National Geographic describes Colombia as South America’s sleeping giant, awakening to its vast potential. “The Door of the Americas” offers guests a cornucopia of natural wonders alongside sleepy, authentic villages and vibrant, progressive cities. The diverse, tropical country of Colombia is a place where tourism is now booming, and the turmoil and unrest of guerrilla conflict are yesterday’s news.

Today tourists find themselves in what seems to be the best of all destinations... panoramic beaches, jungle hiking trails, breathtaking volcanoes and waterfalls, deserts, adventure sports, unmatched flora and fauna, centuries old indigenous cultures, and an almost daily celebration of food, fashion and festivals. The warm temperatures of the lowlands contrast with the cool of the highlands and the freezing nights of the upper Andes.

Colombia is as rich in both nature and natural resources as any place in the world. It passionately protects its unmatched wildlife, while warmly sharing its coffee, its emeralds, and its happiness with the world. It boasts as many animal species as any country on Earth, hosting more than 1,889 species of birds, 763 species of amphibians, 479 species of mammals, 571 species of reptiles, 3,533 species of fish, and a mind-blowing 30,436 species of plants.

Yet Colombia is so much more than jaguars, sombreros and the legend of El Dorado. A TIME magazine cover story properly noted “The Colombian Comeback” by explaining its rise “from nearly failed state to emerging global player in less than a decade.” It is respected as “The Fashion Capital of Latin America,” “The Salsa Capital of the World,” the host of the world’s largest theater festival and the home of the world’s second largest carnival. For health enthusiasts, it offers a vast array of sporting adventures, as well as Latin America’s longest network of bicycle routes (in fact, every Sunday, the capital city of Bogotá closes its usually congested main roads, giving its residents the healthy opportunity to walk, run, bike or skate using 75 miles of asphalt as their playground). Colombia also boasts Latin America’s oldest democracy, and is home to Miss Universe winners, Grammy winners and Nobel Prize winners.

So brace yourself for an exploration into one of the world’s newest travel destinations. With Memphis in May International Festival now honoring the countries of the world for 40 years, the city of Memphis’ largest celebration is pleased to offer an exciting and educational portal of exploration into “The Gateway of South America,” the Republic of Colombia.
This guide is developed each year by the Memphis in May International Festival to provide a comprehensive educational review of its annual honored country. It is provided to elementary, middle and high school teachers as a teaching tool, offering activities and lesson plans to help students explore that country’s history, culture, geography, politics and lifestyle. It also addresses teaching standards as directed by the Tennessee Department of Education. Memphis in May thanks those who have helped to make this guide a reality, including Shelby County Schools Administration.

**Special Thanks**

Very special thanks to the Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Washington, DC, for their help with this curriculum guide and the plans for the 2017 Memphis in May International Festival.

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This Memphis in May International Festival Curriculum Guide, in its entirety, paying tribute to the 2017 honored country of Colombia is available in PDF format for downloading and printing at www.memphisinmay.org.

The mission of Memphis in May International Festival includes a strong commitment to student education. Since its origin in 1977, the festival has developed dozens of comprehensive Curriculum Guides honoring and exploring countries around the globe, and offering practical lesson plans, activities and worksheets addressing many teaching standards. Each year, Memphis in May is proud to distribute thousands of Curriculum Guides to all Shelby County and private schools in Memphis.

The 2017 Memphis in May International Festival Curriculum Guide honoring the country of Colombia, and the Memphis in May Education Program are made possible by many generous supporters. They are made available free of charge to students and teachers throughout Shelby County and the greater Memphis area.
Memphis in May International Festival, working hand-in-hand with Shelby County Schools, is proud to present this curriculum guide and to make it available to all Shelby County and private schools in Memphis.

**How to Use This Guide** - This guide is divided into four grade units to offer teachers educational tools for students. Each grade unit is designated by one of these icons, which represent various Colombian artifacts, many found at the National Museum in Bogotá. Sections offer practical applications of important teaching standards, including Foreign Language, Math, History, Science, Social Studies, Art, and others. They incorporate various activities, worksheets, puzzles and research assignments and resources. Many can be adapted for other grades.

**Table of Contents**

**Introductory Pages** - These pages include important information about the 2017 Curriculum Guide and an overview of the Republic of Colombia, with helpful information and activities for all grades, including history, fun facts, famous Colombians, and the always popular “Ultimate Quiz.”

**Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Unit** - It’s a unit packed full of exciting (and educational) Colombian activities. This unit will introduce your students to the Biblioburro, pirates, the Amazon rainforest, fun Colombian games, the “Rainbow River” and so much more.

**3rd - 5th Grade Unit** - Wake up your students with a little Colombian coffee before exploring volcanoes, the equator, and the legend of El Dorado. This unit will also help you to introduce them to a few creepy Colombian folktales, to Botero the artist, and to that tricky “Two-Part Word Search” puzzle.

**6th - 8th Grade Unit** - In this unit, compare the population, land area and GDP of both Colombia and the United States, compare the distances between Mitu and Cucuta, and take the time to learn about such Colombian culture as condors, tejo and ajiaco!

**9th - 12th Grade Unit** - Colombia is as diverse in people as it is wildlife! This unit will introduce students to remarkable people like the native Muisca, progressive political leaders, early explorers, and the many people and places which help to make Colombia the happiest place on Earth.

**Information Pages** - Important information about the 2017 Memphis in May Education Program, including contests and opportunities for students, details of the festival’s salute to the country of Colombia, book and website resources, and answers to this guide’s puzzles and activities.

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INCLUDES CORRESPONDING SPIs & COMMON CORE ... To assist teachers, activities throughout this guide are labeled with State Performance Indicator numbers and Common Core standards, as developed by the Tennessee Department of Education. Teachers are still encouraged to check guideline documents to assure that each corresponds with curriculum.
The People & Country of Colombia

Word is getting out about the “gateway to South America.” Today, the exploding Colombian tourism market will discover everything great about South America packed into one country. Its diverse terrain includes everything from Amazon rain forests, vast plains and savannas to snow-capped Andean peaks and beautiful coastal beaches. Colombia has become modern and sophisticated, paired with vibrant culture and entertainment, physically stunning landscapes and one of the world’s most diverse ecosystems.

And speaking of tourists, archaeologists believe that the first tourists arrived in Colombia about 20,000 years ago. With settlers traveling from North and Central American regions, modern-day Colombia became a corridor of early human migration. About 8,000 years later, settlers in the Magdalena Valley in the western part of the country grew into a civilization called the Chibcha. Later there arose the Muisca, an advanced culture that became the dominant power in Colombia by 700 A.D.

Spanish explorers arrived in Colombia in 1500 A.D., obsessed with finding gold and other valuable minerals and gemstones, like emeralds. By 1538 they had conquered the Muisca and stolen all their gold and jewels, introducing 250 years of Spanish rule. By the late 1700s, people in Colombia had begun to grow tired of Spanish rule, prompting revolution. The city of Cartagena declared independence in 1811 and Bogotá soon followed. Spanish soldiers tried to reclaim control in 1815, but Colombian forces led by the famed general Simón Bolívar defeated the Spanish in 1819.

After independence, Colombia became part of a larger country called New Granada, primarily consisting of modern-day Colombia and Panama, along with smaller portions of Equador and Venezuela. This country fell apart by 1835, and Colombia became a separate nation. Colombia is Latin America’s oldest and most stable democracy. For more than a century, the country has experienced peaceful changes of government every four years.

Colombia is also a land of extremes. It is the fifth largest country in Latin America and home to the world’s third largest population of Spanish-speaking people. Through its center run the towering, snow-covered volcanoes and mountains of the Andes. Tropical beaches line the north and west. There are also deserts in the north and vast grasslands, called Los Llanos, in the east. Dense forests fill Colombia’s Amazon Basin, which takes up nearly half of the country’s southern region. The territory to the east of the mountains, which includes savanna and jungle, accounts for 50 percent of the country’s territory, but only 3 percent of its population. In northwest Colombia, a warm, wet, jungle-filled area called the Chocó reaches across the Panama border. Colombia also has 1,800 miles of coastline, the only South American country with Pacific and Caribbean beaches.
All of this diverse terrain helps make Colombia one of the most biologically diverse countries on Earth. Even though it takes up less than one percent of the world’s land area, about 10 percent of all animal species live there. Many of Colombia’s forest habitats have remained undisturbed for millions of years. This allows wildlife a chance to evolve into many different species. Animals from jaguars to caimans to poison dart frogs all call Colombia’s jungles home. The mountains provide habitat for huge Andean condors and rare spectacled bears, South America’s only bear species. Colombia is considered one of seventeen “megadiverse” countries in the world. It is the second most biodiverse country in the world, just behind its neighbor, Brazil, which is 10 times larger in size. More bird species can be found in Colombia than any other country in the world, and more than Europe and North America combined. Colombia has more endemic species (species that exist only in one country) than any other country in the world. Fundación ProAves has become one of the most effective conservation groups in the tropics, and owns 17 forest reserves which protect endangered species in partnership with local communities.

