”Let us all pull together.” Kenya’s national motto shows that they strive to be a country of unity and equality. The large population is home to various cultures speaking many different languages. The goal of the government is to stay peaceful among surrounding countries in crisis. They are persistent for a search to end poverty and oppression. Remarkable wildlife lives in the midst of forest, mountain and desert landscapes. The history of this country lives on even today through dress, way of life, and language. Kenya, a country worth learning about, is alive through their government, geography, history and economy.

Kenya’s geography is as interesting as any other part of the beautiful country. Kenya is located in east Africa bordering five different countries including Tanzania and Somalia with the Indian Ocean to the southeast. The capital, Nairobi, is known for one of the finest climates in the world, its nickname is “Garden City in the Sun (Lands and Peoples, 1999, p.306).” Kenya’s size is more than two times the size of Nevada (cia.gov, 2011). The Great Rift Valley divides the country into two areas. The valley itself is broken up by lakes. The west side contains rich land for agricultural use. The Highlands contain some of the most flourishing farming production regions in Africa. It is known for its plentiful soil, and the mountains have a thick bamboo forest. The Bush is an area of low-thorn tree and scrub brush with some Baobab trees. It is occupied by hunters and nomadic people who roam with their herds of cattle (Lands and Peoples, 1999, p.309). Kenya’s namesake is after Mount Kenya which is a major landmark and the second highest peak in Africa. Geography is a small but important element to the country of Kenya.

Mankind has been living in Kenya for as long as people have existed. Africa is possibly the most diverse with many different cultures and languages. The first people to inhabit Kenya were hunters; later, Bantu speaking farmers came to live there, bringing many new developments. During colonization in the late 1800’s, the Kenya-Uganda railway was built mainly by Indian people. Eventually white people began taking over by taxing and banning the growth of coffee, and taking land away from already poor farmers, thus the white population grew to 80,000. A group called the Mau Mau led a rebellion because of the white British folk, but the British army and African loyalists detained and killed most of these people. These events led to The Swynnerton Plan which awarded land to loyalists and punished Mau Mau. Kenya broke away from Britain in 1964, hence forming the Republic of Kenya.

Kenya is a democratic republic country. There have been many political modifications; such as freedom of rights laws in 1997. In 2002 Kenya held open elections, Mwai Kibaki who won, began to center the country’s efforts on peace, corruption and literacy. In the 2007 elections, there was debate about unfair elections which resulted in violence and killing. The dispute was settled with Kibaki as president and his opposing candidate, Raila Odinga, became prime minister. In August 2010, a new constitution was created that abolished the position of the prime minister (after the next presidential election) and reduced presidential powers (cia.gov, 2011). The constitution is still being perfected. Kenya has gone through many hardships, but always tries to pull through each faction for the sake of their country.

Known as a country of notable ethnic diversity, Kenyans are remarkably talented. The main cultural groups are the Kikuyu, Luo, Luhya, and the Maasai. The Kikuyu, who live in round houses called Shambas, are excellent farmers; they grow coffee and tea. The Luo are fishermen known for their ability to catch tilapia. The Luhya are descendants of the first Bantu speaking farmers, they make up fourteen percent of the population. The Maasai tribe is very tall, and renowned for their intricate jewelry and body adornment. Different groups include Europeans which came as settlers in the late 1800’s, Asians, and Arabs. Most Kenyans are bilingual in English and Swahili. Other languages spoken are the mother tongue from different tribal groups (Lands and Peoples, 1999, p.309). Seventy eight percent of Kenyans are Christian, others beliefs include Islam, and some indigenous religions. Many Olympic athletes have come from Kenya in running events such as distance. Kenya’s athletes are known as Africa’s most successful in the 2008 Olympics. The poverty is significant in Kenya, many poor people live in slums which are simple houses, packed tightly together, and can be very dangerous. Kenya has a deep concern for people infected with HIV; lately HIV has been decreasing because of more people getting education, but there are still many kids and adults in need of treatment. Doctors are working at looking for new methods and cures for this disease (Johnson, 2011). Despite hardships and epidemics, the people of Kenya are worth learning about, with fast growing literacy and talent they have something to teach us.

The economy of Kenya is undergoing much change. Currently they are a free market economy. The increase in tourism, transport, communication, and agricultural development has brought a five percent gross domestic product anticipated growth. Tourists are attracted to Kenya because of their beaches, safaris, and game reserves. Agriculture accounts for 24 percent of gross domestic product, with tea and coffee as primary cash crops. In Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu, the main industrial activities are grain milling, fabrication of clothing, and sugarcane crushing. As fast as tourism and agriculture are growing, the country is in danger of boom and bust. This leads to corruption and bad authority which makes it hard for other countries to work with Kenya (Wilson, 2011).

Kenyans value the great wildlife in their country. The country possesses all of the “Big Five” animals of Africa which are Lions, Leopards, Rhinoceroses, Buffalos, and Elephants. There are also many other mammals, reptiles, and fish. Most animals are in national parks and reserves to protect them and to preserve their natural habitat.

Kenya is a developing country but people can learn many valuable lessons from their ways. Kenya’s many geographical regions make it a very touristic location. Their history is still evident with today’s Africans being descendents of their earliest dwellers. Although their governmental system may have caused chaos and angered many people, they are working to bring it back up again to the best it can possibly be. Economy also continues to grow as all people contribute through industry, agriculture and service. People are very diverse, with a wide range of gifts and talents. The fascinating wildlife will always continue to astound each visitor, as they live their carefree lives in the wild. Warm beaches, friendly smiles, and breath taking nature are the reasons so many people love the wonderful country of Kenya.