

A Look Back at Independence

2017 Edition

As we say goodbye to 2017, it is important to think back to things that have happened within the last 100 years of history leading up to this year. Below is information and questions about 25 countries that have become independent within the last 100 years. Answer the questions and then choose the correct answer for the second question from the choices that are given.

1. This country, whose capital is Accra, was once called the Gold Coast. It spent many years as a British colony before becoming independent. Its most important crop today is cacao seeds. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1957 1969 1974

2. After being under the rule of the Spaniards for more than 100 years, this country attained its freedom. Located on the west coast of Africa, this country also includes five islands—Bioko, Río Muni, Corisco, Elobey Chico, Elobey Grande, and Annobbón. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1960 1968 1974

3. Although this island country located in the Mediterranean Sea has been controlled by many different nations throughout history, it became a British colony in 1878. After becoming independent, violent clashes between two major groups caused the country to divide. However, all nations except one have recognized only one government for this country. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1960 1975 1989

4. This country is the island lying farthest to the east in the West Indies. It lies northeast of Venezuela and was a British colony until it became independent. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1928 1947 1966

5. This mountainous country, bordered by Rwanda, Tanzania, Lake Tanganyika, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is one of the smallest in Africa. It was a German colony, controlled by Belgium, and a United Nations Trust Territory administered by Belgium. Finally, it attained independence. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1949 1958 1962

6. This country, whose capital is Suva, lies in the South Pacific Ocean and is made up of more than 330 islands. It gained its independence after almost 100 years as a British colony. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1970 1984 1996

7. This country, whose capital is Paramaribo, is the smallest independent country in South America. It was ruled by the Netherlands until it became independent. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1953 1975 1991

8. This country, whose capital is Libreville, lies on the west coast of Africa. Albert Schweitzer built his hospital and leper colony in this country. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1925 1948 1960

9. Once known as French Somaliland, this colony attained its independence after many years of French rule. Its capital, located on the Gulf of Aden, is also a major port. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1959 1977 1992

10. This country, located in the center of Africa, is one of the most undeveloped countries in Africa. Formerly a French colony called Ubangi-Shari, this country's capital is Bangui. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1960 1980 2000

11. This country in western Africa, formerly called Upper Volta, achieved its independence from France. Its capital is Ouagadougou. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1960 1984 2000

12. This country on Africa's southwest coast gained its independence in the past 100 years. Parts of the country had been under the rule of Portugal for many decades. Its highest elevation is Moco. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1938 1975 1960

13. This country on the west coast of Africa was known as Dahomey when it first achieved its independence from France. It changed its name fifteen years after achieving independence to its present name. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1974 1960 1953

14. This country bordered by Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Guinea, and Liberia, lies along the Gulf of Guinea on the west coast of Africa. Coffee and cacao farms were popular during its time as a colony of France. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1940 1957 1960

15. This country, formerly a colony of the United Kingdom, is one of the smallest independent countries in Africa. Only 15-30 miles (24-48 km) wide, it is completely surrounded by the country of Senegal except for its short coastline. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1937 1965 1999

16. This island nation in the Indian Ocean was claimed by the Dutch, French, and finally the British. Although an island, it is considered part of Africa. Its capital is Port Louis. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1924 1951 1968

17. This country, the largest in Africa, gained its independence from France. The highest elevation in this country is Mount Tahat. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1955 1942 1962

18. This African country, which was a former British colony, lies in the center of southern Africa. A land-locked country, it is a member of the British Commonwealth and achieved its independence in the last 100 years. The Kalahari Desert covers a portion of the country. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1995 1972 1966

19. This Caribbean island country was ceded by the French to Great Britain in 1763. Shortly after independence from Great Britain, this country elected the first female prime minister in the Caribbean. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1978 1989 2000

20. This very small country in Central America is bordered by Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and Guatemala. After being a British colony for many years, it achieved its independence. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1922 1957 1981

21. This country, which lies deep in the heart of Africa, gained its independence from Belgium and has been known by different names, including Zaire, since that time. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1942 1960 1990

22. This southwest Asian country is made up of more than 30 islands in the Persian Gulf. While many of the islands are covered in desert, this country was a major center for trade in the area for many years. Independence for this British colony was gained in the last 100 years. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1971 1964 1952

23. This country, also known as Myanmar, gained its independence from the United Kingdom in the last 100 years. Bordered by Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Thailand, and the Bay of Bengal, this country lies in Southeast Asia. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1919 1948 1962

24. This country is made up of a chain of about 3,000 coral islands and reefs in the Atlantic Ocean. After being a British colony in the West Indies for many years, this country gained its independence. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1925 1950 1973

25. This country, whose capital is St. George, is an island in the West Indies and one of the smallest countries in the Western Hemisphere. After many years as a British colony, it gained its independence. What country is it?

In what year did this country achieve its independence?

1943 1959 1974

Throughout this study we have focused on the political independence of countries. How do you define independence? Are there other types of independence? What does independence mean to you?

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Answer Key

1. Ghana; 1957
2. Equatorial Guinea; 1968
3. Cyprus; 1960
4. Barbados; 1966
5. Burundi; 1962
6. Fiji; 1970
7. Suriname; 1975
8. Gabon; 1960
9. Djibouti; 1977
10. Central African Republic; 1960
11. Burkina Faso; 1960
12. Angola; 1975
13. Benin; 1960
14. Cote D'Ivoire; 1960
15. Gambia; 1965
16. Mauritius; 1968
17. Algeria; 1962
18. Botswana; 1966
19. Dominica; 1978
20. Belize; 1981
21. Democratic Republic of the Congo; 1960
22. Bahrain; 1971
23. Burma; 1948
24. The Bahamas; 1973
25. Grenada; 1974