



Rhode Island College

M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports

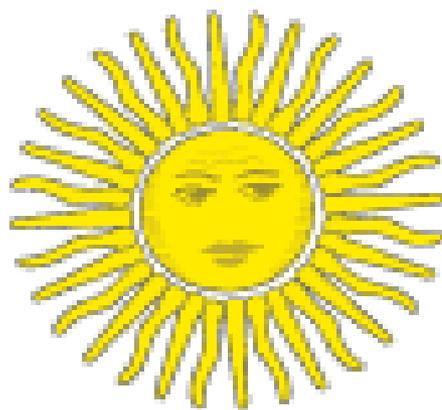
Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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Geographical notes

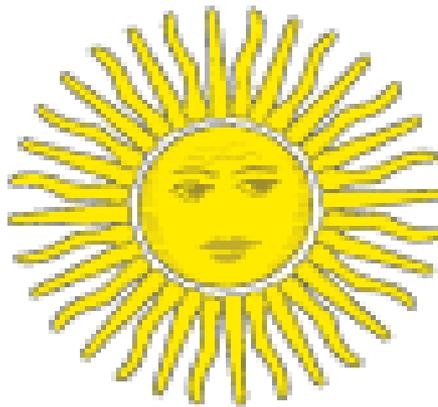
- 8th largest country in the world
- 1.1 million square miles (roughly the size of U.S. east of the Mississippi River)
- 97% of current population (42 million) is of European descent, mostly Italian and Spanish
- Borders 5 countries, namely Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay
- National language: Spanish
- Other languages: Italian, Guarani, Quechua, Tehuelche



Infoplease.com

Background information

- The coat of arms contains a sun, representing Argentina's freedom from Spain.
- Independence—July 9th 1816
- Blue and white symbolize the colors worn by patriots fighting British invaders in 1806-1807
- Current president—Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner
- 14 military presidents took control of Argentina between 1930 and 1983



Time.com

Ethnic/Racial strife

- Argentina is home to the 5th largest Jewish community in the world.
- Historically, Jews have been an important component of the Argentine population
- A higher quality of education for the Jewish immigrants was to be found in urban areas.
- Semana Tragica –January 7-13, 1919, Jews were beaten



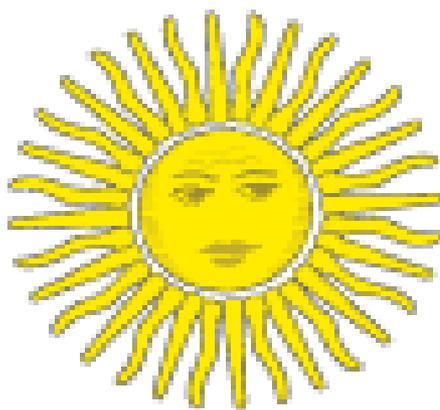
- and their property stolen and burned with police declining to intervene.
- During early Peronist era there continued to be discrimination against Jews.
- Anti-Semitism remains a significant problem in Argentina today

Haruth.com

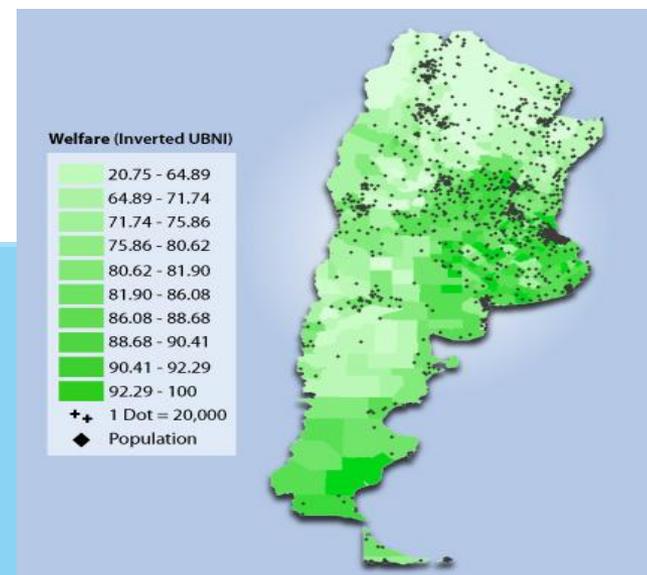


POVERTY

- Percentage of population on less than \$ 2 a day=2%
- Poverty rates are higher than average in areas with large indigenous populations
- Indigenous people have greater than average rates of illiteracy and unemployment
- Indigenous population is estimated at 700,000
- Labor demand has put a high importance on education, however

