

DESTINATION: MOROCCO



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MAP OF MOROCCO



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MOROCCO

Travel back to a slower time of aromatic mint tea in cool courtyards and sun-drenched bazaars full of handmade jewelry and colorful tagines. With a history stretching back nearly 10,000 years, Morocco has been crisscrossed by Roman legions, Berber caravans, and Muslim scholars. The country's great cities - Marrakech, Tangier, Fez and Rabat - offer a delicate balance of ancient traditions and modern-day conveniences.



GENERAL FACTS:

Population: 37.3 million people

Area: 277,753 square miles (just a little larger than California)

Capital and Largest city: The capital is Rabat and the largest city is Casablanca. Both are located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

Government: Democratic monarchy

Languages: Arabic and Berber. Many Moroccans also speak French.

Religion: 99% Islam

Currency: Moroccan dirham (MAD)

Flag: The flag of Morocco is a red field with a green emerald pentagram. Red has a considerable historic significance in Morocco, proclaiming the descent from the royal Alaouite dynasty. This ruling house was associated with the Islamic prophet Muhammad via Fatimah, the wife of Ali, the fourth Muslim Caliph.

MOROCCO IS KNOWN FOR:

- Distinct pottery and ceramics
- The Sahara Desert - Taking up 30% of Africa's landscape the Sahara is quite impressive.
- Hassan II Mosque - the most beautiful mosque with impressive construction and surrounding ocean.
- Mint Tea and Pastries
- Majorelle Garden - Jacques Majorelle, the French painter created these gardens and later became the home of Yves Saint-Laurent. A stunning oasis in the middle of busy Marrakech.



- The Architecture - Kasbah is a type of house style, but many make for beautiful backdrops to pictures.
- Todgha Gorge - these orange rocks make this canyon a favorite climbing spot.

Tagine - delicious! One of the most popular dishes in the country.



AND THEN, THERE'S THE FOOD:

The main Moroccan dish most people are familiar with is cous-cous; beef is the most commonly eaten red meat in Morocco, usually eaten in a tagine with a wide selection of vegetables. Chicken is also very commonly used in tagines or roasted. They also use additional ingredients such as plums, boiled eggs, and lemon.



NOTABLE MOROCCAN-AMERICANS

- Moncef Slaoui, an American researcher and former head of GlaxoSmithKline's vaccines department.
- Paul Marciano, American fashion designer, businessman, investor, and philanthropist, is the co-founder of Guess Inc
- Kenza Tazi, Moroccan alpine skier
- Sonia Gardner, American of Moroccan descent and co-founder of Avenue Capital Group

- Driss R. Temsamani, Moroccan American author, community organizer, and Head of Marketing & Strategic Planning for Citigroup Latin America and the Caribbean
- Modar Alaoui, Moroccan-American founder and CEO of Eyeris Technologies, Inc.

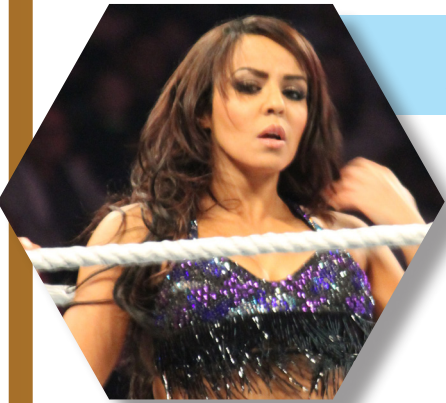
- ***Shiri Appleby***, American actress, and director of Moroccan Jewish descent on her mother's side
- RedOne, American Moroccan music producer
- Hassan Hakmoun, American Moroccan Gnawa master musician
- David Levy Yulee, an American politician of Moroccan Sephardi descent
- ***French Montana***, Moroccan-American rapper born in Morocco



- Richard Wolffe is a British-American journalist, MSNBC commentator, and author
- Dounia, Moroccan-American singer, songwriter, Instagram model, and activist
- Frank Mir, MMA fighter, former UFC Heavyweight Champion. Born to a Cuban-born father of Moroccan heritage.



- ***Layla El***, English American dancer, model, and WWE professional wrestler Layla winner of WWE Divas Championship



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MOROCCO

- The early inhabitants of what was to become Morocco were immigrants trying to escape the Saharan area as it was drying up and turning to desert. They fled to the Atlas Mountains and later to the coastal regions. Other migrants from the region joined them and created the roots of the Amazigh (Berber) culture.
- The population of Morocco continues to grow. This is due in part to better health care, improved food resources, and better sanitation practices. The population increased from less than 6 million in 1921 to 32 million in 2011.
- Elevation extremes in Morocco cover a wide range. The highest spot in the country is ***Jebel Toubkal*** at 13,665 feet above sea level. The lowest point is Sebkhah Tah which is 180 feet below sea level.
- Morocco was the first country to recognize the United States of America as an independent nation.
- One of Morocco's most stunning features, the Atlas Mountains serve to collect and store



rainwater and snowmelt, supplying the verdant valleys below.

