who fled their country by boat after the Vietnam War — were welcomed by many nations, including the United States, Australia, Canada and France.

Passports

The first passports were simply handwritten notes signed by a king or queen requesting safe passage for the bearer. Today's passports are just a fancy version of those notes — with lots of extra security features to keep criminals from stealing and using them.

If your citizens want to travel, they too will want passports. You can make them out of small notebooks or folded pieces of paper.



Name of country

National seal

Passport number

Photo of citizen

Name	Pasme Dasoapa
Nationality	Bathmatian
Sex	M
Signature: <i>Pasme</i>	
6211962396667699332433065222	
Jan. 1, 2009	
Dec. 31, 2019	
Nov. 14, 2001	
Lintalova	
Bathmatia	
32433066219666621769933522	

Dates of issue and expiry

Date of birth

Place of birth

Bunch of fancy numbers to thwart counterfeiters