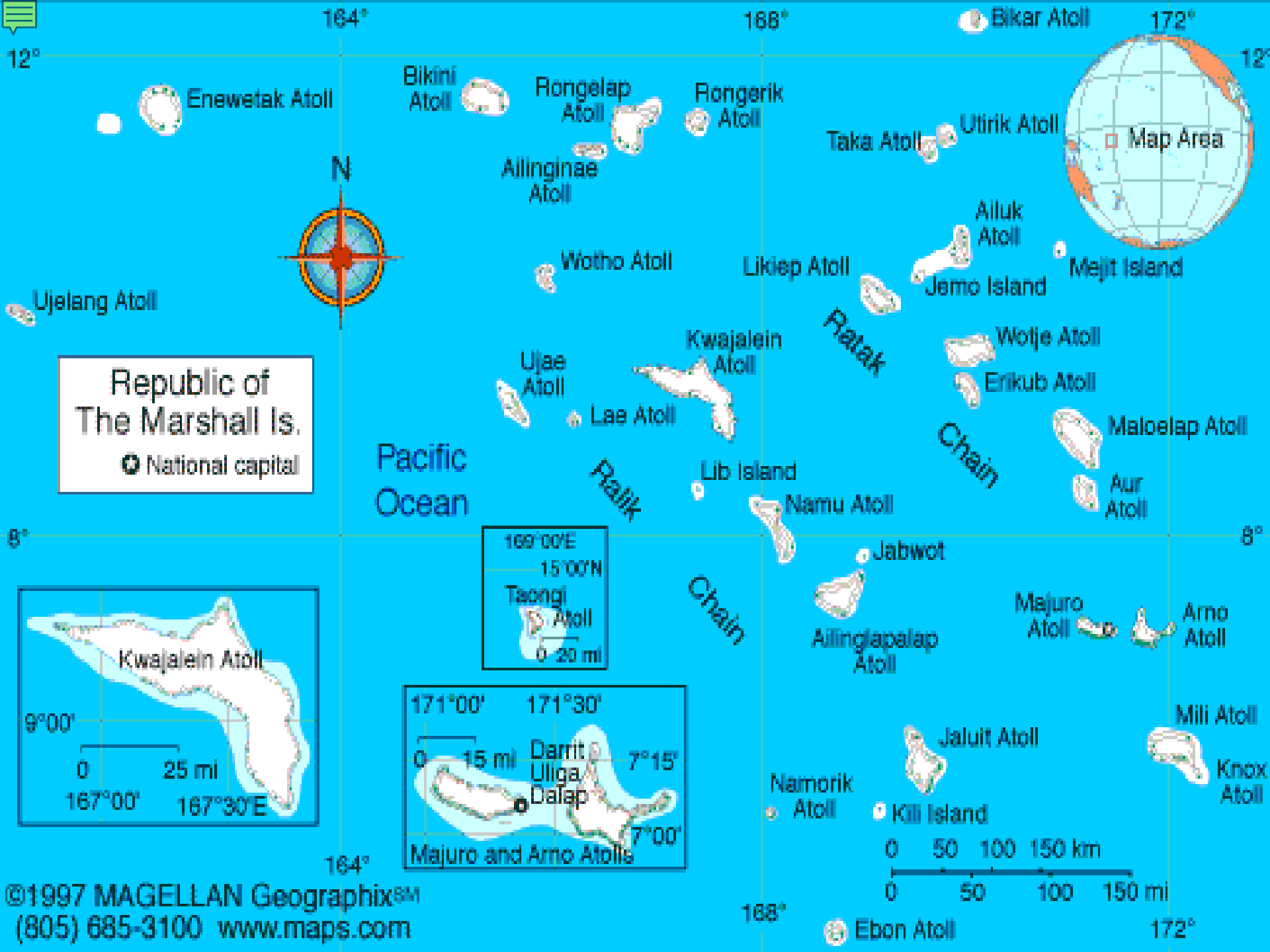


The background of the slide is the flag of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which features a blue field with a white sunburst in the upper left, and a diagonal stripe of orange and white. The text is overlaid on the blue field.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Prepared by: Nelly Lakabung Narrated by: Nelly and Hemlan Lakabung
EFNEP EXTENSION AGENTS, CMI-CRE LAND GRANT MARSHALL ISLANDS



