

México



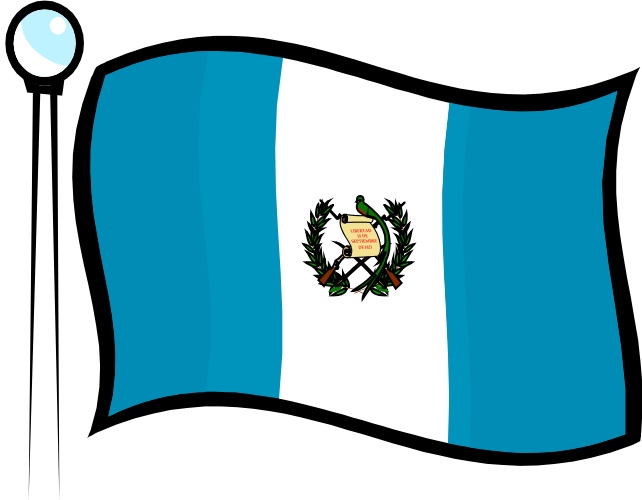
Notes on Mexico

- Two of the most influential cultures in Mexico were the Aztecs and Mayans.
- The capital of Mexico before Christopher Columbus arrived in America was Tenochtitlán. It was the capital of the Aztec Empire. The name of the capital of “modern Mexico” is Mexico city (D.F.: Distrito Federal)
- In Mexico there are many indigenous ruins such as Teotihuacán and Chichén Itza (Chichén Itza is a pyramid where sacrifices were made to the Gods).

- The Aztecs and the Mayans were advanced in mathematics (in fact their calendar was more accurate than the European one at the time...)
- Mexico has a large indigenous population still.
- Mexico has beautiful resorts such as Cancún and Cabo San Lucas. An industrialized city in Mexico is Monterrey.
- The language spoken by the inhabitants of all Mexico, before Cristopher Columbus arrived was NAHUATL.

Guatemala P. 21

- Let's take notes



Guatemala

- Guatemala is a country of mountains, volcanoes, and jungles.
- The capital of Guatemala is Guatemala City. Antigua used to be the capital until 1776 when it was destroyed by an earthquake.
- In Lake Atitlán, there are three majestic volcanoes: San Pedro, Tolimán, Atitlán.
- The town of Antigua is an example of old architecture.
- Towns like Chichicastenango, where the majority of the people are still Mayans or descendants of Mayans takes us back to the Pre-Columbian times.
- The Mayans in Guatemala prosper for two thousand years. Their decline has never been known.

Leamos: EL SALVADOR

- P. 15



El Salvador

- El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. It only has coast on the Pacific Ocean.
- El Salvador is mainly volcanic.
- The capital of El Salvador is San Salvador.
- **Salvadoreños** are people from El Salvador
- The salvadoreños are famous for being hard workers.
- Some of the factories in El Salvador are: Shoes, textiles (fabrics), pharmaceutical (medicines) companies, machines (appliances and computer parts)

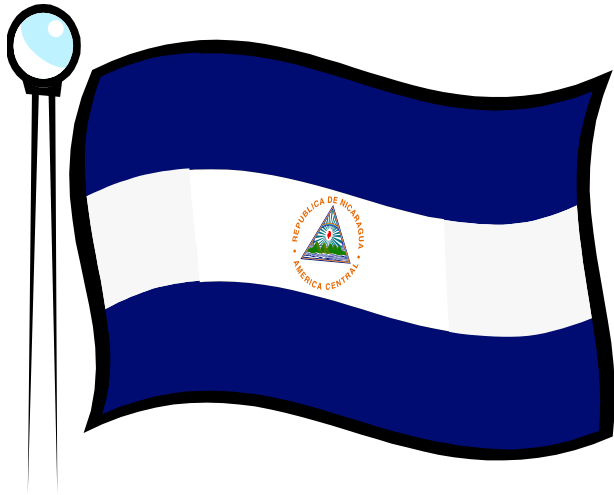
Honduras P. 24



Honduras

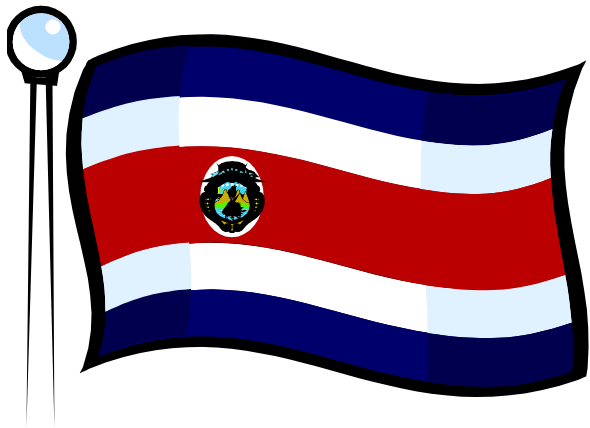
- La capital de Honduras es Tegucigalpa, which means “silver” and “hill”. It used to be a mining town.
- The majority of the country is mountainous.
- Traditionally is an agricultural country.
- Los **hondureños** are known for being *friendly*.
- *San Pedro Sula* used to be an agricultural center but today is industrial.
- Near San Pedro is Copán. This city is considered the most beautiful city of all the Mayan Empire. It has ruins such as sculptures, plazas, ball courts and pyramids.

