

# A Trip Around the World

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## India



**Region:** Asia  
**Capital City:** New Delhi  
**Language:** Hindi & English  
**Population:** 1.17 billion  
**Area:** 3.29 million sq miles



India has one of the longest constitutions in the modern world, with 444 articles.

It lays out specific rights, much like the U.S. Constitution.

### Compare It: Freedom of Speech

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."*

**India's Constitution says:** *"All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression; Nothing...shall...prevent the State from making any law [that] imposes reasonable restrictions on [this right] in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, [or] public order, decency, or morality..."*

**Notes:** Instead of saying there should be NO law against freedom of speech, India's constitution says that the government may pass a "reasonable" law against freedom of speech for several different reasons such as security, sovereignty, public order, decency, etc.

### Compare It: Freedom of the Press

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."*

**India's Constitution says:** *"All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression..."*

**Notes:** There is no separate "freedom of the press" in India's constitution. "Freedom of speech" works double duty!

### Compare It: Freedom of Religion

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

**India's Constitution says:** *"Subject to public order, morality and health...all persons are equally entitled to...the right freely to profess, practice, and propagate religion."*

**Notes:** The Indian government reserves the right to check the practice of religion based on public order, morality, and health.

### Compare It: Equality Under the Law

**The United States Constitution says:** *"No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*

**India's Constitution says:** *"The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."*

**BUT WAIT! India's Constitution says:** *"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India...to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement..."*

## Germany



**Region:** Europe  
**Capitol City:** Berlin  
**Language:** German  
**Population:** 81.7 million  
**Area:** 137,846 square miles



Germany is made up of many states, similar to the United States.

### Compare It: Freedom of Speech

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."*

**Germany's Constitution says:** *"Every person shall have the right freely to express and disseminate his opinions in speech, writing, and pictures and to inform himself without hindrance from generally accessible sources."*

*"[This right] shall find [its] limits in the provisions of general laws, in provisions for the protection of young persons, and in the right to personal honor."*

### Compare It: Freedom of the Press

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."*

**Germany's Constitution says:** *"Freedom of the press and freedom of reporting by means of broadcasts and films shall be guaranteed. There shall be no censorship."*

*"[This right] shall find [its] limits in the provisions of general laws, in provisions for the protection of young persons, and in the right to personal honor."*

*"Whoever abuses the freedom of expression, in particular the freedom of the press ...in order to combat the free democratic basic order shall forfeit [this] basic right."*

**Notes:** Germany's constitution protects the press, but has limits when it comes to protecting youth and preserving "personal honor." Freedom of the press is a right that can be forfeited in Germany

### Compare It: Freedom of Religion

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

**Germany's Constitution says:** *"Freedom of faith and of conscience, and freedom to profess a religious or philosophical creed, shall be inviolable. The undisturbed practice of religion shall be guaranteed."*

### Compare It: Equality Under the Law

**The United States Constitution says:** *"No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*

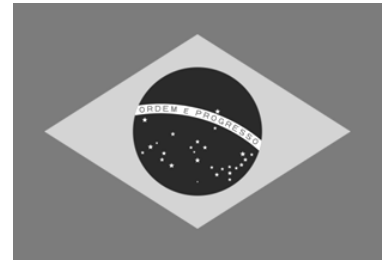
**Germany's Constitution says:** *"All persons shall be equal before the law."*

**BUT WAIT!** **Germany's Constitution says:** *"Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist."*

## Brazil



**Region:** South America  
**Capitol City:** Brasilia  
**Language:** Portuguese  
**Population:** 201 million  
**Area:** 3.29 million sq miles



Brazil's current constitution was adopted in 1988 and is the seventh version in the nation's history.

### Compare It: Freedom of Speech

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."*

**Brazil's Constitution says:** *"...the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden..."*

**Notes:** "Anonymity being forbidden" means that you have the right to freedom of speech as long as you don't remain anonymous!

### Compare It: Freedom of the Press

**The United States Constitution says:**

*"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."*

**Brazil's Constitution says:**

*"...the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden..."*

**Notes:** Like in India, there is no separate "freedom of the press" in Brazil's constitution. "Freedom of speech" works double duty!

### Compare It: Freedom of Religion

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

**Brazil's Constitution says:** *"Freedom of conscience and of belief is inviolable, the free exercise of religious cults being ensured and, under the terms of the law, the protection of places of worship and their rites being guaranteed..."*

### Compare It: Equality Under the Law

**The United States Constitution says:** *"No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*

**Brazil's Constitution says:** *"All persons are equal before the law, without any distinction whatsoever..."*

**BUT WAIT! Brazil's Constitution says:** *"Electoral enrollment and voting are mandatory for persons over eighteen years of age [and] optional for: a) the illiterate; b) those over seventy years of age; c) those over sixteen and under eighteen years of age."*

**The United States Constitution says:** *"The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged..."*

# A Trip Around the World

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Iran



**Region:** Middle East  
**Capitol City:** Tehran  
**Language:** Persian & Turkic  
**Population:** 67 million  
**Area:** 1.6 million sq miles



Iran's constitution states that the Qur'an, or holy book of Islam, is the center of rule in Iran.

The government is a blend of democracy and theocracy (religious laws and leadership).

### Compare It: Freedom of Speech

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."*

**Iran's Constitution says:** Iran's constitution does not say anything about individual people having freedom of speech. "Freedom of the press" must do double-duty...

---

### Compare It: Freedom of the Press

**The United States Constitution says:**

*"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."*

**Iran's Constitution says:**

*"Publications and the press have freedom of expression except when it is where there is infringement of the basic tenets of Islam or public rights. In this respect detailed provisions will be laid down by law."*

---

### Compare It: Freedom of Religion

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

**Iran's Constitution says:** *"The official religion of Iran is Islam ... and this principle will remain eternally immutable."*

*"Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian Iranians are the only recognized religious minorities, who, within the limits of the law, are free to perform their religious rites and ceremonies..."*

---

### Compare It: Equality Under the Law

**The United States Constitution says:** *"No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*

**Iran's Constitution says:** *"All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law..."*

---

**BUT WAIT!** **Iran's Constitution says:** *"The preservation of the environment ... is regarded as a public duty in the Islamic Republic. Economic and other activities that inevitably involve pollution of the environment or cause irreparable damage to it are therefore forbidden."*

## Ghana



**Region:** Africa  
**Capitol City:** Accra  
**Language:** English & Akan  
**Population:** 23 million  
**Area:** 238,538 sq miles



Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara desert to gain its freedom from European powers.

### Compare It: Freedom of Speech

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."*

**Ghana's Constitution says:** *"All persons shall have the right to...freedom of speech and expression... [But the government may pass laws that are] reasonably required for the purpose of safeguarding the people of Ghana against the teaching ... of a doctrine which ... encourages disrespect for the nationhood of Ghana, the national symbols and emblems, or incites hatred against other members of the community ..."*

### Compare It: Freedom of the Press

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press..."*

**Ghana's Constitution says:** *"All persons shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media..."*

**Note:** The same restrictions for freedom of speech also apply to freedom of the press.

### Compare It: Freedom of Religion

**The United States Constitution says:** *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*

**Ghana's Constitution says:** *"All persons shall have the right to freedom to practice any religion and to manifest such practice..."*

### Compare It: Equality Under the Law

**The United States Constitution says:** *"No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws..."*

**Ghana's Constitution says:** *"All persons shall be equal before the law..."*

### **BUT WAIT!** Ghana's Constitution says:

*"All persons shall have the right to equal educational opportunities and facilities and ... basic education shall be free, compulsory and available to all..."*