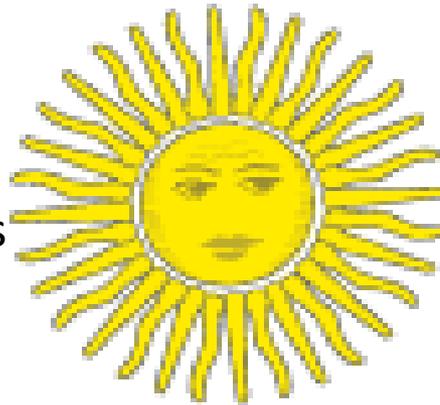


- the poor often do not complete secondary education
- 24% aged 18-24 among the poor have a secondary education



EDUCATION

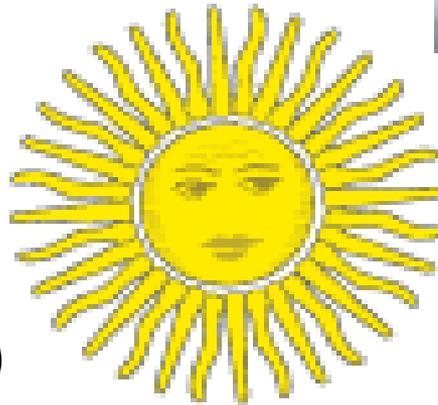
- 97.8% of adults and 99.2% of youth are literate
- All children ages 6-14 must go to school
- Percentage of individuals attending and completing university degree programs is 3.2 of the population, second highest in world after France.
- 3 broad kinds of secondary schools— Bachiller, Commercial, Escuela Tecnica



- Public expenditure on education = 14%
- Pupil/ teacher ratio = 16
- Distribution of public expenditure—primary 33% secondary 41 % and tertiary 19 %
- Argentina's public university system is free of charge
- English is only foreign language taught in 14/23 provinces starting at age 9
- Grading system from 0 (F) to 10 (A)
- No public buses
- Students must buy own books and uniforms

Education cont.

- School day goes from 8-12 for some, others attend from 1p.m. to 5 p.m.
- University candidates must attend secondary school for 5 years and take a baccalaureat exam
- School teachers are trained in an escuela normal (teacher' s college)
- Rights of indigenous people to bilingual education are guaranteed by constitution; implementation of these rights remains a problem



Infosurhoy.com

Education cont.

- The public educational system is divided into four levels
 - 1.Preprimary—not compulsory, enrolls students from 3-5 years old
 - 2.Primary—compulsory, consists of 7 grades. Children from 6-12 years old attend primary school ALONG WITH adults who need instruction at this level
 - 3.Secondary level—ages 12-17. Courses vary from 3 to 8 years and prepare students for vocational or professional programs.
 - 4.Higher education—includes private and national universities and institutions that provide teacher training and advanced training in technical careers.

