Sri Lanka

Full name: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Government: Republic

Location: Southern Asia, island in the Indian Ocean, south of India
Capital: Colombo
Area: 65,610 sq km (25,332 sq miles); slightly larger than West Virginia

Climate: tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)
Terrain: mostly low, flat to rolling plain; mountains in south-central interior
Natural Hazards: occasional cyclones and tornadoes
Natural Resources: limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay, hydropower

Population: 21,128,772 (July 2008 est.)
Ethnic groups: Sinhalese 73.8%, Sri Lankan Moors 7.2%, Indian Tamil 4.6%, Sri Lankan Tamil 3.9%, other 0.5%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data)
Major Language: Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%, other 8%
note: English is commonly used in government and is spoken competently by about 10% of the population
Religions: Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10% (2001 census)
Life expectancy: 73 years (men), 77 years (women) (2008 est.)

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee (LKR)