

Macedonia agrees to change its name

13th January, 2019



The Republic of Macedonia has decided to change its name. It agreed on Friday to rename the country the Republic of North

Macedonia. The name change is the result of a 27-year dispute with Greece. Macedonia declared independence in 1991 after the break-up of the former country Yugoslavia. It became a member of the United Nations in 1993, but its name caused an argument with Greece. Greece's largest region is also called Macedonia. The Greek government said it owned the name "Macedonia". Greece blocked its neighbor's attempts to join the EU and NATO over the use of the name "Macedonia". Prime Minister Zoran Zaev said the name change would, "open the doors to the future".

The name change comes after a decade of talks between Macedonia and Greece. Just over 67 per cent of representatives in Macedonia's parliament voted for the name change. Eighty-one MPs voted in favor of the name change in the 120-seat parliament. Opposition politicians, who opposed the agreement with Greece, boycotted the vote. Several hundred people protested against the deal in front of Macedonia's parliament over the past three days. An opposition leader was angry over the talks to change the country's name. He said: "Look how publicly, how openly, this trade is going on with Macedonia's name and identity - just like at a market stall." The next step is for the Greece to officially agree to the change.

Sources: reuters.com / telegraph.co.uk / abcnews.go.com

Writing

A country should be able to choose its own name. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

republic / country / name / independence / United Nations / argument / neighbors / decade / parliament / politicians / vote / opposition / angry / identity / the next step

True / False

- The Republic of Macedonia and Greece had a 27-year-old dispute. T / F
- Macedonia became an independent country in 1991. T / F
- Greece's largest region is also called Macedonia. T / F
- Greece supported Macedonia's attempts to join the EU and NATO. T / F
- Macedonia and Greece talked about the name change for 10 years. T / F
- Over 90 MPs voted for the name change in Macedonia's parliament. T / F
- People protested in front of parliament for three weeks. T / F
- An opposition leader said he wanted to set up a market stall. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. change | a. argument |
| 2. agreed | b. what lies ahead |
| 3. dispute | c. agreement |
| 4. attempts | d. alter |
| 5. the future | e. for |
| 6. decade | f. avoided |
| 7. in favor | g. consented |
| 8. boycotted | h. character |
| 9. deal | i. efforts |
| 10. identity | j. ten years |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the Republic of Macedonia?
- What do you think of your country's name?
- Is the name change a good thing?
- How does a nation become independent?
- What doors will now open for the new Republic of North Macedonia?
- What other places should get their independence?
- What things would make you protest in the streets?
- Why does Greece have to agree to the name change?

Phrase Match

1. Macedonia has decided
 2. the result of a 27-year
 3. Macedonia declared
 4. Greece's largest region is
 5. Greece blocked its neighbor's
 6. The name change comes after
 7. Eighty-one MPs voted in favor
 8. people protested
 9. this trade is going
 10. at a market
- a. of the name change
 - b. also called Macedonia
 - c. stall
 - d. attempts
 - e. dispute with Greece
 - f. against the deal
 - g. on
 - h. to change its name
 - i. a decade of talks
 - j. independence in 1991

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about the former Yugoslavia?
- c) What do you know about the history of your country's name?
- d) Why do you think the talks took a decade?
- e) What country names do you like?
- f) What country names do you dislike?
- g) Why did people oppose the name change?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the leader of Macedonia?

Spelling

1. dceided to change its name
2. a 27-year uipsdet with Greece
3. Macedonia declared ieneecedndp in 1991
4. caused an rtuemgan with Greece
5. Greece's largest rnigeo
6. Greece blocked its neighbor's aetttsmp
7. after a acddee of talks
8. opposed the neeemrtag
9. serpetodt against the deal
10. ynagr over the talks
11. Look how uiclplby
12. ilcfailfoy agree to the change

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. a	4. i	5. b
6. j	7. e	8. f	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Name

You think the name is the most important thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): flag, food or language.

Role B – Flag

You think the flag is the most important thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): name, food or language.

Role C – Food

You think the food is the most important thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): flag, name or language.

Role D – Language

You think the language is the most important thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): flag, food or name.

Speaking – National Things

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sports teams
- music
- safety
- language
- name
- flag
- food
- sights

Answers – True False

a T	b T	c T	d F	e T	f F	g F	h F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.