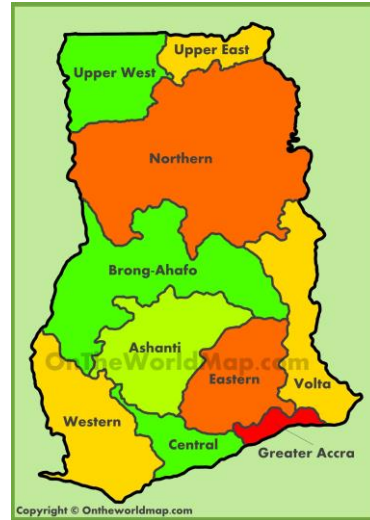


## About Ghana

### April Edition



Ghana is in the western part of Africa and has a population of about 22,000,000 people and its capital is Accra. Ghana was the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from the British. Before independence, Ghana was known as Gold Coast. Ghana was ruled by the British until independence on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1957. The Portuguese were the first European to come to Ghana and the last to leave were the British.



One interesting thing about Ghana is that, every family has got a set of names that is given to new born babies. Most of the babies born are named either according to the day they were born or the family pattern name. People can't marry each other when they have the same family name. Children are usually named on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after they are born.

Ghana's flag consists of red, gold (not yellow), green with a black star in the middle. The meaning of the national flag is as follows;

**Red** represents the blood of those who died in the country's struggle for independence

**Gold** represents the mineral wealth of the country

**Green** symbolizes the country's rich forests and natural wealth

**Black Star** Symbolizes African unity and emancipation



The official language in Ghana is English but we also do have local dialects that are only spoken at home and people from the same tribe. Ghana is a tropical country and it's relatively warm. There are only two seasons; namely rainy and

dry seasons. The average temperature is about 26 degrees. Ghana is divided into ten (10) regions or states. There are also one hundred and thirty (130) districts.

Ghana is the 2<sup>nd</sup> world leading producer of cocoa beans and also the 9<sup>th</sup> leading producer of gold. We also have oil production.

Food eaten in Ghana is very different from that of Japan. Most of the food we eat are from the tropics such as yam, plantain, cassava and cocoyam. All these can not be found in Japan except in tropical countries.



The educational system in Ghana is slightly different from that of Japan. Before you can enter into a high school, you need to pass a national examination. If you fail, you will have to re-write the examination again until you pass. There is nothing like club activities and after school, you just have to go home. School starts from 8am to 2pm and if you are late for school, you will be punished. There is one school uniform for both primary and junior high schools. Students must also keep their hair short all the time irrespective of their gender. The academic or school calendar starts from September through July.

The money or currency used in Ghana is called Cedi



Finally, Ghana is a very peaceful and safe country. In fact, it's what we called the gateway to Africa. There are also a lot of tourist attractions there. It has also got nice beaches and it's one of the safest places in Africa. Ghana is a Christian dominant country. The most popular sports in Ghana are soccer and boxing.