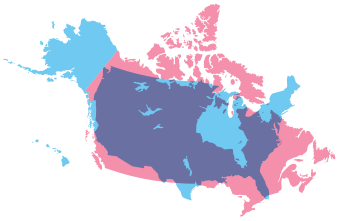
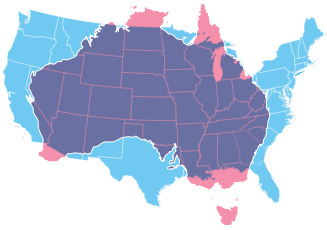
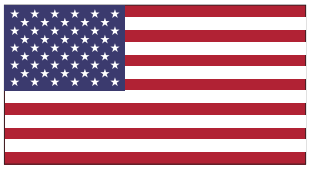
Physical Geography

	United States	Canada	Australia
Area Comparison	3,796,742 sq mi 3rd largest	3,855,102 sq mi 2nd largest	2,988,901 sq mi 6th largest
Location			
Relative Size	about half the size of Russia; about three-tenths the size of Africa; about half the size of South America (or slightly larger than Brazil); slightly larger than China; more than twice the size of the European Union		
Natural Resources	coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, rare earth elements, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber, arable land Note: the US has the world's largest coal reserves with 491 billion short tons accounting for 27% of the world's total	iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, rare earth elements, molybdenum, potash, diamonds, silver, fish, timber, wildlife, coal, petroleum, natural gas, hydropower	bauxite, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum Note: Australia is the world's largest net exporter of coal accounting for 29% of global coal exports
Environment	large emitter of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels; air pollution resulting in acid rain in both the US and Canada; water pollution from runoff of pesticides and fertilizers; limited natural freshwater resources in much of the western part of the country require careful management; desertification	metal smelting, coal-burning utilities, and vehicle emissions impacting on agricultural and forest productivity; air pollution and resulting acid rain severely affecting lakes and damaging forests; ocean waters becoming contaminated due to agricultural, industrial, mining, and forestry activities	soil erosion from overgrazing, industrial development, urbanization, and poor farming practices; soil salinity rising due to the use of poor quality water; desertification; clearing for agricultural purposes threatens the natural habitat of many unique animal and plant species; the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast, the largest coral reef in the world, is threatened by increased shipping and its popularity as a tourist site; limited natural freshwater resources

Cultural Geography

	United States	Canada	Australia
Ethnic Groups	white 79.96% black 12.85% Asian 4.43% Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97% native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18% two + races 1.61% Hispanic 15.1% (Note: Hispanics may be white, black, Amerindian, or other)	Canadian 32.2% English 19.8% French 15.5% Scottish 14.4% Irish 13.8% German 9.8% Italian 4.5% Chinese 4.5% American Indian 4.2% other 50.9% (Note: Percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents were able to identify more than one ethnic origin.)	English 25.9% Australian 25.4% Irish 7.5%, Scottish 6.4% Italian 3.3% German 3.2% Chinese 3.1% Indian 1.4% Greek 1.4% Dutch 1.2% other 15.8% unspecified 5.4%
Religion	Protestant 46.5% Roman Catholic 20.8% Mormon 1.6% Jehovah's Witness 0.8% other Christian 0.9% Jewish 1.9% Muslim 0.9% Buddhist 0.7% Hindu 0.7% other 1.8% unaffiliated 22.8% don't know/refused 0.6%	Catholic 39% Protestant 20.3% other Christian 6.3% Muslim 3.2% Hindu 1.5% Sikh 1.4% Buddhist 1.1% Jewish 1% other 0.6% none 23.9%	Protestant 30.1% Catholic 25.3% Orthodox 2.8% Buddhist 2.5% Muslim 2.2% Hindu 1.3% other 1.3% none 22.3% unspecified 9.3%
Population	323,995,528 Ranks 3rd	35,362,905 Ranks 38th	24,127,000 Ranks 55th
Life Expectancy	average: 79.8 years male: 77.5 years female: 82.1 years	average: 81.9 years male: 79.2 years female: 84.6 years	average: 82.15 years male: 79.7 years female: 84.74 years
Literacy	About 99% of adults	About 99% of adults	About 99% of adults
Education Expenditures	4.9% of GDP Ranks 63rd	5.3% of GDP Ranks 62nd	5.6% of GDP Ranks 56th

Government

	United States	Canada	Australia
Government Type	a constitution-based federal republic	a parliamentary democracy, a federation, and a constitutional monarchy	a parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm
Capital City	Washington, DC	Ottawa	Canberra
Suffrage	18 years of age; universal	18 years of age; universal	18 years of age; universal and compulsory
National Flag			
Political Map			
Currency	US Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Australian Dollar

