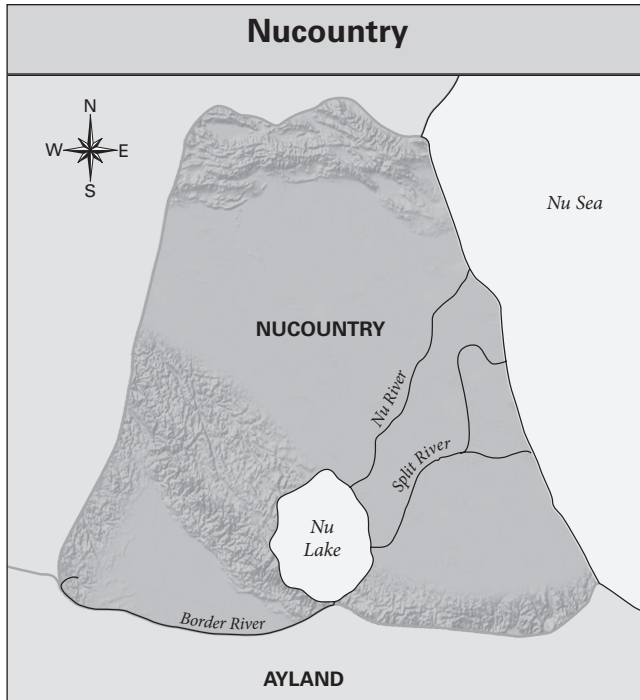


## Background Information on Nucountry

Nucountry is a midsize country of approximately 50,000 square miles, with a population of just over 21 million people. It is slightly larger in size and population than the state of New York.



The country is divided into three distinct geographic regions. The northern region of the country is arid and sparsely inhabited. The southeastern region is fertile, with two major rivers that flow to the ocean. The southwestern region is fertile and rich in valuable natural resources.

Nucountry has three distinct ethnic groups. The Nupepeople are the largest ethnic group, making up nearly 85% of the population. They live mostly in the southeast and tend to farm, work in the region's many cities, or own businesses.

The Apepeople are a small ethnic group, making up about 10% of the population, who speak their own language and have cultural customs different from those of the Nupepeople. They live predominantly in the southwest and control the valuable natural resources in that area.

The smallest ethnic group, the Upepeople, make up almost 5% of the population and speak the same language as the Nupepeople. However, they live a more traditional, and sometimes nomadic, lifestyle in the northern part of Nucountry. With few exceptions, they do not share in the wealth that has been enjoyed in the southern regions of the country.

Slightly more than 100 years ago, Nucountry was in a state of near chaos after the government failed. It was quickly occupied by its neighbor, Ayland, which has governed Nucountry ever since. Ayland has assisted in making Nucountry far more stable. At the end of this year, Nucountry will achieve its independence and a fresh start. A constitutional convention has been called to establish the basis of Nucountry's new government and economic systems.