GEOGRAPHY

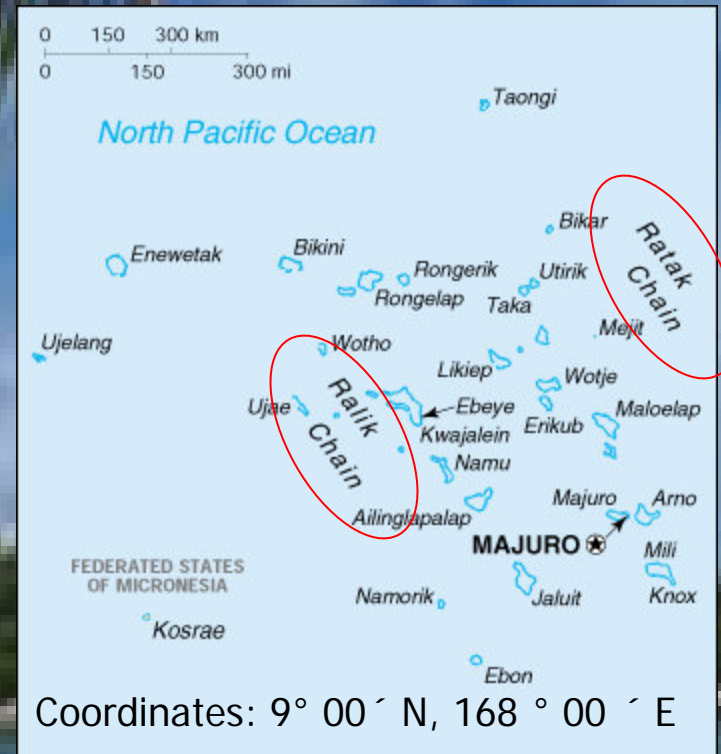
Location: Oceania.

Two archipelagic island chains of 29 atolls (Ralik and Ratak), each made up of many small islets, and five single islands in the North Pacific Ocean, about half way between Hawaii and Australia

Total land area: 70 sq mi (181 sq km).

Includes 11,673 sq km of lagoon waters and includes the atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Kwajalein, Majuro, Rongelap, and Utirik

Area (comparative): about the size of Washington, DC



Administrative divisions: 33 municipalities

Highest point: unnamed location on Likiep 33ft

HISTORY

- Micronesian peoples were the first inhabitants of the archipelago. 500 BC - 2000 BC
- **Spanish** 'discovered' and explored the islands in the 16th century (1529)
- The islands were named for a **British** captain in 1788.
- **Germany** establishes a protectorate over the Marshall Islands in 1885.
- The Marshall Islands are captured from Germany by **Japan** in 1914
- League of Nations grants a mandate to **Japan** to administer the RMI in 1920
- After several battles during World War II, the **U.S.** seized them from the Japanese in 1944
- In 1947, the UN made the island group a **U.S. Trust Territory**.
- 1952 - The first hydrogen device under the U.S. testing program in the Marshalls is fired on Enewetak.
- 1954 – **U.S. nuclear testing program** the Bravo hydrogen bomb detonated on Bikini atoll. Compensation claims continue as a result of US nuclear testing on some of the atolls between 1947 - 1962
- The Marshall Islands attained **independence in 1986** under a Compact of Free Association



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population (2013 est.):

- 69,747
- urban population: 72%
- Two-thirds of the nation's population lives on Majuro, the capital, and Ebeye (Kwajalein).
- Density per sq km: 349

Religions: (1999 census)

- Protestant 54.8%,
- Assembly of God 25.8%,
- Roman Catholic 8.4%,
- Bukot nan Jesus 2.8%,
- Mormon 2.1%,
- Other Christian 3.6%,
- other 1%/ none 1.5%

Age structure: (2010 est.)