Nicaragua P.31



- The capital of Nicaragua is Managua. In *nahuátl* it means “where there is an extension of water”
- It is a land of lakes. The largest lake, LAKE MANAGUA is very interesting. The lake has many saltwater species, such as sharks and swordfishes. This is because a long time ago this lake had access to the sea. The lake today is landlocked .
- They have an active volcano called MOMOTOMBO
- Rubén Darío, a famous poet, was born in the city of León, one of the most beautiful colonial towns.

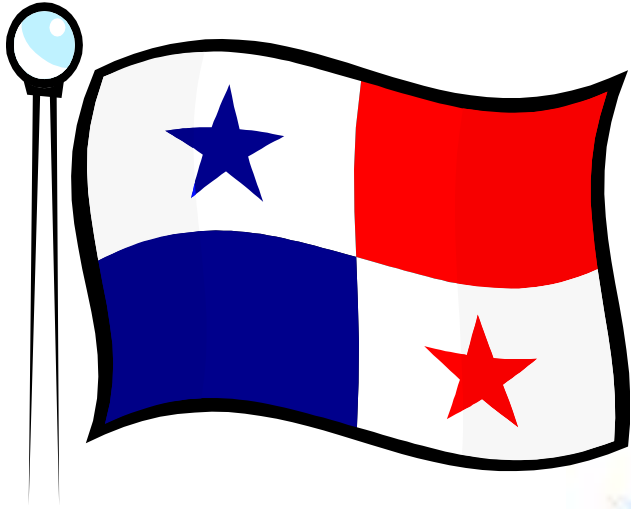
Costa Rica P. 35



Costa Rica

- The capital of Costa Rica is San José, located in the central mountains. It has many buildings and its very modern but most of the structures are not taller than 4 story high.
- Los **costarricenses** (**their nickname is TICOS**) are known for being polite and friendly...and very peaceful!
- Costa Rica DOES NOT have an army. They boast for having more school teachers than police officers.
- On the Pacific Coast the beaches have black volcanic sand. On the Caribbean coast there are tropical jungles.

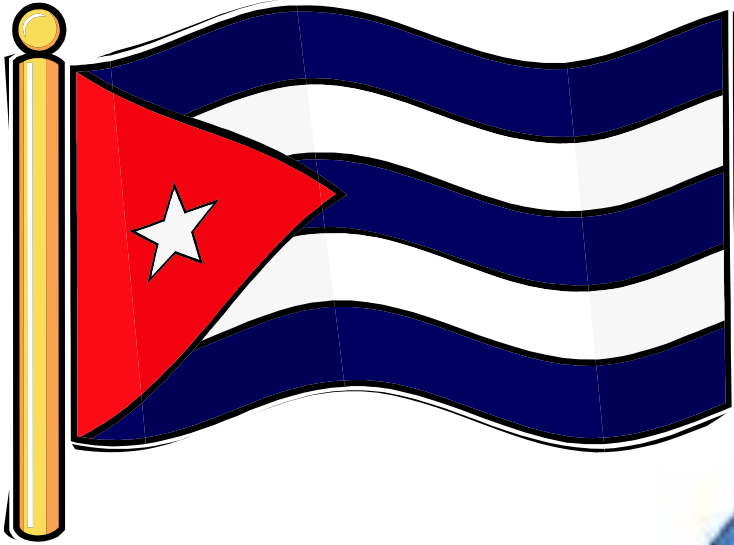
Notes: Culture: Panamá Page 41



Panamá

- Small country located on an “isthmus” that joins the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.
- A country of many cultures: Spanish, Chinese, African, Hindu and indigenous.
- Panama is the largest “financial center” of Latin America.
- Panama is the home of the famous “Panama Canal”, which was built by the Americans during T. Roosevelt government and was finished by 1914. The canal has been “panameño” since 1999. Is considered a “neutral international water way”. Panama and the US defend the canal.
- The currency of Panama is the DOLLAR, since they deal with so many international buisenesses.
- People from Panama are called **“panameños”**.

Culture: Page 46: CUBA



Cuba

- The western tip of Cuba is just 90 miles from Key West, Florida. Cuba is quite mountainous.
- La Habana is the capital of Cuba and is one of the most beautiful cities with beautiful colonial architecture. Cuba is also famous for its beaches, such as Varadero Beach.
- In 1959, Fidel Castro overthrew the dictator Fulgencio Batista. Since then the relations between the U.S and Cuba has been very hard. Many Cubans live in exile in the United States (some are called “**balseros**” because they come in small boats called “balsas”).
- Some U.S. citizens are allowed in Cuba under very specific circumstances. Europeans on the other hand have a more open access and tourism is on the rise.