

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY ?

Democracy is a form of government in which all citizens have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives.



CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

- Place where individual rights are important but the majority rules.
- Democratic societies have fair and free elections open to citizens who have the age to vote.
- One of the principal goals of this society is to protect basic human rights as : freedom of speech, freedom of religion and everyone is equal under the law.
- Boys and girls are equal (they have the same rights).

FACTS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA

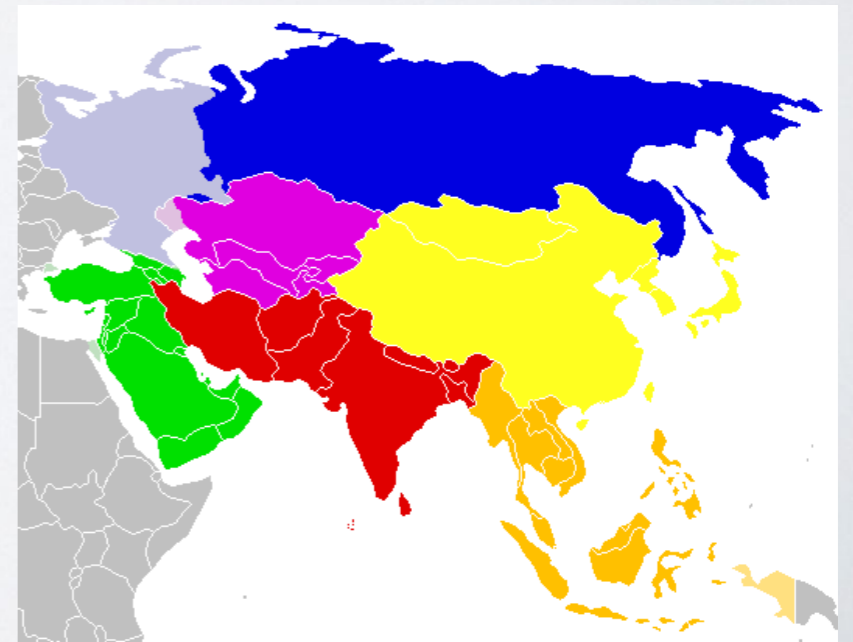
Saudi Arabia on a map :



The total area of the country is 2 152 000 km².
58% of the territory is inhabited because the land is deserts.



Saudi Arabia is in Asia.



FACTS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA

Life expectancy: Men : 72 years old Women : 76 years old

Density : 11 habitants / km²

88% of the population is urban population

A woman has in average : 3.96 children

Population : 29 779 913



FACTS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia is part of the OPEC (organization of oil exporter countries).

Saudi Arabia is the country who has the biggest reserve of oil and that exports it the most.

It's also has big resources of natural gas.

It exports iron.

It's the 4th mondial producer of dates (fruit).

They farm sheeps.



FACTS ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA

Oussama Ben Laden is born in Saudi Arabia.



The flag of Saudi Arabia :



Saudi Arabia has the record of the biggest airport in the world (225km² !) It's called the King Fahd International Airport



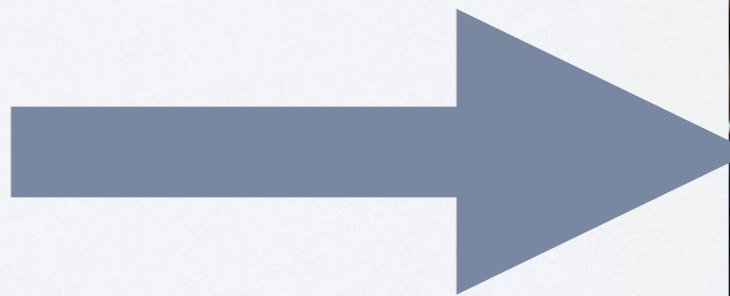
WHY IS SAUDI ARABIA A
NON-DEMOCRATIC
COUNTRY?

WHO GOVERNS ?

- Saudi Arabia is a monarchy based on Islam. A king rules the country with the help of the prince, his assistant. There are also 22 ministers that each have a specialty, for example, education.

The population cannot participate to decision making.

Salmane ben Abdelaziz Al
Saoud (the current king of
Saudi Arabia since 01-2015)



JUSTICE

Because Saudi Arabia is an Islamic country, their justice system is based on the Islamic law (Sharia) . The king is at the top of the legal system, he is always the final judge.

The accused person is considered guilty unless she is able to prove her innocence. But often, the person doesn't know what she is accused of and she doesn't have access to a lawyer or to the evidence against her.

If the person is judged guilty, the punishment is often corporal punishment: decapitation, stoning, amputation, and flagellation.

He got his hand cut off for stealing something worth 1 dime.

He got his hand cut off in Saudi Arabia for stealing something worth of a dime 😞



Death penalty : for murder, rape, stealing, adultery, witchcraft

Amputation: right hand for stealing and right hand plus a foot for stealing with violence

Flagellation: for non-respect of religion rules like taking alcohol or non respect of prayers or fast during Ramadan.

Testimony of a non- muslim person is not take into consideration and the testimony of a woman is worth half of the testimony of a man.

