**This examination contains ONE Text**

# Ethiopia country profile

**Description:** Ethiopia, in East Africa, is a rugged, landlocked country split by the Great Rift Valley. With archaeological finds more than 3 million years old, it’s a place of ancient culture. Among its important sites are Lalibela with its rock-cut Christian churches from the 12th–13th centuries. Aksum is the ruins of an ancient city with obelisks, tombs, castles and churches.

## Official Name: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

## Capital: Addis Ababa

## Area 1.13 million sq km (437,794 sq miles)

**Population**: 105 million (2017) World Bank

**Currency**: Ethiopian birr

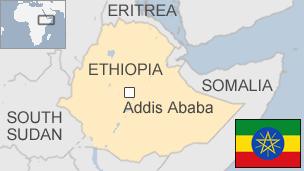
**Official language**: Amharic

**Other major languages:** Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali

**Points of interest:** Simien Mountains National Park, Lake Tana

**Major religions** Christianity, Islam

**Life expectancy** 63 years (men), 67 years (women)

**Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and its second largest in terms of population.**

Ethiopia’s culture is extremely interesting; it is the home of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church - one of the oldest Christian groups, and it was a monarchy until 1974.

Ethiopia was a founder member of the United Nations. Between 1974 and 1991 the country was ruled by a Marxist dictatorship. After 1991 the long, authoritarian rule of Meles Zenawi brought some stability.

Since 2018, new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has launched a campaign of political liberalisation at home and worked to end disputes with Ethiopia's neighbours, in particular Eritrea.

## LEADERS

## President: Sahle-Work Zewde

Parliament elected Sahle-Work Zewde as the Ethiopia's first woman president in October 2018.

At her swearing-in to the largely ceremonial post, Ms Sahle-Work, an experienced diplomat, promised to work to make gender equality a reality.

She took office a week after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appointed a cabinet with half the posts taken by women.

**Prime minister: Abiy Ahmed**

Abiy Ahmed was chosen to lead the government after the unexpected resignation of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in 2018. The new leader promised to try to end longstanding tensions with neighbouring Eritrea, and within months the two countries declared that the state of war between them was over. Mr Abiy also promised to bring more transparency to government and reconciliation to a country that had been torn by protests since 2015. He is Ethiopia's first leader from the Oromo ethnic group, which has been at the centre of anti-government protests since 2016. The prime minister faced the first major challenge to his political course in a coup attempt in Amhara State in June 2019. The army chief and governor of Amhara State were killed in putting down the coup.

## MEDIA

The change of government in 2018 looked set to start a new era for the media, which for many years had operated in one of the region's most restrictive environments. The state controls most broadcasting outlets, including national broadcasters ETV and Radio Ethiopia. Internet and mobile services have been restricted during periods of social unrest.

## TIMELINE

**Some key dates in Ethiopia's history:**

**4th century** - Christianity becomes the state religion.

**1855-1868** - Reign of Emperor Tewodros II, who lays the foundation for the modern Ethiopian state.

**1896** - Invading Italian forces are defeated by Ethiopians at Adwa.

**1935-1941 -** Italy deposes Emperor Haile Selassie and annexes Ethiopia, before being driven out.

**1962** - Haile Selassie annexes Eritrea, which becomes an Ethiopian province.

**1974** - Haile Selassie overthrown in military coup as a result of the government’s failure to deal with famine.

**1977-79** - Thousands are killed in "Red Terror" led by Marxist dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

**1984-85** - Another serious famine devastates much of the country.

**1991** - Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front deposes Mengistu. Meles Zenawi establishes stability and achieves considerable economic progress in his 19-year authoritarian rule.

**1993**- Eritrea becomes independent.

**1999-2000** - Ethiopian-Eritrean border war.

**2018** - Abiy Ahmed becomes prime minister and launches reform programme at home. Formally ends state of war with Eritrea.

**TASKS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What is Ethiopia? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What is the name of Ethiopia’s most important city? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What is Sahle-Work Zewde’s position? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What previous work experience does she have? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What is Abiy Ahmed’s position? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What was Haile Selassie’s position? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. In Ethiopia how old are the oldest archaeological discoveries? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What is Ethiopia’s most famous national park? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. Oromo is an Ethiopian ethnic group; what is the name of another Ethiopian ethnic group? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. According to what source is the population of Ethiopia more than 100 million? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. In which century did Christianity become Ethiopia’s state religion? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What was the result of the Battle of Adwa? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. When did Eritrea become independent from Ethiopia? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. When did Ethiopia stop being a monarchy? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What caused the military coup? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. Approximately how many square miles is four hundred thousand square miles? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. Which country is Ethiopia’s northern neighbour? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. What is ETV (a national) | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. State one way that the Government in Ethiopia practices gender equality. | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| 1. Which leader followed Mengistu Haile Mariam? | **\_\_/1** | **\_\_/1** |
| **TOTAL** | **\_\_ / 20** | **\_\_ / 20** |