Colombia’s people are as varied as its landscape and its wildlife. Most citizens are descended from three ethnic groups: indigenous nations, African people brought to Colombia to work as slaves, and European settlers. This rich cultural mix makes the country’s foods, music, dance, and art diverse and unique. Colombia has 87 indigenous groups, totalling 1.4 million people or about 3.4 percent of the population, which receive government representation. The major cities boast vibrant art, dance, music and fashion industries.

National sports include wrestling, boxing, roller skating, motorsports, chess, baseball, bowling, golf, and tennis, but with soccer and cycling being the most popular. Outdoor sports like mountain biking, hiking, ice and rock climbing, canopying, paragliding, diving, snorkeling, horseback riding, and caving are also popular. The unique game of tejo, which involves throwing a metal disc at a gunpowder-loaded target, creating a harmless explosion, was played over 500 years ago by indigenous groups and is still the national sport of Colombia.

Colombia has a long history of democracy and, like the United States, the country is run by a president who is elected every four years. All citizens 18 and older are allowed to vote. Laws are made by a House of Representatives and a Senate. Instead of states, however, the country is divided into 32 departments and a Capital District (not unlike our capital, the District of Columbia). Each department is led by an elected governor, and municipalities (major cities) are governed by an elected mayor. Colombia’s biggest trading partner is the United States, which buys 40 percent of the country’s exports. Colombia sends a variety of items overseas, including flowers, bananas, oil, coal, gold, and platinum, and is a world leader in the export of coffee and the finest of emeralds.
A Few Fun Facts About Colombia

Interesting facts about Colombia are as varied as a weekend market in Manizales! Treat your students to a few fun facts about the same country that brought us Juan Valdez, ketchup mixed with mayonnaise, the sombrero vueltiao, and Doris Salcedo’s powerful sculpture of 1,150 chairs.

Bogotá boasts South America’s largest network of bicycle routes, over 186 miles.

December is one long celebration. “Las Novenas” is 9 consecutive days before Christmas.

Chocolate Santafereño is hot chocolate topped with queso blanco cheese, the way it is commonly served in Colombia. Drink up!

Colombia is the only South American country with both Caribbean and Pacific coastlines.

Hormigas Culonas are big-bottom ants caught and fried as a snack in the Santander region.

December is one long celebration. “Las Novenas” is 9 consecutive days before Christmas.

Colombia has the 3rd largest number of Spanish speaking citizens, behind Mexico and the U.S.

For 400 years Colombia has produced the bulk of the world’s supply of emeralds, and also the finest, with over 150 known deposits throughout the country.

Colombia exports $1.24 billion in Flowers making it the 2nd largest supplier of flowers in the world.

There are 68 different ethnic languages spoken in Colombia and recognized by the government, including Chibchan, Guambiano, Cofán, Kamentsá, Páez, Ticuna, Tinigua & Yagua.

Biggest festivals in the world include the largest salsa festival and largest flower parade.

Don’t take our word for it. Offer extra credit to students willing to dig deeper into these facts!
Abbreviated History of Colombia

Colombia’s history has been marked by years of civil war, hostilities, and a once-thriving drug trade, combined, fortunately, by an insatiable appetite for independence and democracy. From early Spanish invasions to recent peace agreements, the country has ridden a roller coaster toward becoming one of South America’s strongest economies and stable democracies. Today, buoyed by a sharp rise in tourism and drops in criminal activity, the country beams with optimism for what is to come in these next pages. Lonelyplanet.com introduces us to Colombia’s rich history.

Colombia Before Columbus

As the gateway to South America, joining Central America via the Panamanian land bridge, it is believed that the land of current-day Colombia was crossed and populated by the continent’s first human inhabitants, migrating south from North and Central America. It is possible that they traveled from as far as the Asian continent via the former land bridge between Russia and Alaska. Some tribes, such as the Inca, headed further south and built major civilizations, while smaller indigenous groups settled in present-day Colombia, though never expanding into major South American empires like the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas. While never becoming a major empire, they did leave evidence of their lives via certain monuments and artifacts.

