ROMANIA

- **Geography**
  - **Location**
    - Southestern central Europe
    - Borders: with 5 countries and The Black sea.
      - Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north and the Republic of Moldova to the east
  - **Physical features**
    - The Carpathian Mountains
      - The Carpathians consist of a chain of mountain ranges that stretch in an arch from the Czech Republic (3%) in the northwest through Slovakia (17%), Poland (10%), Hungary (4%) and Ukraine (10%) Serbia (5%) and Romania (50%) in the southeast.
      - The second-highest range is the Southern Carpathians in Romania, where the highest peaks exceed 2,500 m.
    - The Danube Delta
      - The delta is a triangular swampy area of marshes, floating reed islands and sandbanks. It is a UNESCO Biosphere Reservation as well as a protected wetland and natural habitat for rare species of plants and animals.
    - The Black Sea
      - The Romanian Black Sea Coast stretches a little over 250 km.
      - Summer holiday destination due to warm climate, miles of sand beaches, ancient monuments, vineyards and modern resorts.
    - Rivers
      - Danube: longest river in Romania
        - Its length inside Romania is about 1,000 kilometres. That is almost half of the length of the entire Danube. Almost all of the rivers in Romania are either direct or indirect tributaries of the Danube.
    - Lakes
      - 3500 small and medium lakes
      - The red Lake
        - It's a natural storage dam lake. It is the largest natural mountain lake in Romania, its name coming from the reddish alluvia (iron oxides and iron hydroxides) deposited in the lake by the Red Creek.
    - Plains
      - There is about one third of fertile plains, largely devoted to agriculture
  - **Fauna and Flora**
    - Great variety
    - a third of Europe's brown bears as well as 25% of its wolves
- **Politics**
  - Head of state: President of the Republic,currently Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis
  - Head of the government: the Prime Minister,currently Mrs. Viorica Dancila
- **Facts**
  - Currency: Leu (pl. Lei)
  - Main religion: Christian Orthodox
  - Capital city: Bucharest
  - Flag: Three vertical stripes: blue, yellow and red.
  - Official language: Romanian - a Latin based language
  - Romania means citizens of the Roman Empire
  - Climate: temperate
- **Braila**
  - Location: Eastern Romania on the banks of the Danube River
  - Population: 205,000
  - Main attractions: The Old Town spread around Traian Square
    - The Romanian OrthodoxChurch, which served as mosque during the Ottoman rule
    - The Greek Church built between 1862 and 1872, displaying frescoes painted in 1890 by Romanian artist Gheorghe Tattarescu
    - The 1865 St. Nicholas Church (Biserica Sf. Nicolae)
    - the 19th century Maria Filotti Theatre - named after the Romanian actress, Maria Filotti (1883-1956),
    - The Braila County Museum
    - The historical Water Tower
  - One of the most important ports on the Danube
- **History**
  - Romanian Old Kingdom 1881 - 1918
    - In 1881, the principality of Moldavia and Wallachia became a kingdom, with Prince Carol ruling as King Carol I.
  - World War I:Greater Romania
    - Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania became part of the Kingdom of Romania in 1918. Romania and Bukovina were joined together in 1919. Bessarabia joined with Romania in 1920.
  - Fascist dictatorship
    - In end of 1930s, Romania's liberal democracy was slowly being replaced by the fascist dictatorship
  - Wordl War II
    - Carol II of Romania declared the country as neutral when World War II broke out in 1939, but he made an alliance with Germany after the Soviet Union had occupied Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.
      - Romania built concentration camps and began conducting a massive persecution of Jews
        - At the end of the war, Romania was allowed to keep the whole of Transylvania in west and Dobruja from south, but lost Bessarabia/ Transnistria and Odessa Oblast in the east (with rich oil reserves) which became parts of the Soviet Union. Bukovina was split in half because in the north part the majority ethnic group was Ukrainian and in the south part Romanian.
  - Communism - Peoples's republic (1947)
    - Michael I abdicated the throne and had to leave Romania in 1947 because of the Communists. Romania changed from a monarchy into a republic. The USSR occupied Romania until the late 1950s, when Soviet troops left Romania.
  - Romanian revolution in 1989
    - Ceaușescu had anyone who disagreed with him arrested and put in prison. Many people were killed or hurt. Almost 60,000 people were put in psychiatric hospitals. Ceaușescu eventually lost power and was killed in the Romanian Revolution of 1989.
  - GOLANIAD
    - In 1990 protests started. People did not recognize the results of the election. They thought that members of the National Salvation Front were communists. More and more people protested, and it became a demonstration – a very big protest. This was called the Golaniad, and it became very violent.
- **People**
  - Main Etnic groups: Romanian 84%, Hungarian 6.1%, Gipsy 3.1%, German 0.2%, Ukrainian 0.2%
  - Ethnic minorities (Hungarian and German) use their own languages in school and civil administration.
  - Population: 19,334,000
  - Famous people
    - Ilie Nastase: Tennis player (born in 1946)
    - Constantin Brancusi (1876 - 1957) — the artist whose works redefined sculpture, the most important sculptor of the Twentieth-Century.
    - Nadia Comaneci: (born in 1961) former gymnast and a five-time Olympic gold medalist. The first in the world to score a perfect 10!
- **Curiosities**
  - Romania means citizens of the Roman Empire
  - Dracula
    - The real Dracula (Vlad Draculea) nicknamed Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler) was a Romanian prince and military leader who fought bravely against the invading Turkish army in the mid 1400's. Count Dracula - the Vampire - was created by Irish writer, Bram Stoker in 1897.
  - The statue of Dacian king Decebal
    - Carved in the rocky bank of the Danube river is the tallest rock sculpture in Europe (41 metres tall). It is a homage to the last king of Dacia (today's Romania)
  - Some public holidays
    - January 24: Union of Romanian Principalities Wallachia and Moldova
    - February 19: birthday of artist Constantin Brancusi
    - December 18: Day of Ethnic Minorities