Turkey

Full name: Republic of Turkey
Government: republican parliamentary democracy

Location: Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia (that portion of Turkey west of the Bosporus is geographically part of Europe), bordering the Black Sea, between Bulgaria and Georgia, and bordering the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Syria
Capital: Ankara
Area: 779,452 sq km (300,948 sq miles); slightly larger than Texas

Climate: temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters; harsher in interior
Terrain: high central plateau (Anatolia); narrow coastal plain; several mountain ranges
Natural Hazards: severe earthquakes, especially in northern Turkey, along an arc extending from the Sea of Marmara to Lake Van

Population: 71.9 million (July 2008)
Ethnicity: Turkish 80%, Kurdish 20%
Major Language: Turkish
Religion: Muslim 99.8% (mostly Sunni), other 0.2% (mostly Christians and Jews)
Life expectancy: 71 years (men), 76 years (women) (2008)
Currency: New Turkish lira