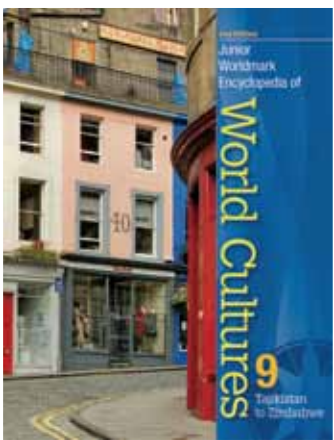


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FULL COLOR




1 Location

The Flemings live in the northern part of Belgium, along an east-west line dividing the country's Flemish- and French-speaking regions. The Flemish-speaking provinces are East and West Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg, and part of Brussels. The land is mostly low, some of it below sea level. The Flemings account for 58 percent of Belgium's 10.4 million people.

2 Language

Flemish (Vlaams) is a variant of Dutch that has been spoken for almost 1,000 years in the north of Belgium. Recognized as an official state language, it is different from the Dutch spoken in the neighboring Netherlands. Flemish does not have its own alphabet. It uses standard Dutch with some alterations.

Count to Ten	
English	Flemish
one	één
two	twee
three	drie
four	vier
five	vijf
six	zix
seven	zeven
eight	acht
nine	negen
ten	tien



3 Religion

The great majority of Flemish are Catholic. Although many are not observant on a daily basis, nearly all Flemings are baptized and receive a Catholic education.

4 Folklore

The name of Antwerp—the major city in the Flemish part of Belgium—is derived from the name of a Roman hero who is said to have killed an evil giant and cut off his head. (The city's symbol is a red hand.) Some of the Flemings' colorful programs and festivals are based on local folklore, such as the Car Festival of Ypres. This celebration is based on a legend about the use of carts to get rid of rats in the city of Ypres in the Middle Ages. For a long time, it was the festival custom to throw live rats out of windows. Today, cloth cats are used instead.

Consistent categories, including language, folklore and religion, make this encyclopedia easy to follow.



Angola

■ Angolans 1

The people of Angola are called Angolans. More than 90 percent of the population of Angola speaks one of the many Bantu languages. The largest Bantu-speaking groups are the Ovimbundu (37 percent), the Mbundu (33 percent), and the Bakongo (13 percent). To learn more about Bakongo, see the chapter on the Republic of the Congo on volume 2. The median (middle) birthrate population is about 305,000, and there are about 196,000 European, mostly of Portuguese descent.

Angolans

PRONUNCIATION: an-GOH-lee-uh

LOCATION: Angola

POPULATION: 18 million

LANGUAGE: Portuguese; Ovimbundu, Mbundu, Kongo, Chokwe, other Bantu languages

RELIGION: Christianity (Roman Catholics and Protestants); indigenous religious beliefs

Introduction

In 1482 the Portuguese established forts and missions along the west coast of the Republic of Angola. King Alphonso of the Kongo converted to Christianity and established friendly relations with Portugal. In 1575, the Portuguese sent convicted criminals to Angola, where they founded a settlement at Luanda, the present-day capital of Angola.

In 1482, slave trading began and continued for almost 400 years, even though there were many attempts to ban it. The Portuguese formally abolished slavery in 1875, but it was not until 1911 that the slave trade really ended.

In 1900 the Portuguese settlers began cacao and palm oil plantations. (Chocolate is made from cacao.) Diamond mining began in 1912. Oil was discovered in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1951 the Portuguese made Angola an overseas territory and an integral part of Portugal. A year later, the first colonies (guessed settlements) were named by Portuguese immigrants.

The Portuguese had a policy known as *assimilado*. This policy permitted only culturally assimilated Angolans (those who had adopted European ways) to enjoy the privileges of Portuguese citizenship. As of 1960, only about 83,000 of 4.5 million people in Angola qualified as citizens.

Many in Angola were not happy with the Portuguese control of their country. These Angolans organized resistance movements. After

Accessible text, colorful images and helpful sidebars help students understand countries and their cultures.

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- Brunei: Bruneians
- Comoros: Comorians
- East Timor: Timorese
- France: Alsatians
- Georgia: Ossetians
- Guinea Bissau: Guineans of Guinea Bissau
- India: Kashmiris
- India: Jains
- India: Sikhs
- India: Hindus
- Kosovo: Kosovars
- Laos: Hmong
- Maldives: Maldivians
- Malta: Maltese
- Montenegro: Montenegrins
- Myanmar: Kachins
- Peru: Matsigenka
- Sao Tome and Principe: Sao Tomeans
- Serbia: Serbs
- Tahiti (Territory): Tahitians
- Togo: Ewe
- Tonga: Tongans

FEATURES

- Annotated maps
- At-a-glance statistics
- Consistent subheads
- Contextual pronunciations and definitions
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- Glossary
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