- As certain areas in the world are deemed to be sustainable and eco-friendly, they are awarded a “Blue Flag” rating. By 2015, 23 **Moroccan beaches** had achieved this rating for their water quality, wastewater management, and environmental education.
- Recognized as the oldest existing educational institution in the world, Morocco’s University of Al-Karaouine is known Islamic studies and theology. It was founded in 859 CE.
- Morocco has been represented in every Olympics, both winter and summer, since 1960. Moroccan athletes have won medals in track and field, boxing, marathons, and sprints.



- Morocco is a favorite location for shooting films. It is home to the second largest film set in the world. The famous gladiatorial scene in *Gladiator* was filmed in **Ait Ben Haddou**.
- Friday is couscous day – the equivalent of a Sunday roast
- The most popular girl’s name is Fatima

- Moroccans are football crazy and will talk endlessly about the Premier League in England, the time Morocco beat Scotland in the World Cup and Manchester United. Ask someone if they support Barcelona or Real Madrid and you will have a friend for life.
- The toughest footrace on earth, the Marathon des Sables, takes place in Morocco
- The branch of Islam practised in Morocco is Maliki Islam, known for its moderation

- **Marrakech** is called the red city, because of the colour of its houses and walls. It is obligatory in many areas to use the rose-coloured paint.



- There IS a Rick’s bar in Casablanca.
- The best way to greet people is to say, Salaam alaykum (peace be upon you)

- Bread is often used as a fork when eating from a communal dish
- Tagines are cooked on the stove, or on an open fire, not in the oven.
- There is treasure buried all over the countryside, and sometimes diggers will come during the night to find it, leaving large holes.

- You should **never wear your shoes** when walking on someone’s rug or carpet in their home.



WORD SEARCH: MOROCCO

M	R	O	C	M	R	K	T	C	A	H	S	Z	T
E	O	J	M	E	D	D	N	A	R	G	A	N	O
I	D	M	P	C	B	H	S	F	A	U	H	S	F
H	A	B	M	O	S	Q	U	E	B	N	A	P	B
F	M	E	A	A	J	O	N	Z	D	L	R	D	E
R	E	R	D	L	D	T	B	W	O	C	A	F	A
S	T	U	C	C	O	U	S	C	O	U	S	G	Z
V	U	F	R	E	N	C	H	V	L	M	C	A	X
A	D	U	I	T	K	G	U	F	I	I	A	C	R
M	I	N	T	T	E	A	Z	N	V	N	G	A	S
L	B	C	C	S	Y	C	A	M	E	L	J	M	D
O	Z	I	A	L	S	O	M	O	S	A	I	C	N
S	L	C	A	Q	M	S	D	S	U	L	E	K	L
Z	I	N	A	O	P	B	U	T	C	L	A	K	M

ARAB
 ARGAN
 CAFE
 CAMEL
 COUSCOUS
 CUMIN
 DONKEYS
 FEZ

FRENCH
 STUCCO
 MEDDNA
 MINT TEA
 MOSAIC
 MOSQUE
 OLIVES
 SAHARA

TRIVIA QUIZ: MOROCCO



Circle the correct answer for each of the questions below.

1. What ethnic group's members are known as "The Blue Men", and are noted for starting fierce rebellions in many Saharan countries?

Andalusians

Moors

Tuaregs

Bedouins

2. Does Spain still have colonial outposts on the Moroccan coast?

Yes

No

3. What two nations colonized Morocco in the early 20th century?

France & Portugal

France & Spain

France & England

France & Italy

4. What Moroccan city has a law that all buildings must be red?

Fez

Marrakesh

Casablanca

Ifrane

5. What city has the largest mosque in Morocco?

Tangier

Marrakesh

Casablanca

Fez

6. What Moroccan city boasts the world's oldest university?

Meknes

Marrakesh

Fez

Volubilis

7. What is the official currency of Morocco?

West African franc

Dinar

Dirham

Mahgreb

8. In which continent does Morocco lie?

Asia

Africa

Europe

South America

9. What is the official language of Morocco?

Ashanti

Portuguese

French

Arabic

10. What is the national drink of Morocco?

coffee

ice tea

mint tea

cappucino

11. Which of these would wear a “jellaba” in Morocco?

Men

Men and Women

Women

Children

12. Which of these crosses the middle of Morocco from southwest to northeast?

The Atlas Mountain Chain

The Coastal Lowlands

The Sahara Desert

The Rif



WORD JUMBLE: MOROCCO

Can you unscramble these words associated with Morocco?

