

## **Balkan Basics Student Sample**

Albania and Slovenia, two of the Balkan Republics, are alike, but at the same time they are very different. Most of their problems come from what makes them different. Their differences are in their ethnic groups, religions, governments, languages and other things. Although they have their differences, they have many similarities in things such as how they originated, their economy and their alphabet. Before comparing and contrasting them, let's find out a little bit about the two republics.

One of the countries that are being compared is Albania. Albania is 11,100 square miles with a population of 3,490,435 as of the year 2000. Their monetary unit is the Lek. The GDP per capita of Albania is \$1,650. The capital of Albania is Tirane. The government type is emerging democracy.

The other country is Slovenia. Slovenia is smaller than Albania and is only 7,819 square miles. The population is 1,927,593 people as of the year 2000. The monetary unit of Slovenia is the Slovenian tolar. Slovenia's capital is Ljubljana. The government type is parliamentary democracy. Their GDP per capita is \$10,300.

Albania and Slovenia both originated from one of the same groups. They both originated from the Illyrians. Slovenia also originated from the Celts. Their ethnic groups are all different though. Albania's population is 95% Albanian and 3% Greek. Slovenia's population is 91% Slovene and 6% Serb-Croatian.

The history of Albania and Slovenia were very different. The only thing that is the same is that they were both invaded by the Romans/Roman Empire. Albania was also invaded by the Byzantine Empire, the Ottoman Turks and others. They are one of the poorest countries in Europe. Slovenia has been invaded by the Austrian and the Hungarian Empire. In 1918 the Slovenian Empire declared peace.

One thing that Albania and Slovenia have in common is their alphabet. They both use the Latin words. Even though they both write the same, their languages are different. The people of Albania speak Albanian and Greek. The people of Slovenia speak Serbo-Croatian and Slovenian. The literacy rate of Slovenia is 99% and Albania is 72%.

Albania and Slovenia's many economy products are alike in many ways. They both grow wheat, potatoes, corn, beets, grapes and sugar. In their industries they both produce textiles and chemicals. A few things in agriculture and industry that Albania has that Slovenia do not are vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy products, lumber and oil. Some things that Slovenia has that Albania does not are hops, cattle, sheep, poultry, zinc and lead. This concludes some of the similarities and differences between Albania and Slovenia.