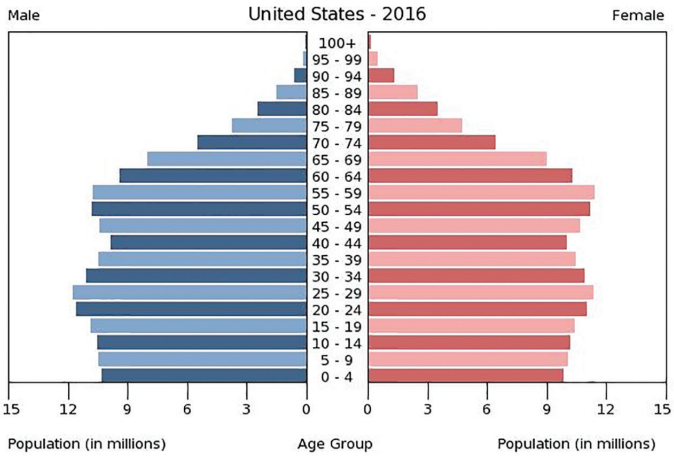
Economy

	United States	Canada	Australia
GDP	$17.350 trillion	$1.785 trillion	$1.443 trillion
GDP per capita	$54,400 (2014 est.) $53,100 (2013 est.) $52,300 (2012 est.)	$45,000 (2014 est.) $43,900 (2013 est.) $43,000 (2012 est.)	$46,600 (2014 est.) $45,300 (2013 est.) $44,400 (2012 est.)
GDP end use			
Household spending	69%	56%	56%
Government spending	18%	21%	18%
Business spending	17%	24%	27%
Exports/Imports	-4%	-1%	-1%
GDP by sector			
Agriculture	1.6%	1.6%	3.8%
Industry	20.6%	28.6%	28.2%
Services	77.8%	69.7%	68.0%
Labor Force by occupation			
Agriculture	.7%	3.0%	3.6%
Industry	20.3%	20%	21.1%
Services	79.0%	77%	75.3%
Taxes	22% of GDP	37.8% of GDP	33.8% of GDP
Budget	revenues: $3.02 trillion expenditures: $3.504 trillion	revenues: $674.7 billion expenditures: $704 billion	revenues: $487.7 billion expenditures: $519.6 billion
Imports	agricultural products, industrial supplies (crude oil), capital goods (computers, telecommunications equipment, motor vehicle parts, office machines, electric power machinery), consumer goods (automobiles, clothing, medicines, furniture, toys)	machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, crude oil, chemicals, electricity, durable consumer goods	machinery and transport equipment, computers and office machines, telecommunication equipment and parts, crude oil and petroleum products
Exports	agricultural products (soybeans, fruit, corn), industrial supplies (organic chemicals), capital goods (transistors, aircraft, motor vehicle parts, computers, telecommunications equipment), consumer goods (automobiles, medicines)	motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment, chemicals, plastics, fertilizers, wood pulp, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity, aluminum	coal, iron ore, gold, meat, wool, aluminum, wheat, machinery and transport equipment
Import Partners	China 19.9%, Canada 14.8%, Mexico 12.5%, Japan 5.7%, Germany 5.3%	US 54.5%, China 11.5%, Mexico 5.6%	China 20.5%, US 10.6%, Japan 6.8%, Singapore 5%, Germany 4.7%, South Korea 4.7%
Export Partners	Canada 19.2%, Mexico 14.8%, China 7.6%, Japan 4.1%	US 76.8%	China 33.7%, Japan 18%, South Korea 7.4%, US 4.2%
Value of Imports	$2.4 trillion	$474 billion	$241 billion
Value of Exports	$1.6 trillion	$478 billion	$241 billion

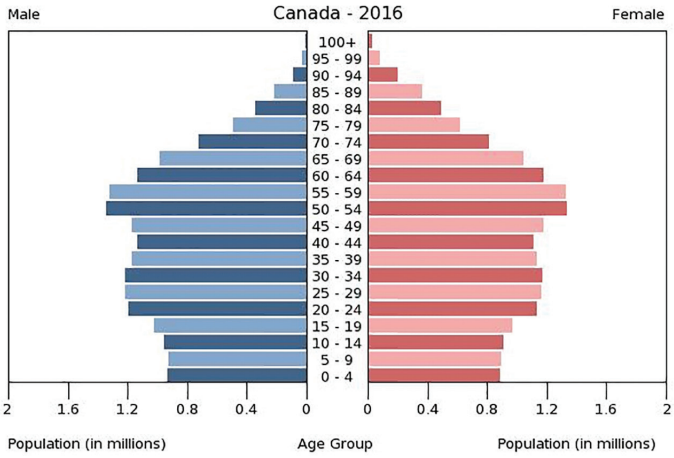
Population Pyramid

A population pyramid illustrates the age and sex structure of a country's population and may provide insights about political and social stability, as well as economic development. The population is distributed along the horizontal axis, with males shown on the left and females on the right. The male and female populations are broken down into 5-year age groups represented as horizontal bars along the vertical axis, with the youngest age groups at the bottom and the oldest at the top. The shape of the population pyramid gradually evolves over time based on fertility, mortality, and international migration trends.

