

READING COMPREHENSION: Morocco's Business Capital

UNIT 10: ECONOMY



Casablanca: Morocco's Business Capital

In the 19th century, Casablanca, formerly named Anfa, began to grow as a result of regular sea traffic between Europe and Morocco. European textile manufacturers needed new sources of raw materials, and French merchants arrived to negotiate the purchase of Moroccan cereals. In 1912, General Lyautey completed the construction of the city's harbor to make the city an economic center.

Nowadays, Casablanca is the largest city in Morocco. Sixty percent of all Moroccan companies and almost every bank have headquarters there. In fact, Casablanca is the business capital of the country and one of the most important commercial and industrial centers in Africa. The most important industries in this city are textile and food processing. Its port handles most of the imports and exports of the country.

Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1. Which paragraph is about Casablanca in the present?**
- 2. Which paragraph is about Casablanca in the past?**
- 3. What's the old name of Casablanca?**
- 4. What makes Casablanca the most important city in Morocco?**
- 5. What industries are found in Casablanca?**
- 6. Would you choose to live in Casablanca? Why?**

WRITING: My Hometown

Write an e-mail to a friend in the USA about your hometown.

- 1. Where do you live?**
- 2. Is it a city, a town or a village?**
- 3. Where is it? (North, South...)**
- 4. It is near to the sea?**
- 5. How many people are there?**
- 6. What is the most important activity there? (agriculture, industry, tourism...)**