Researching on a Country

You've been assigned to write a research paper on a foreign country focusing on a problem that country faces. Choosing the country might be easy. For example, you might choose a country some of your ancestors come from or perhaps one you've visited or always wanted to go to. Choosing a problem may be more difficult. Perhaps you don't know what problems your country faces or maybe you know they face so many problems you can't choose one.

First, choose your country: _____

If you don't already know what problem you want to focus on, do some research about your country. Countries may have troubles with poverty, poor education, warlike neighbors, civil wars, famine and drought, a dictatorial government, poor treatment of women and/or children, and many other ills. You want to pick just one of these. Of course, these problems are often intertwined. For example, famine and drought can lead to or exacerbate poverty, which in turn usually produces poor education. It's important to pick one problem to focus on, though you may have room in your paper to show how some problems cause others.

As you research, write notes about various problems your country has. Use paper or notecards, whichever works best for you.

Now that you've taken notes on your country's problems, choose one to focus on. Write it as a complete sentence, if possible:

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Now do some more research. Take notes on your country's problem. What are the causes of it? How far-reaching is it? (Is it country-wide? Only isolated in one area? Only a problem in the cities but not the country?) How long has this been a problem? Have any measures been taken to help? If so, by who? Has anything actually helped? Are there any proposed measures for the future?

You will also be including a visual aide with this report, so as you research, look for information that you could put into a chart or graph.

Write your research notes here or on separate paper or notecards. When you're done with this research, you'll be ready to begin your rough draft.

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