



Malta

Official name: Republic of Malta

Location: central Mediterranean Sea, about 60 miles (100 km) south of Sicily

Area: 120 square miles (320 sq km)

Population: 394,600

Capital: Valletta

Languages: Maltese and English (both official)

Currency: Maltese lira

Mal•tese cross ▶ **n.** 1 a cross with arms of equal length that broaden from the center and have their ends indented in a shallow V-shape. See illustration at **CROSS**. 2 a plant of the pink family (*Lychnis chalcidonica*), with scarlet petals arranged in the shape of a Maltese cross.

Mal•thus /'mæltʰəs; 'môl-/ Thomas Robert (1766–1834), English economist and clergyman. He wrote *Essay on Population* (1798). — **Mal•thu•sian** /mæltʰ(y)ôðZHən; môl-/ **adj.** & **n.**; **Mal•thu•sian•ism** /mæltʰ(y)ôðZHə,nizəm; môl-/ **n.**

malt liq•uor ▶ **n.** alcoholic liquor made from malt by fermentation rather than distillation; beer with a relatively high alcohol content.

mal•to•dex•trin /môltô'dekstrən/ ▶ **n.** dextrin containing maltose, used as a food additive.

malt•ose /'môl,tôs; -,tôz/ ▶ **n.** Chemistry a sugar, C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁, produced by the breakdown of starch, e.g., by enzymes found in malt and saliva.

mal•treat /mælt'rēt/ ▶ **v.** [trans.] (often **be maltreated**) treat (a person or animal) cruelly or with violence. — **mal•treat•er** **n.**; **mal•treat•ment** **n.**

malt whis•key ▶ **n.** whiskey made only from malted barley and not blended with grain whiskey.

Ma•lu•ku Indonesian name for **MOLUCCA ISLANDS**.

Mal•va•sia /mælt'vāZHə/ ▶ **n.** a variety of grape used to make white and red wines, esp. in Italy.

mal•ver•sa•tion /,mælvər'sāZHən/ ▶ **n.** formal corrupt behavior in a position of trust, esp. in public office.

Mal•vi•nas, Islas /môlt'vēnəs/ the name by which the Falkland Islands are known in Argentina.

ma•ma /'māmə/ (also **mamma**) ▶ **n.** 1 one's mother (esp. as a child's term): [as name] *come and meet Mama*. 2 informal a mature woman: *a tough mama*.

ma•ma•san /'māmə ,sän/ ▶ **n.** (in Japan and the Far East) a woman in a position of authority, esp. one in charge of a geisha house or bar.

ma•ma's boy ▶ **n.** a boy or man who is excessively influenced by or attached to his mother.

mam•ba /'māmbə/ ▶ **n.** a large, agile, highly venomous African snake (genus *Dendroaspis*, family Elapidae). See also **BLACK MAMBA**.

mam•bo /'māmbō/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **-os**) 1 a Latin American dance similar in rhythm to the rumba. 2 a voodoo priestess. ▶ **v.** (**-oes, -oed**) [intrans.] dance the mambo.

mam•ee /mām'ē/ ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **MAMMEE**.

Mam•e•luke /'mæmə,lōk/ ▶ **n.** a member of a regime that formerly ruled parts of the Middle East.

Mam•et /'mæmit/, David (1947–), US playwright and writer. His plays include *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984).

ma•mey /mām'ē/ ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **MAMMEE**.

ma•mil•la /mæm'ilə/ ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **MAMMILLA**.

mam•ma¹ ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **MAMA**.

mam•ma² /'mæmə/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **mammæ** /'mæmē; 'mæm,i/) a milk-secreting organ of female mammals (in humans, the breast). ■ a corresponding nonsecretory structure in male mammals. — **mam•mi•form** /'mæmə,fōrm/ **adj.**

mam•mal /'mæmə/ ▶ **n.** a warm-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, the secretion of

milk by females, and (typically) the birth of live young. — **mam•ma•li•an** /mə'mālēən/ **adj.**

mam•ma•li•fer•ous /,mæmə'lifərəs/ ▶ **adj.** Geology containing mammalian fossil remains.

mam•mal•o•gy /mə'mæləjē/ ▶ **n.** the branch of zoology concerned with mammals. — **mam•mal•o•gist** /-jɪst/ **n.**

mam•ma•ry /'mæməre/ ▶ **adj.** [attrib.] denoting or relating to the human female breasts or the milk-secreting organs of other mammals. ▶ **n.** (pl. **-ies**) informal a breast.

mam•ma•ry gland ▶ **n.** the milk-producing gland of women or other female mammals.

