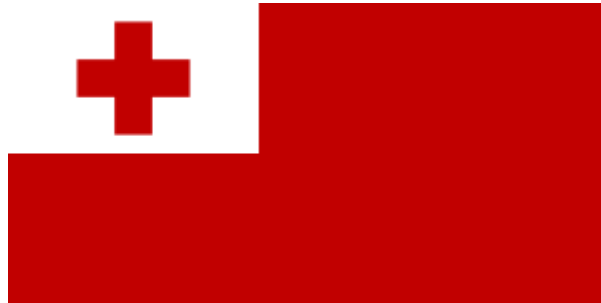


Global Learning for Kids on MKB

TONGA



Officially: *Kingdom of Tonga* (a constitutional monarchy)

Name of the current king: Tupou VI

Name of the country in Tongan: *Pule'anga Fakatu 'i 'o Tonga*

Geographical facts:

Archipelago: 177 islands (36 inhabited)

Surface area: 750 km² + 700 000 km² of southern Pacific Ocean

Continent: Oceania

Neighboring countries: Fiji, Wallis and Futuna (France), Samoa, Niue, Kermadec (New Zealand), New Caledonia (France) and Vanuatu.

Capital City: Nuku'alofa

Population: 103,000 inhabitants, 70% on the main island of Tongatapu (Many Tongans live overseas)

Climate: Tropical. Warm period December to April (above 32°C).

Cooler period May to November (maximum 27°C).

Humidity: 80 %. Tropical cyclones are mostly between November and April

Other facts:

The literacy rate is 98.9%.

Primary education is free and compulsory.

The official language is Tongan.

The national currency is the pa'anga. 1 pa'anga (T\$) is equal to 100 seniti.

98% of the population is Christian.

Rugby union is the national sport.

The national flag was adopted in 1875.

Tonga has never been colonized.

Tonga is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

9 types of traditional dances exist in the Kingdom of Tonga.