Colombia has three primary archeological sites: San Agustín, Tierradentro and Ciudad Perdida. Discovered artifacts from these areas now rest in museums across the country. Mostly made of pottery and gold, they reveal a high degree of skill, with the goldwork displaying some of the best design and technique in South America.

In contrast to the Aztecs or Incas, who dominated vast regions, a dozen independent Colombian groups occupied relatively small areas scattered throughout the Andean region and along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. They existed largely independent of other cultures, although evidence exists of some trading. Among Colombia’s most significant early cultures were the Calima, Muisca, Nariño, Quimbaya, San Agustín, Sinú, Tayrona, Tierradentro, Tolima and Tumaco (see page 57).

Spanish Conquest

While he actually never stepped foot on Colombian soil, the country was named after Christopher Columbus. It was Alonso de Ojeda, a member of Columbus’ second voyage to the New World, who became the first European to set foot on the land in 1499. He explored the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and was astonished by the wealth of the local Indians. Their gold and their stories about fabulous treasures gave birth to the myth of El Dorado, a mysterious kingdom abundant in gold. In its most extreme interpretation, El Dorado was believed to be a land of gold mountains littered with emeralds. Once the Spaniards arrived, their obsession with El Dorado became the principal force driving them into the interior. They did not find El Dorado, but their search resulted in rapid colonization.

The legend of El Dorado became linked to the Muiscas and their famous Laguna de Guatavita, a circular lake now located in the municipality of Sesquilé. Originally believed to have been either a volcanic cinder or
formed by a meteor; it is now believed to be a filled sinkhole formed by the dissolution of underground salt deposits. The expectations of the Spaniards were to some degree confirmed by the rituals of the Muiscas, who threw gold offerings into the sacred waters, though little has ever been recovered. Attracted by the presumed riches of the Indians, the shores of present-day Colombia became the target of numerous expeditions by the Spaniards. Several short-lived settlements were founded along the coast, but it was not until 1525 that Rodrigo de Bastidas established the earliest town, Santa Marta. In 1533, Pedro de Heredia founded Cartagena, which soon became the principal center of trade.

In 1536, three different explorers led advancements into the central Colombian region, each expedition separate from the other, though all were fueled by rumors of great treasures. They were led by Jiménez de Quesada, Sebastián de Benalcázar (known in Colombia as Belalcázar) and Nikolaus Federmann. Though independent explorations, all three met in Muisca territory. Quesada set off from Santa Marta, pushed up the Valle del Magdalena and then climbed the Cordillera Oriental, arriving in Muisca territory early in 1537. At the time, the Muiscas were divided into two clans. The southern empire was ruled by the Zipa from Bacatá (present-day Bogotá), and the northern empire under the Zaque in Hunza (present-day Tunja). The two tribes had quarreled over territory and the rivalry helped Quesada conquer the Muiscas without much difficulty. In August 1538 he founded Santa Fe de Bogotá on the site of Bacatá.

Belalcázar and his men had served in the army with Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro, who was busy conquering the Inca empire. Belalcázar’s group deserted Pizarro and mounted an expedition leaving from Ecuador. He subdued the southern part of Colombia, founding Popayán and Cali along the way, and reached Bogotá in 1539. Federmann started from the Venezuelan coast and, after crossing Los Llanos and the Andes, arrived in Bogotá shortly after Belalcázar. Thus, in a short period, much of the colony was conquered and a number of towns were founded. The three groups battled for supremacy, and it was not until 1550 that King Carlos V of Spain established a court of justice in Bogotá and brought the colony under the control of the Viceroyalty of Peru

Brief Timeline of Colombian History

- 1525: Spain began the conquest of Colombia
- 1535: First permanent settlement founded at Santa Marta; 3 years later, Bogotá founded as capital
- 1550: African slaves shipped to work on Colombian plantations
- 1564: Spanish government appointed a president to govern Colombian colony
- 1600: Huaynaputina volcano in Perú explodes. This largest eruption in South American history, causes deadly volcanic winter

follow the Chibcha civilization, the Muiscas became the dominant culture to reside in Colombia around 700 A.D.
Abbreviated History of Colombia (cont.)

