

# Investigation 1

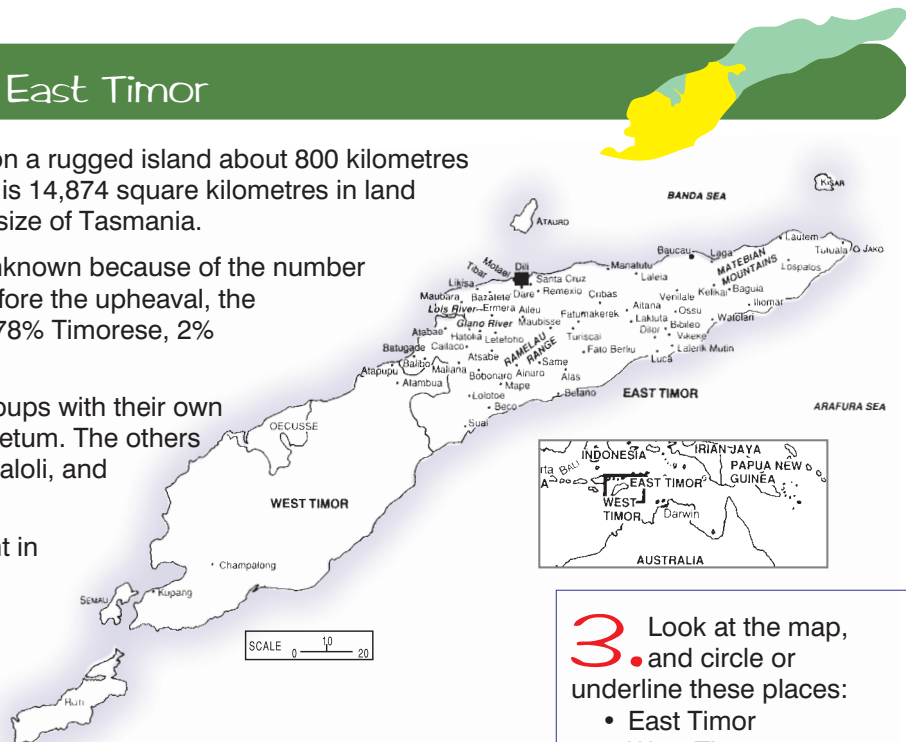
## A snapshot of East Timor

East Timor is located on a rugged island about 800 kilometres north-west of Darwin. It is 14,874 square kilometres in land area, about one fifth the size of Tasmania.

The present population is unknown because of the number of refugees as a result of recent violence. Before the upheaval, the population was about 800,000 - comprising 78% Timorese, 2% Chinese, 20% Indonesian.

East Timor has more than a dozen ethnic groups with their own language and culture - the main one being Tetum. The others include Mambai, Kemak, Bunak, Fataluku, Galoli, and Tokodede.

Portuguese was the national language taught in schools until 1975, when it was replaced by Bahasa Indonesia after the Indonesian invasion and annexation of the land. 92% of the population is Catholic, reflecting Christian missionary activity during East Timor's long period as a colony of Portugal.



**3.** Look at the map, and circle or underline these places:

- East Timor
- West Timor
- Oecusse
- Baucau
- Timor Sea
- Kupang

Draw an arrow showing the direction from Dili to the place where you live.

**1.** Measure the approximate length and width of the island.

**2.** Oecusse, part of East Timor, is described as an 'enclave'. Looking at the map, explain what you think that term means. Then check your definition in a dictionary.

**4.** Look at the following aspects of the history of East Timor. Number the stages from 1 to 21, in chronological order. Some have been done to help you.

	A massacre of East Timorese by Indonesian soldiers during a pro-independence march in Dili in 1991 helped focus world attention on the area.
	After the vote for independence, the pro-integration militias, supported by Indonesian army troops, looted and burned most of the island, and massacred thousands of local people.
	In 1859 the island was divided into two, with a 1916 adjustment so that Portuguese had the east half plus an enclave, the Dutch the rest.
6	After the war the Dutch were forced out of West Timor, which in 1949 became part of Indonesia.
	In 1993 the United Nations Human Rights Commission made the first of two reports criticising Indonesian abuses of human rights in East Timor.
	In 1996 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Jose Ramos Horta and Bishop Carlos Belo for their efforts to gain freedom and independence for East Timor.
	Despite intimidation by supporters of integration with Indonesia, backed by Indonesian troops and police, there was a 75% majority vote for independence.
4	Portugal generally neglected the colony of East Timor in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
	Indonesia feared having a communist-dominated nation threatening its own security and stability, and invaded in December 1975 to impose order and control. The Australian Government accepted the invasion.

17	In 1998 President Suharto (President since 1966) was replaced by President Habibie. In 1999 the Indonesian government announced that there would be a referendum on independence.
	Many East Timorese joined Fretilin (the army of Fretilin), and waged guerrilla war from the jungles against the occupying Indonesian troops. Large numbers of East Timorese villagers were 'resettled' to eliminate Fretilin's support base.
	In 1974 Portugal decided to abandon East Timor. This led to a civil war between rival local parties (the left-wing Fretilin, and the UDT) over who was to control the newly declared independent nation. The UDT asked Indonesia for help.
11	In the 1980s Indonesia built roads, hospitals and schools, and imposed Bahasa Indonesia as the national language (replacing Portuguese), but many East Timorese still resisted and wanted independence.
	In the 1500s Europeans came and established colonies. The Portuguese and the Dutch were the main colonial powers. They established trade (mostly sandalwood and coffee), took slaves, fought over territory, and introduced European building, customs and religions. Portugal claimed East Timor in 1520, and the Dutch claimed West Timor in the 1640s.
	Shortly after the Dili massacre of 1991, Australia signed the Timor Gap Treaty with Indonesia, guaranteeing that the countries would develop and share the rich oil and gas resources in the Timor Sea between Timor and Australia.

	In February 2000 InterFET handed over much of its role to a United Nations force. The territory will be administered by the United Nations for the next two years.
	On 12 September 1999 the United Nations authorised a predominantly Australian force (International Force East Timor – InterFET) to go to East Timor to provide security against the militias and Indonesian troops. The Indonesian troops were withdrawn in October.
1	The first settlements in Timor date back at least 13,000 years.
	In September 1975 Indonesian troops began infiltrating across the border. Five journalists (2 Australians, 2 British and 1 New Zealander) reported on the infiltration and were murdered by the Indonesians at Balibo. The Australian government did not intervene.
	In 1976 Indonesian President Suharto proclaimed East Timor as the 27th Province of Indonesia. The Australian Government was one of the very few to accept the legitimacy of this claim.
	In 1942, during World War 2, Timor was invaded by the Japanese. Australian troops tried to defend the island and fought the Japanese for about 12 months, but were captured or forced to withdraw. The Australians were supported by many East Timorese people, though it became very dangerous to do so. Up to 60,000 East Timorese were killed by the Japanese.