Azerbaijan

Full name: Republic of Azerbaijan
Government: republic

Location: Southwestern Asia, bordering the Caspian Sea, between Iran and Russia, with a small European portion north of the Caucasus range
Capital: Baku
Area: 86,600 sq km (33,400 sq miles); slightly smaller than Maine

Climate: dry, semiarid steppe
Terrain: large, flat Kur-Araz Ovaligi (Kura-Araks Lowland) (much of it below sea level) with Great Caucasus Mountains to the north, Qarabag Yaylasi (Karabakh Upland) in west; Baku lies on Abseron Yasaqligi (Apsheron Peninsula) that juts into Caspian Sea
Natural Hazards: droughts

Population: 8.4 million (UN, 2006)
Ethnicity: Azeri 90.6%, Dagestani 2.2%, Russian 1.8%, Armenian 1.5%, other 3.9%
Major Language: Azeri, Russian
Religion: Muslim 93.4%, Russian Orthodox 2.5%, Armenian Orthodox 2.3%, other 1.8%
Life expectancy: 63 years (men), 70 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 manat = 100 qapik