Colombia’s Colonial Period

In 1564 the Crown established a new governing system which controlled both military and civil matters. Through the Presidencia del Nuevo Reino de Granada, authority was in the hands of the governor, who was appointed by the King of Spain. At that time the Nuevo Reino controlled present-day Panama and all of Colombia, except what is today Nariño, Cauca and Valle del Cauca, which were under the jurisdiction of the Presidencia de Quito (present-day Ecuador).

The population of the colony initially consisted of indigenous communities and the Spanish invaders, but later included the arrival of African slaves. Cartagena served as the exclusive slave-trading port where slaves were sold and distributed throughout the colony. Most of them were set to work in mines and plantations, mainly on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. During the 16th and 17th centuries the Spaniards shipped so many Africans that they eventually surpassed the indigenous population in number. The demographic picture became more complex when the three racial groups began to mix, producing various fusions, including mestizos (people of European and native indigenous ancestry), mulatos (of European-African ancestry) and zambos (African-Indian). However, throughout the whole of the colonial period, power was almost exclusively in the hands of the Spaniards.

With the growth of the Spanish empire in the New World, a new territorial division was created in 1717 and Bogotá became the capital of its own viceroyalty, the Virreinato de la Nueva Granada. It comprised the territories of what are today Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and Venezuela.

Wars for Independence

As Spanish domination of the continent increased, so too did the discontent of the inhabitants. Slavery, the monopoly of commerce, taxes and duties and other factors gave rise to protests. Revolución Comunera became the first open rebellion against colonial rule. Erupting in Socorro in 1781, it began over complaints against tax increases levied by the Crown, before taking on more pro-independence overtones. When Napoleon Bonaparte put his own brother on the Spanish throne in 1808, the colonies refused to recognize the new monarch. One by one, towns declared their independence. Unfortunately, political divisions and infighting appeared almost immediately.

In 1812, Simón Bolívar, who was to become the hero of the independence struggle, appeared on the scene. He initially won six battles against Spanish troops, but was soon defeated. Spain regained its throne from Napoleon and then set about reconquering its colonies. Full colonial rule, controlled by the Spanish, was reestablished by 1817. Bolívar retreated to Jamaica after the defeat and took up arms again. He went back to Venezuela, and after assembling an army of horsemen strengthened by a legion of troops from Britain, he marched over the Andes.

Brief Timeline of Colombian History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1717</td>
<td>Viceroyalty of New Granada formed of Colombia and neighboring areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>Revolución Comunera erupted against Spanish crown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>Colombia &amp; other New Granada territories declare independence from Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Simon Bolivar defeats Spanish in Battle of Boyacá; Gran Colombia formed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Gran Colombia dissolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Colombia constitution adopted; abolishes slavery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Colombian National Police created.</td>
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Mountains into Colombia, claiming victory after victory. The most decisive battle took place at Boyacá on August 7, 1819. Three days later he arrived triumphantly in Bogotá. Colombia’s independence was won. Colombia’s Independence Day is actually celebrated on July 20, commemorating that date in 1810 when Colombian patriots stirred the Bogotá citizens into street protests against Spanish rule. Under pressure the Viceroy was forced to allow a limited independence which later became permanent.

After Independence

With Colombia free, a revolutionary congress was held in 1819 in Angostura (modern-day Ciudad Bolívar, in Venezuela). Celebrating the victory for independence, delegates proclaimed Gran Colombia, a new state uniting Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Ecuador (although Ecuador and large parts of Venezuela were still technically under Spanish rule). The Angostura congress was followed by another one, held in Villa del Rosario, near Cúcuta, in 1821. Two opposing political tendencies emerged - centralist and federalist. Bolívar, who supported a centralized republic, succeeded in imposing his will. The Gran Colombia came into existence and Bolívar was elected president. Francisco de Paula Santander, preferring a federal republic of sovereign states, became vice president.

From the beginning, however, the vast Gran Colombia state began to disintegrate. While Bolívar was many miles away fighting for the independence of Ecuador and Peru, Santander was left with effective power of the state. It became apparent that a central regime was incapable of governing such a large and diverse territory. By 1830, The Gran Colombia had split into three separate countries. Bolívar’s dream of a sacred union consisting of the nations he had freed came to an end before he died.

