

Interesting facts about Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is the 9th largest country in the world and the largest country that doesn't have access to the ocean.

Kazakhstan is so large that the distance from one end to the other is about the same as from London to Istanbul

Half of Lake Balkhash, one of the largest lakes in the world, consists of fresh water, the other half of the salt water.

Stan is an ancient Persian word meaning "land" or "nation," and *Kazakh* means "wanderer," "adventurer". Therefore, the name Kazakhstan translates as "Land of the Wanderers."

Ancient Kazakhs were the first people in the world to domesticate and ride horses.

The traditional nomad home of the Kazakhs is known as a *yurta*. It is comprised of a collapsible tent, with a wooden frame, covered in felt. Its name comes from the Kazakh word meaning "community," "people," or "family."

Kazakhstan's traditional drink *kumis* has also been referred to as "milk champagne." It is made from fermented mare's milk. The Kazakhs living on the steppes also drink shubat, or fermented camel's milk.

The Medeo Sports Center, located near Almaty, Kazakhstan, boasts the highest skating rink in the world at 5,545 feet (1,690 m) above sea level. It also has a surface area as large as two football fields.

Snow leopards live in the mountains in eastern Kazakhstan. The snow leopard is considered a national symbol in Kazakhstan.

Fill in:

1. Half of Lake Balkhash consists of _____
2. *Kazakh* means _____
3. The name *yurta* comes from the _____
4. *Kumis* is made from _____
5. The highest skating rink has a _____
6. A national symbol in Kazakhstan is _____

Write True/ False:

1. Kazakhstan is the largest country that doesn't have the ocean.
2. London and Istanbul are as large as Kasakhstan

3. Ancient Kazakhs were the first people in the world who used horses
4. A person may be drunk drinking kumis
5. The kazakhs don't drink milk of other animals except mare's
6. Snow leopards inhabit the mountains in eastern Kazakhstan