Invent Your Own Country

Maybe you think of the ideal country, or the worst possible one. Maybe it’s a newly discovered island, or an industrialized superpower. You and your partner get to describe a country that simply doesn’t exist. The only limits are the rules of life- a polar country won’t export oranges and one recently ravaged by civil war won’t be attractive to lots of immigrants.

Plan its physical geography first; then tie in climate, resources, economy, population, and (if you have time) history. The more specific you are in your creativity, the better all the parts will complement each other.

1. Details
   1. You will work with 1 partner.
   2. Your project will be presented on 1 full-size white poster board.
   3. The project is due in 1 week. (*2022: we took 4 x 75-minute periods for this project, plus most groups used 1 or 2 study hall periods.)*
2. Brainstorm (Day 1)
   1. Name
   2. Size – tiny, small, regular, or massive
   3. Location – island, landlocked, coastal, size of a continent, etc.
   4. Region – on which continent is it? Or is its continent also imaginary?
   5. Latitude – Polar, tropical, temperate?
   6. Climate – temperature, precipitation? Are there distinct seasons? Is it large enough to have diverse climates?
   7. Landforms – are there bodies of water, rivers, mountains, plains, forests, deserts, etc?
   8. Resources – minerals, harbours,
   9. Economy – where is the agriculture, if any? What do the residents work? Is it poor, developing, industrialized, etc.?
   10. Population – what is the density? Rural, villages, medium or large cities? Where are the cities? Maybe you can even think of the race, language, or religion of the people.
   11. History – Indigenous peoples? Was it ever colonized? Any wars or government struggles in its history? What is its form of government and economy control today?
3. Make a Map (Day 2+)
   1. Outline – label surrounding countries and/or bodies of water
   2. Physical
      1. Landforms & bodies of water (use symbols and labels as necessary)
      2. Use Colour-coding to show land use / vegetation
      3. (optional) label points of interest
   3. Political
      1. Label several of the largest cities.
      2. If desired additional communities can be marked, even if you don’t take time to name them all.
      3. (optional) show state boundaries
4. Expand (Day 3+)
   1. Climate
      1. Make a chart showing average high and low temperatures in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
      2. A brief paragraph on precipitation, etc.
   2. Population
      1. Use paragraph and / or charts and / or graphs to explain something about the population
   3. Resources and Economy
      1. Use paragraph and / or charts and / or graphs to explain something about the economy
      2. (optional) draw a mini-map and add economic activity symbols
   4. (optional) History and Government
      1. Use paragraph and / or charts and / or graphs to explain something about the history
   5. (optional) Make a Flag
5. Grading (*25 points each*)
   1. Map Quality
   2. Creativity
   3. Quality of “Expand” features
   4. Realistic and “well tied-together”