Half of death penalty are practiced on foreign residents.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA

Allowed

- vote since 2015 (at the municipal elections)
- participate at the Olympic Games

Possible (with the authorization of a guard)

- travel
- study
- have an appropriate job

Hardly

- Divorce (it's the man that asks the divorce).

Prohibited

- to be in a car driven by someone that isn't an employee or a close parent
- Show hair or skin
- Drive (they have the right to drive but they do not have the right to pass their driver's license.
- go in a restaurant
- take the bus
- go to the beach with a man
- walk in a park

SAUDI ARABIA



QUÉBEC (province)



VS

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله



VOTE



The people don't vote for the king.

Although, there are municipal elections. Men have the right to vote and women will have the right to vote for the first time in the 2015 elections.



- 1791 : Everybody can vote.
- 1875: Only men can vote.
- 1940 : Women have the right to vote.
- 1963 : 18 years old can vote (before it was 21 years old)
- 1969 The Native people can vote

Religion



The only religion that can be practiced in Saudi Arabia is Islam even if close of a million of Christians live there (the Christians that live there are mostly foreign workers).

There, there are no churches and the buildings to pray that aren't Muslim are prohibited.

There is also a Saudi religion police that inspects the house of the Christians frequently.

The foreign workers need to respect the Ramadan and they do not have the right to celebrate Christmas or Easter.

The consequence of someone that is Muslim and that converts to another religion is death.



Everyone can choose the religion they want to practice. The citizens can also choose to not believe in any religion.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Gay people



Saudi Arabia is one of the few countries where homosexuality is not only illegal, but you can be killed for it.

There, several hundreds of people have been arrested for behaving like women.

The most popular consequences are stoning and jail.

Gay people are respected.

Each year, in August, there is a gay festival in Montreal.

In Quebec the gay marriage is autorised since march 18 2004.



Clothing

Men

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ



Men wear a traditional dress called a thobe, which has been called the Wahhabi national dress.

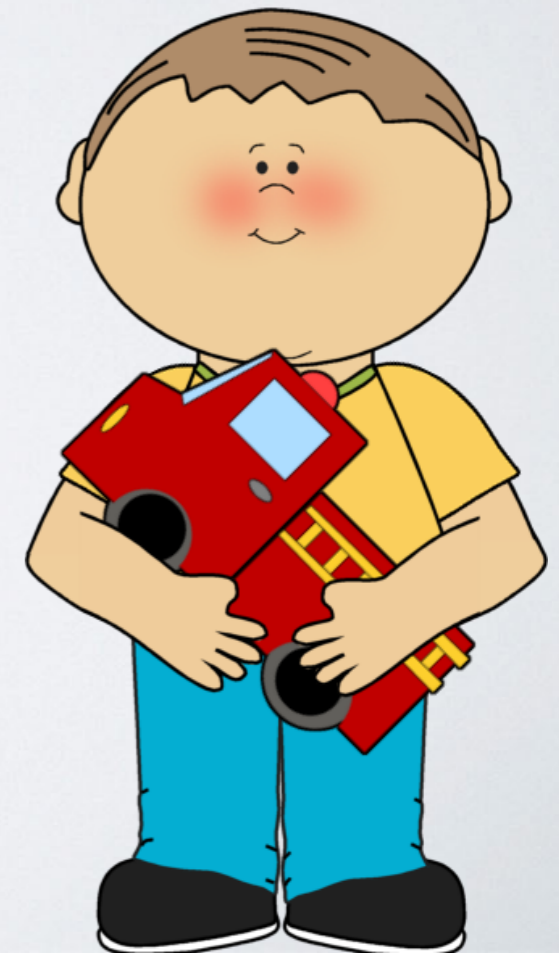
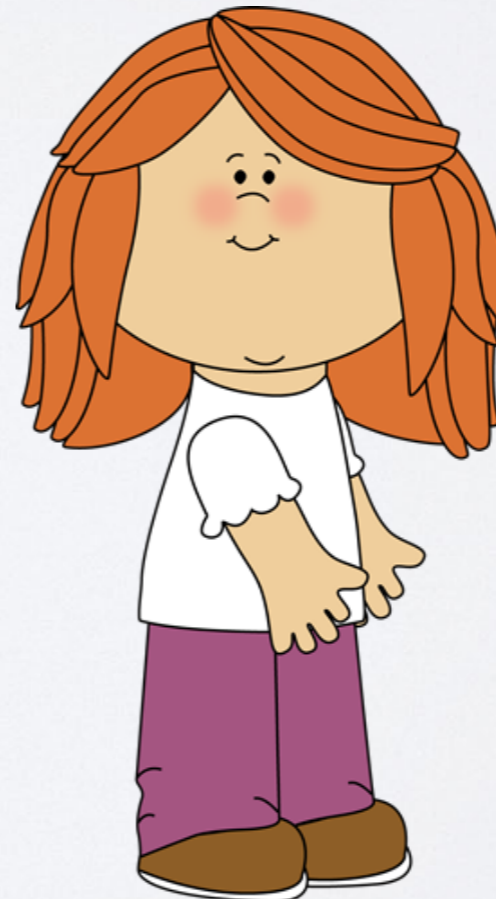
Everyone is free to dress as they want.