BIAARC _____

BBEERRS _____

SLUMIM _____

OSOSUCCU _____

TNIM ETA _____

AABTR _____

LELJBAA _____

BLAASCNACA _____

GAJETAS _____

DEMIRETNARNEA EAS _____

HAAARS DSRTEE _____

MSEQUO _____

STPAERIS _____

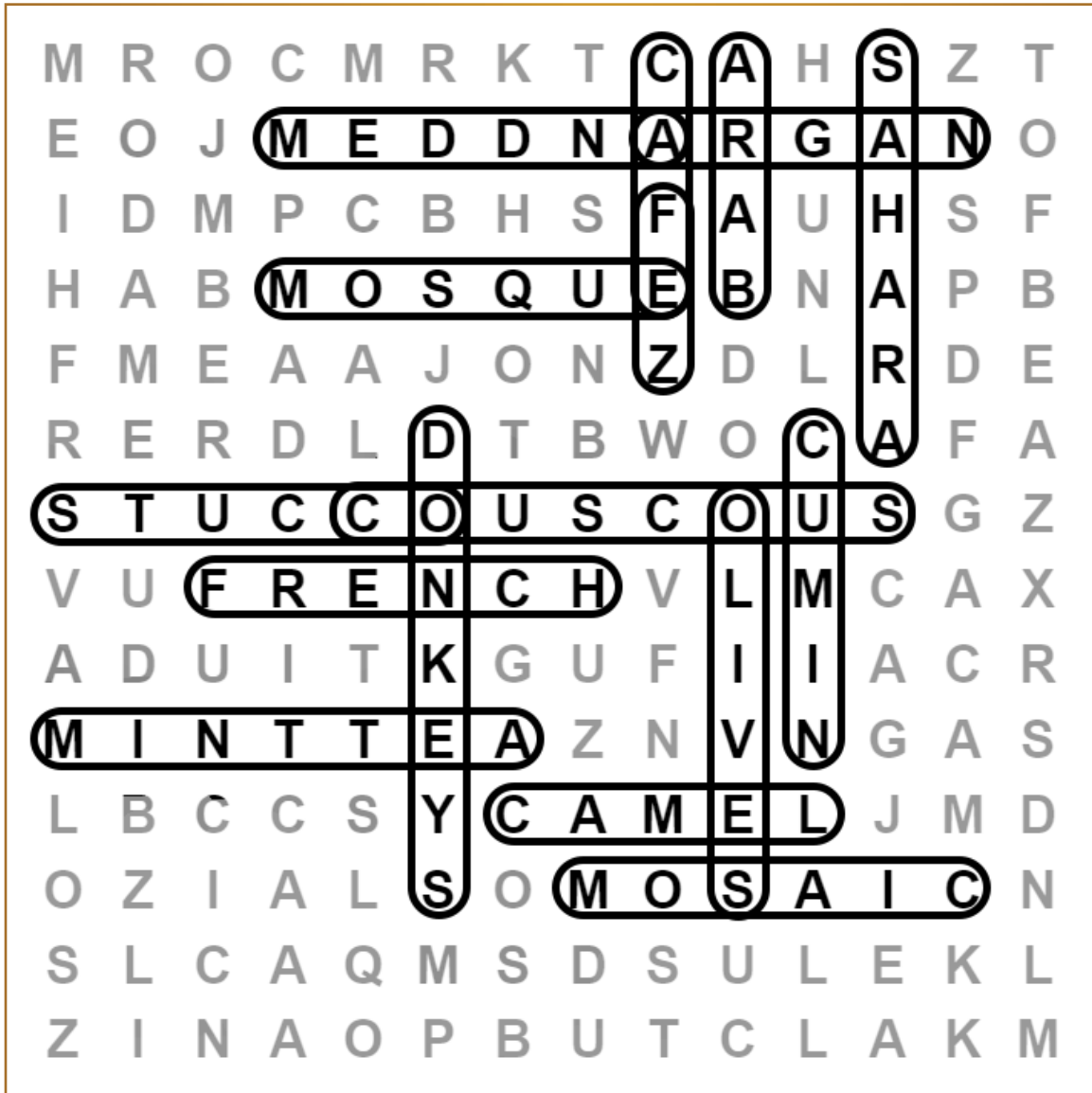
LVIOSE _____

SOMCIA _____

WORD SEARCH:



SOLUTION



WORD JUMBLE:

SOLUTION

- Arabic
- Berbers
- Muslim
- Couscous
- Mint Tea
- Rabat
- Jellaba
- Casablanca
- Tagines
- Mediterranean Sea
- Sahara Desert
- Mosque
- Pastries
- Olives
- Mosaic

TRIVIA QUIZ:

SOLUTION

- 1. Tuaregs
- 2. Yes
- 3. France and Spain
- 4. Marrakesh
- 5. Casablanca
- 6. Fez
- 7. Dirham
- 8. Africa
- 9. Arabic
- 10. mint tea
- 11. Women
- 12. The Atlas Mountain Chain