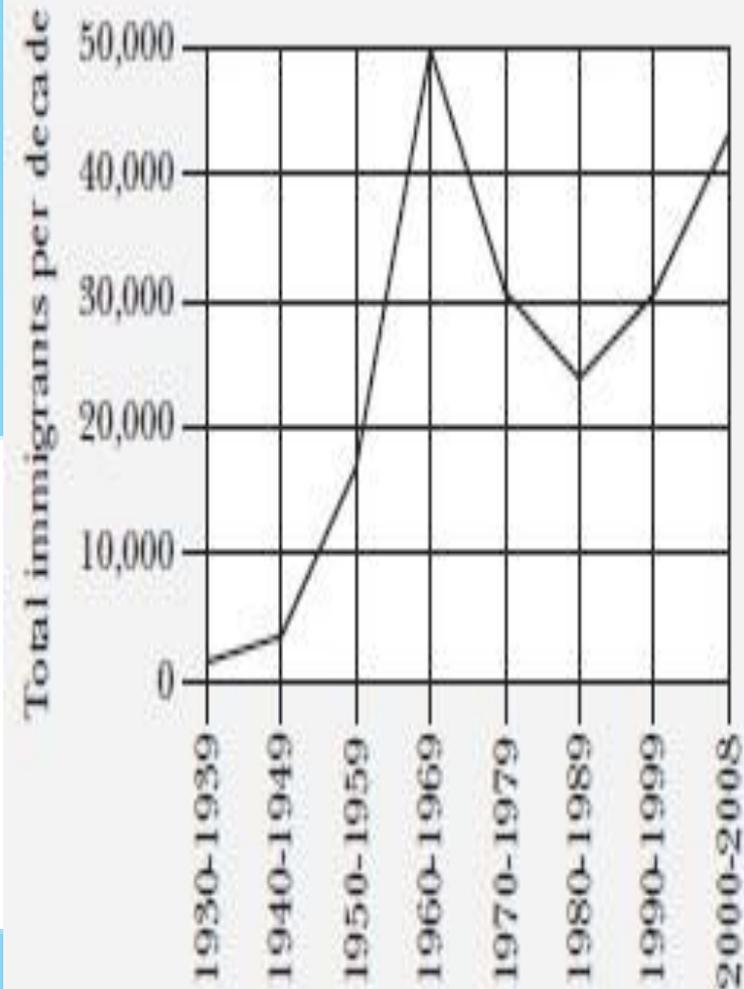
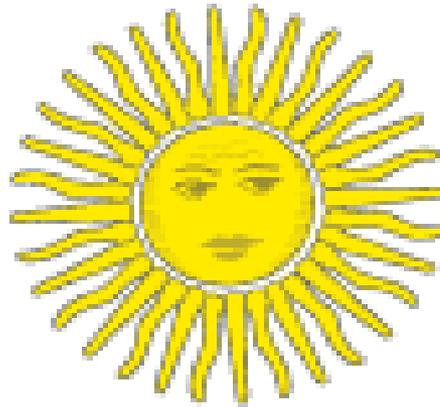
According to a 2008 study on the quality of education in Argentina, the following findings are presented:

- Argentina does not need more teachers, but it needs more *highly qualified teachers*
- Qualified teachers in Argentina do their job as well as qualified teachers in other countries, but Argentina has less qualified teachers
- Argentina needs to make the teaching job more attractive and increase the level of qualification, probably making teaching a university degree instead of tertiary level of instruction as it is now.
- In Argentina even the top students are underperforming. Students show significant problems in understanding basic texts, and the achievement is well below the expected level for a country with its income level and overall educational indicators.



Emigration

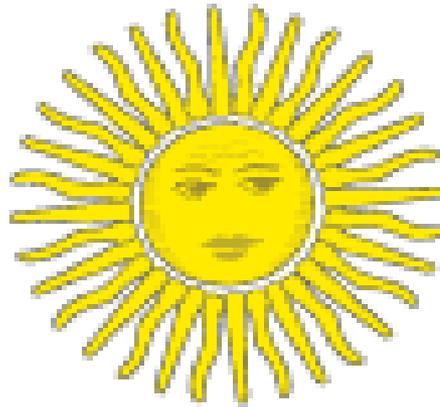
- Argentina was third in ranking of Latin American emigration as of 2003.
- Main destinations are Spain, Italy, United States, and Israel
- Faltering economy is driving the trend
- Large Argentine immigrant community in Miami
- After 9/11 Argentina was removed from the U.S. waiver program



Immigration-online.org

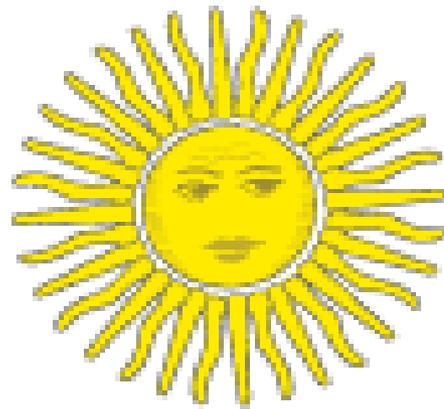
ATTITUDE TOWARD ENGLISH

- English as global language makes proficiency in English an essential requirement for Argentinians seeking employment or pursuing a graduate level education
- English as second language is a means of social ascension
- Argentinians have more contact with English than ever through television, internet, social media
- Newspapers in English are prevalent in Argentina



ATTITUDES TOWARD ENGLISH

- Greater demand for English has also been brought on by business
- Students finishing secondary school would have been exposed to 686 contact hours of English
- English is a link language for Argentinians



- English in Argentina is used in the following 4 functions, namely interpersonal, instrumental, regulative, and innovative (Nielsen)
- It is deemed advantageous to be proficient in English
- Due to current and historical considerations, English is considered prestigious

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