

# Tuning in to U.S. Territories



**Mini Fact:**  
American Samoa is the only U.S. territory located in the Southern Hemisphere.

You know that the United States comprises 50 states, from Alabama to Wyoming. We sometimes forget about U.S. **territories**, though. A territory is land that may be treated as part of the United States in some ways, but not in others. For instance, it may have a separate, organized government that was approved by the U.S. Congress.

The United States has five territories where people live permanently. They are: Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean Sea; Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in the Northern Pacific Ocean; and American Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean.

Together, these territories are home to about 3.6 million people. Let's learn more about our country's territories.

## Puerto Rico

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1917.

Puerto Ricans come from many different backgrounds.

The Spaniards who landed there in the late 1400s found thousands of native people. The **Taino** (tah-EE-noh) Indians lived in villages and raised sweet potatoes and corn, among other foods. They became slaves to the Spanish conquerors.

Many of the Tainos died from starvation or disease. Later, as more Spaniards arrived,



African people were brought to the island to work on sugar plantations.

Puerto Ricans speak Spanish, and many speak English. People on the island work in manufacturing, tourism, real estate and other services. Farmers grow many fruits and vegetables, including bananas, grapefruit, lettuces, onions, pumpkins, beans and herbs.

## U.S. Virgin Islands

The three main Virgin Islands are St.

Thomas, St. Croix (CROY) and St. John.

The people who originally lived there were probably related to the Taino people of Puerto Rico.

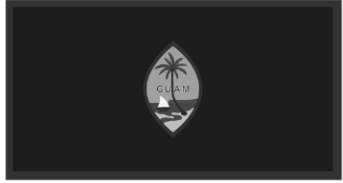


In the 1500s and 1600s, European settlers began to arrive, and in 1754, Denmark took control of the islands. The United States bought the territory from the Danish in 1917 so that naval warships could dock there while fighting in World War I.

Most of the citizens of the USVI are Black people who are descended from enslaved African people.

## Guam

Guam's **indigenous**, or native, **Chamorro** people probably arrived on the island by boat more than 3,000 years ago from Southeast Asia.



## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of U.S. territories are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find:

AFRICAN, BASE, CARIBBEAN, CHAMARRO, COMMONWEALTH, EUROPEAN, GOVERNMENT, INDIGENOUS, ISLANDS, LANGUAGE, NATIVE, OCEAN, PACIFIC, SEPARATE, TAINO, TERRITORY.

O C I F I C A P N A T I V E J  
S W S Z E E G A U G N A L E O  
T C H A M A R R O L Z Z P T N  
U Q P I Y R O T I R R E T A A  
H T L A E W N O M M O C C R C  
N A P A R N A E P O R U E A I  
A I N A E B B I R A C W C P R  
E N S D N A L S I E S A B E F  
C O S U O N E G I D N I E S A  
O U T N E M N R E V O G R A W



## Cook's Corner

### Winter and Summer\* Fruit Tarts

#### You'll need:

- 1 (9-inch) refrigerated piecrust
- 2 cups peeled, cored and diced Macintosh apples
- 3 tablespoons sugar

- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon



#### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Divide piecrust into 8 equal pieces and press pieces into bottom and up sides of 8 cups in a muffin pan.
2. In a large bowl, combine apples, sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon. Mix well. Spoon apple mixture into muffin cups, filling about 3/4 full.
3. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, until apples are tender and crust is golden brown. Serves 8.

\* Use any fruits you want; in summer, peaches, plums or nectarines taste great!

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. Area of land surrounded by water (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. Warmth and light from a heavenly body (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. Body of saltwater that covers 3/4 of the Earth (5-letter noun)

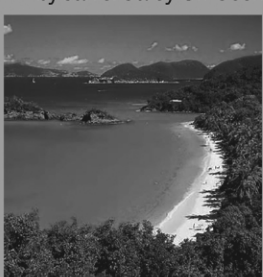
□ □ □ □ □

4. Time away from work or school (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Grace loved the \_\_\_\_\_ — the sand, swimming and fishing.
2. Mary wears a visor if the \_\_\_\_\_ is very bright.
3. Mike looked at the angry \_\_\_\_\_ with its huge waves.
4. Bobby's family went on \_\_\_\_\_ to visit Puerto Rico.

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Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Island, Sunshine, Ocean, Vacation.

## Mini Jokes



**Patsy:** What did one flag say to the other flag?  
**Pedro:** Nothing! It waved!

## Eco Note



Summer in the Southern Hemisphere has brought some of the hottest weather on record to northern Argentina and parts of western Australia. The Argentine heat wave caused the power grid around Buenos Aires to collapse, leaving 700,000 people without electricity as temperatures approached the hottest ever recorded in South America. A temperature of 123 degrees Fahrenheit in Pilbara, Western Australia, tied for the hottest ever recorded in Australia, and the entire Southern Hemisphere, since 1960.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about one or more of our U.S. territories.

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