



There are 195 countries in the world, which vary in shapes and sizes.

Countries are bound together by

→ common heritage → language → culture

Symbols marking country's identity:

- flag
- national anthem
- capital city



A **REGION** is a geographical area of variable size which has several common characteristics. (Polar regions)



A **COUNTRY** is a territory with its own combination of laws, language, culture and religion. (Italy)



Capital cities are usually seats of national government, so that is where the laws are made.

Capital cities are not always the largest cities and they are not always in the centre of the country. (Vienna, Berlin, London).

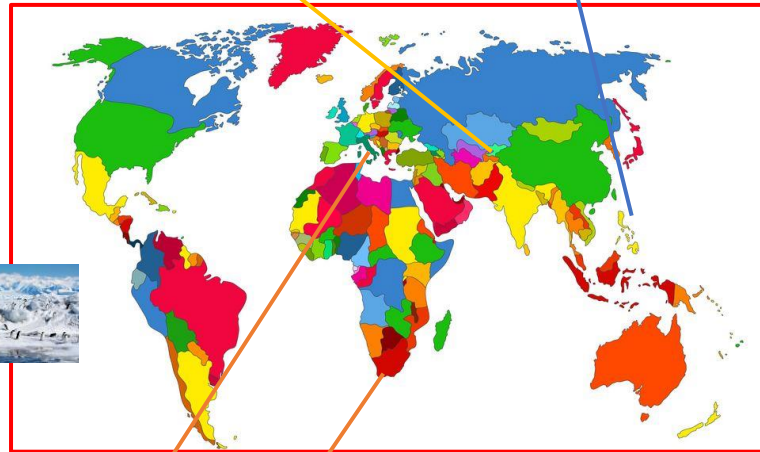
The capital is a major centre for trade and industry with many important buildings, good transport links and many cultural and sporting events.



The dotted line means that two countries can't agree on the borders! (Kashmir)



Some countries are island nations scattered over a large sea area



Some countries are surrounded by another country.

The United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the Commonwealth are all partnerships between countries. They work together in trade, travel, security, rights of the citizens and protecting environment.



UNITED NATIONS



| | |
|----------------------|---|
| culture | the language, customs, ideas, and art of a particular group of people |
| government | the group of people that has power to make laws and decisions |
| heritage | something that one believes, thinks, or does that comes from one's family or ethnic background; tradition |
| international | having to do with what happens between two or more countries |
| nation | a people living in the same region of the world and having a common history, language, and culture. |
| political | relating to the government or public affairs of a country |
| population | all the people living in a place |
| symbol | an object or picture that represents something else |
| territory | the land and waters that belong to a country |