- 0-14 years: 38.6%
- 15-64 years: 58.5%
- 65 years and over: 2.9%

Ethnic groups: (2006)

- Marshallese 92.1%,
- mixed Marshallese 5.9%,
- other 2%

Languages: (1999 census)

- Marshallese (official) 98.2%
 - other languages 1.8%
- note:* English (official), widely spoken as a second language



POLITICS

- Constitutional government in free association with the US; the Compact of Free Association entered into force on 1986 and the Amended Compact entered into force in May 2004
- The Compact of Free Association with the United States gives the U.S. sole responsibility for international defense of the Marshall Islands. It allows islanders to live and work in the United States, and establishes economic and technical aid programs.
- The government of the Marshall Islands operates under a mixed parliamentary-presidential system. The President is the head of state as well as head of government.
- Four of the five Marshallese presidents who have been elected since the Constitution was adopted in 1979 have been traditional paramount chiefs.



IMMIGRATION/EMIGRATION

- Marshallese migrate to U.S., for schooling and education, and to seek health care
- 5.52 migrant(s)/1,000 population
- Marshallese are spread throughout the U.S., including Hawaii, Arkansas, Washington
- The Marshallese are of Micronesian origin and migrated from Asia several thousand years ago.
- The outer islands are sparsely populated due to lack of employment opportunities and economic development. Life on the outer atolls is generally traditional.
- The Marshall Islands hosts the US Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) Reagan Missile Test Site, a key installation in the US missile defense network. Marshallese working on Kwajalein live on Ebeye Island, only 80 acres of land, with a population of more than 15,000

LIFESTYLE

- GDP \$133.5 million
- Imports \$ 79.4 million foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, fuels, beverages and tobacco
- Exports \$ 19.4 million copra cake, coconut oil, handicrafts, fish
- Marshall Islands receives payment from the US for use of Kwajalein Atoll Missile Base \$15 million in 2003
- Compact funding from US \$33.5 million (FY2011)
- Subsistence and cash economy
- Workforce approx. 14,680 (2008)
- 2,095 people are employed by the government
- Tourist industry employs less than 10% of the labor force
- Unemployment rate: 36%

HEALTH ISSUES

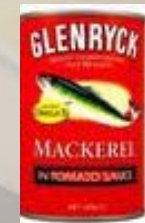
- Life expectancy at birth: 68.8 years
birth rate: 29.9/1000
- Leading causes of death
 - Diabetes related diseases
 - Cancer
 - Septicemia (severe infection)
 - Heart Disease/Failure
 - Suicide
- Rate of overweight and obesity
 - 80.1% overweight (BMI \geq 25)
 - over 45% obese (BMI \geq 30)
 - (based on published STEPS Reports)
 - 41% have diabetes

DIETARY CHANGE

- Local staples include:
 - Breadfruit (A)
 - pandanus (B)
 - coconut (C)
 - Taro (D)
 - seafoods, birds, & eggs

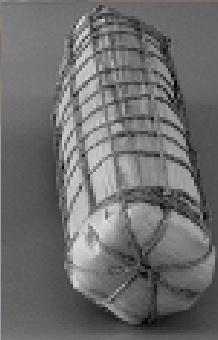


- Contemporary diet:
 - imported rice, flour, and sugar
 - a variety of tinned meats
 - coffee and cola



FOOD AND LIFE EVENTS

- Cultural values and customs, or *manit*, make Marshallese society unique
- Food is used to solve disputes, to welcome visitors, to provide for funerals, and to pay tribute to the *iroij* (chiefs).
- No celebration is a success unless everyone has plenty of food to eat and leftovers to take home.
- A significant family event is the *kemem*, or first birthday of a child, where relatives and friends come together to celebrate with feasting and song
- A traditional food, *mokwan* (or jaankun), made from preserved *bōb* (pandanus) paste lasted a long time so was useful for sailors on long voyages.



POPULAR LOCAL FOODS

- Biro (bwiro): from breadfruit (preserved breadfruit)
- Beru/Peru: breadfruit, pumpkin, pandanus
- Waini Jam: (grated coconut jam)
- Waini cookies: (coconut cookies)
- Bob ainbat (boiled pandanus)
- Jokra in, clams, octopus, leked,





Pictures



of RMI



Amata Kabua International Airport

