**Full name:** The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

**Government:** republic

**Location:** Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Morocco and Tunisia

**Capital:** Algiers

**Area:** 2.4 million sq km (919,595 sq miles); slightly less than 3.5 times the size of Texas

**Climate:** arid to semiarid; mild, wet winters with hot, dry summers along coast; drier with cold winters and hot summers on high plateau; sirocco is a hot, dust/sand-laden wind especially common in summer

**Terrain:** mostly high plateau and desert; some mountains; narrow, discontinuous coastal plain

**Natural Hazards:** mountainous areas subject to severe earthquakes; mudslides and floods in rainy season

**Population:** 32.9 million (UN, 2005)

**Ethnicity:** Arab-Berber 99%, European less than 1%

**Major Language:** Arabic, French, Berber

**Religion:** Sunni Muslim (state religion) 99%, Christian and Jewish 1%

**Life expectancy:** 70 years (men), 72 years (women) (UN)

**Currency:** 1 dinar = 100 centimes