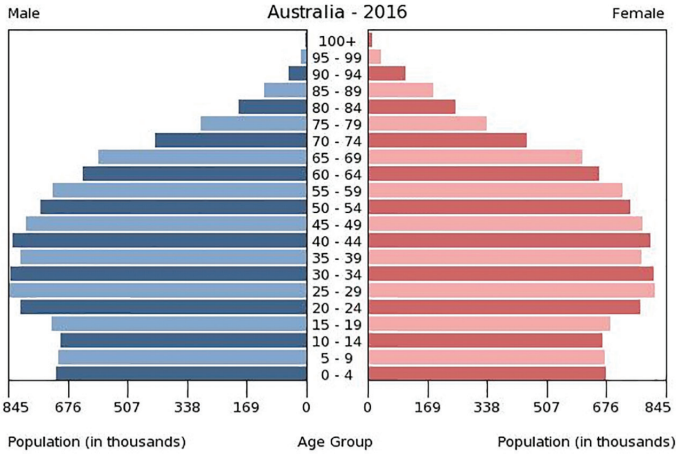
United States



Canada

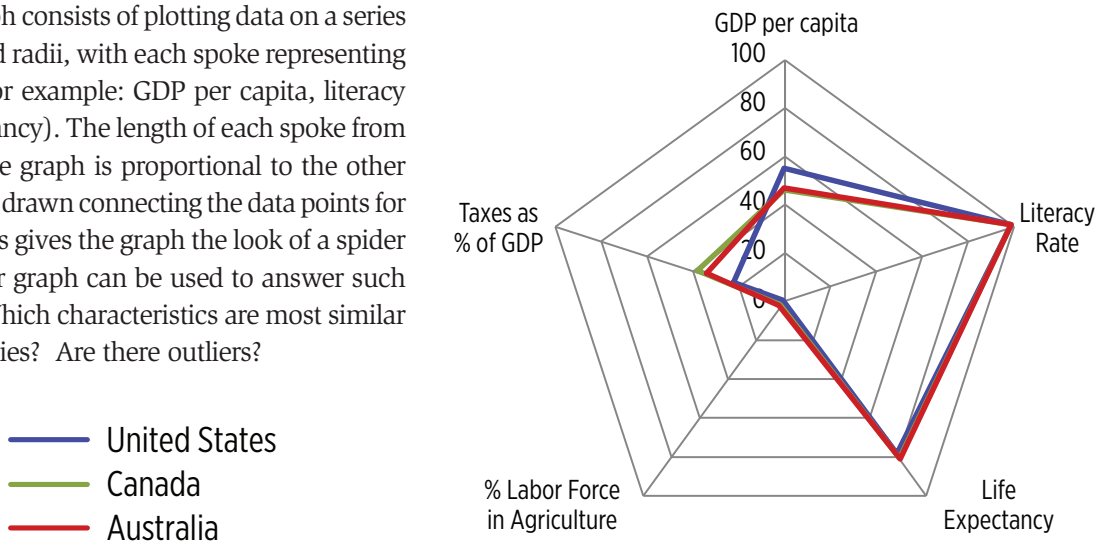


Australia



Spider Graph

A spider graph consists of plotting data on a series of spokes, called radii, with each spoke representing one variable (for example: GDP per capita, literacy rate, life expectancy). The length of each spoke from the center of the graph is proportional to the other spokes. A line is drawn connecting the data points for each spoke. This gives the graph the look of a spider web. The spider graph can be used to answer such questions as: Which characteristics are most similar between countries? Are there outliers?



Comparisons 2 Questions

Use the data tables, population pyramids, and spider graph to complete each item comparing the three focus countries.

1. Which country is the largest in land size?
2. Which country is the most ethnically diverse?
3. Which country has the greatest variety of natural resources?
4. Which country has the lowest standard of living?
5. Which country has the highest percentage of farmers?
6. Which country has the healthiest citizens?
7. In which country does industry contribute least to the GDP?
8. Which country or countries have a negative trade balance?
9. Which country or countries have a positive trade balance?
10. Which country has the highest tax rate?
11. With which of these countries does the United States have the strongest trade relationship?
12. According to the spider graph, on which point of comparison are the countries most alike?
13. Challenge: Compute the dollar amount spent per year, per person, educating the population in each country. Assume that ¼ of the population is in school and round off decimals to the nearest whole number, as needed.
    Hint: You will need the GDP, percentage of GDP spent on education, and population of each country to complete the task

United States	Canada	Australia