Women

In public, all women are required to wear a long black cloak that covers all but the hands and face called an abaya .

They also wear a niqab that covers the face except the eyes.



FREEDOM OF SPEECH

الإسلام



They don't have the right to critic Islam, religion , the government, and the royal family.

Public manifestations are prohibited.

The articles in the journals are censored.

A major part of the internet is blocked.

In Quebec, we have the right to say what we want.



Dear User,

عزيزي المستخدم،

Sorry, the requested page is unavailable.

عفوًا، الموقع المطلوب غير متاح.

If you believe the requested page should not be blocked please [click here](#).

إن كنت ترى أن هذه الصفحة ينبغي أن لا تُحجب تفضل [بالضغط هنا](#).

For more information about internet service in Saudi Arabia, please click here: www.internet.gov.sa

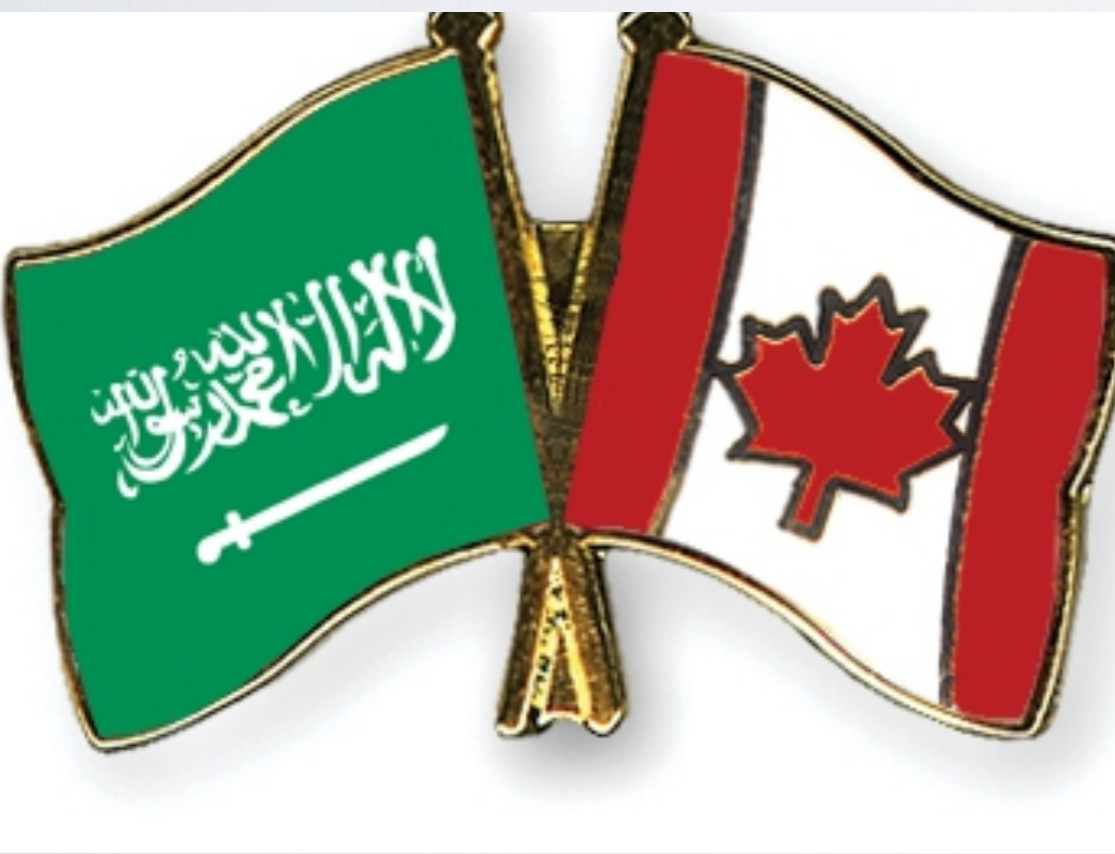
لمزيد من المعلومات عن خدمة الإنترنت في المملكة العربية السعودية، يمكنك زيارة الموقع التالي: www.internet.gov.sa





HOW DOES QUEBEC HELP THE DEMOCRACY IN ARABIA???

Canada and Saudi Arabia have trade agreements. Saudi Arabia is a major buyer of military equipment in Canada. In addition, it is an ally in the fight against Islamic State. So Canada tolerates the non-respect of human rights in this country which is not helpful for democracy.



WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN SAUDI ARABIA?

USA have a pact with Saudi Arabia since 1945 that stipulates that USA protect the territory and the royal family in exchange of a guarantee in oil supply. More recently, Saudi Arabia is an important ally in the fight against Islamic State. All the occidental countries tolerate the fact that human rights are not respected in Saudi Arabia. For them, political and financial issues seem to be more important than moral issues. But many countries complain about the non-respect of human rights in African countries, countries with which there is no business agreement.

