

FLAG FACTS



- Benin gained independence on August 1st, 1960, from France and became the Republic of Benin. It was previously known as Dahomey, a name of the 15th century kingdom that occupied the territory.
- The current flag was adopted on November 16th, 1959 and first raised on Independence Day. It was abandoned in 1975 by the Marxist regime, which took power through a military coup and re-introduced in 1990 upon Benin becoming a multiparty democracy. The national flag of Benin is a flag of two horizontal yellow and red bands on the fly side and a green vertical band at the hoist with a proportion of 2:3.
- The colors of the flag are the traditional Pan African, symbolizing African unity. The red color symbolizes courage, the yellow wealth of the nation and green stands for hope for the future.
- Benin is named after the body of water on which it lies – the Bight of Benin– a bay in the Gulf of Guinea area on the western African coast. The country measures about 325km (202 miles) at its widest point. In terms of area, Benin is slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, with a 121km (75 miles) coastline.
- The capital region (Porto Novo) and the area nearby was referred to as the 'slave coast' from as early as the 17th century.