mam•mee /mə'mā; -'mē/ (also **mamee, mamey**) ▶ **n.** 1 (also **mam•mee apple**) a tropical American tree (*Mammea americana*, family Guttiferae) having large edible red fruit. 2 (also **mam•mee sapote** /sə'pōtē; -tā/) a Central American tree (*Pouteria sapota*) of the sapodilla family, having edible russet fruit with spicy red flesh.

mam•mil•la /mə'milə/ (also **mamilla**) ▶ **n.** (pl. **mammillae** /-'milē; -'mil,i/) Anatomy the nipple of any mammal. ■ a nipple-shaped structure.

mam•mil•lar•y /'mæmə,lerē/ (also **mamillary**) ▶ **adj.** rounded like a breast or nipple, in particular: ■ (of minerals) having several smoothly rounded convex surfaces. ■ Anatomy denoting two rounded bodies in the floor of the hypothalamus in the brain.

mam•mil•lat•ed /'mæmə,lātid/ (also **mamillated**) ▶ **adj.** technical covered with rounded mounds or lumps. — **mam•mil•late** /-,lāt/ **adj.**

mam•mo•gram /'mæmə,græm/ ▶ **n.** an image obtained by mammography.

mam•mog•ra•phy /mæ'mägrəfē/ ▶ **n.** Medicine a technique using X-rays to diagnose and locate breast tumors.

mam•mon /'mæmən/ (also **Mammon**) ▶ **n.** wealth regarded as an evil influence or false object of worship and devotion. — **mam•mon•ism** /-,izəm/ **n.**; **mam•mon•ist** /-,ɪst/ **n.**

mam•moth /'mæməθ/ ▶ **n.** a large extinct elephant (genus *Mammuthus*) of the Pleistocene epoch, typically hairy with a sloping back and long curved tusks. ▶ **adj.** huge: *a mammoth corporation*.

Mam•moth Cave Na•tion•al Park a national park in west central Kentucky, site of the largest known cave system in the world.

mam•my /'mæmə/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **-ies**) informal one's mother (esp. as a child's word). ■ offensive (formerly in the southern US) a black nursemaid or nanny in charge of white children.

Mam•selle /mæm'zel/ ▶ **n.** short for **MADEMOISELLE**.

Man. ▶ **abbr.** ■ Manitoba. ■ Manila.

man /mæn/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **men** /men/) 1 an adult human male. ■ a male worker or employee: *more than 700 men were laid off*. ■ a male member of a sports team. ■ (**men**) ordinary members of the armed forces as distinct from the officers: *a platoon of forty men*. ■ a husband, boyfriend, or lover: *man and wife*. ■ [with adj.] a male person associated with a particular place, activity, or occupation: *a Harvard man*. ■ a male pursued or sought by another, esp. in connection with a crime: *they'll find their man*. ■ dated a manservant or valet: *get me a cocktail, my man*. 2 a human being of either sex; a person. ■ (also **Man**) [in sing.] human beings in general; the human race: *the ravages of man*. ■ [in sing.] an individual; one: *a man could buy a lot with a million dollars*. ■ a person with the qualities often associated with males such as bravery, spirit, or toughness: *she was more of a man than any of them*. ■ [in sing.] [with adj.] a type of prehistoric human named after the place where the remains were found: *Cro-Magnon man*. 3 (usu. **the Man**) informal a group or person in a position of authority over others, such the police. ■ black slang white people collectively regarded as the controlling group in society. 4 a figure or token used in playing a board game. ▶ **v.** (**manned, manning**) [trans.] 1 (often **be manned**) provide (something, esp. a place or machine) with the personnel to run, operate, or defend it: *man the pumps*. ▶ **exclam.** informal used, irrespective of the sex of the person addressed, to express surprise, admiration, delight, etc., or for emphasis: *man, what a show!* — **man•less** **adj.**

PHRASES as — as the next man as — as the average person: *as ambitious as the next man*. **be someone's man** be the person perfectly suited to a particular requirement or task: *for perming services, David's your man*. **be man enough for (or to do)** be brave enough to do: *who's man enough for the job?* **every man for himself** proverb everyone should (or does) look after their own interests rather than considering those of others. **man about town** a fashionable male socialite. **the man in the moon** the imagined likeness of a face seen on the surface of a full moon. ■ figurative used, esp. in comparisons, to refer to someone regarded as out of touch with real life: *a kid with no more idea of what to do than the man in the moon*. **the man in (or on) the street** an ordinary person, often with regard to their opinions, or as distinct from an expert. **man of action** see **ACTION**. **man of the cloth** a clergyman. **man of God** a clergyman. ■ a holy man or saint. **man of honor** a man who adheres to what is right or to a high standard of conduct. **man of the house** the male head of a household. **man of letters** a male scholar or author. **man of the moment** a man of importance at a particular time. **man of the world** see **WORLD**. **man's best friend** an affectionate or approving way of referring to the dog. **a man's man** a