Thus began a new inglorious page of Colombia’s history. In 1849 two political parties, one with centralist and the other with federalist beliefs, were established. Fierce rivalries between the Conservatives (with centralist tendencies) and the Liberals (with federalist leanings) resulted in a sequence of eight separate civil wars. Between 1863 and 1885 alone there were more than 50 antigovernment insurrections. In 1899 a Liberal revolt turned into a full-blown civil war. The War of a Thousand Days resulted in a Conservative victory and left 100,000 Colombians dead. In 1903, the U.S. took advantage of the country’s internal strife and fueled a secessionist movement in Panama, at that time still a Colombian province. By helping to create an independent republic in Panama, the United States was able to build and control a canal across the Central American isthmus, a huge economic engine. It wasn’t until 1921 that Colombia eventually recognized the sovereignty of Panama and settled its dispute with the U.S.

La Violencia

After a period of relative peace, the struggle between Liberals and Conservatives erupted again. In 1948 La Violencia broke out and became the most destructive of Colombia’s many civil wars to that point. With a death toll
of some 300,000, La Violencia was one of the bloodiest conflicts in the western hemisphere, comparable only to the Mexican Revolution and the American Revolutionary War. Urban riots, known as El Bogotazo, broke out in Bogotá on April 9, 1948, following the assassination of Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, a charismatic populist Liberal leader. Liberals soon took up arms throughout the country.

Generation after generation of Colombians were raised as either staunch Liberals or Conservatives, imbued with a deep mistrust of the opposition that fueled the brutality of the period. In the 1940s and 1950s, these hatreds were the cause of countless atrocities, particularly in rural areas. The 1953 coup of General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla was the only military intervention the country experienced in the 20th century. The dictatorship of General Rojas, however, did not last. In 1957 the leaders of the two parties signed a pact to share power for the next 16 years. The resulting agreement, which also allowed women to vote for the first time, became known as the Frente Nacional (National Front).

During the life of the accord, the two parties alternated in the presidency every four years. In effect, despite the enormous loss of lives, the same people returned to power. The agreement also disallowed the existence of any political parties other than the Liberals and the Conservatives, forcing opposition outside of the normal political system and sowing the seeds for guerrilla insurrection.

An Uncivil Civil War

By the 1940s and early 1950s, the tentacles of the global Cold War had reached Colombia. Disillusioned liberals set off to establish their own independent communities in the countryside. Wealthy landowners began to raise militias and security forces as they feared a breakdown of the status quo. The world was dealing with an ideological struggle between communism and capitalism, and Colombia with its colonial legacy of poor land distribution and impoverished indigenous underclasses, was ripe for the rise of Marxist guerrilla opposition. By the mid-1960s the

Brief Timeline of Colombian History

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>“Plan Colombia” won almost $1 billion in military aid to fight war on drugs</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Alvaro Uribe Vélez elected president</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>U.S. President George W. Bush visits Cartagena de Indias</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Colombia, U.S. reach free trade agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Nevado del Huila volcano erupts after 500 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Juan Manuel Santos elected president of Colombia; re-elected in 2014</td>
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political divide hardened into armed conflict. A new group, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), took up arms against what they saw as the corrupt and self-serving government. In all, Colombia gave birth to perhaps a dozen different guerrilla groups, each with its own philosophy and its own political and military strategies. Those with the greatest impact were the FARC, the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and the Movimiento 19 de Abril (M-19).

Leftist guerrillas battled the government, paramilitaries and even the cocaine cartels for two decades. Tragedy overtook all sides and horrific murders and acts of terrorism were committed. As communism fell around the globe and the political landscape shifted, the FARC and the ELN lost support from Moscow and Havana. They moved on to drugs, extortion, robbery and kidnapping to finance their struggle. The struggle itself became clouded by the cocaine trade. Regardless of the vague political goals of these groups, the sale of cocaine kept their soldiers marching well after the end of Cold War. The guerrillas controlled large swaths of the countryside, sometimes estimated at as much as 40 percent of the country. In 2002, the United States and the European Union included the guerrillas on their list of terrorist organizations. Paramilitaries or autodefensas groups built by landholders and cartels flourished to become full standing armies. Sometimes Colombia’s military even turned a blind eye or outright supported the paramilitaries, because they shared similar objectives.

**Narco-Trade**

Colombia became the world’s largest producer of cocaine, at one time controlling 80 percent to 90 percent of the global market. Regional cartels started small in the early 1970s but quickly developed the trade into a big industry, with their own plantations, laboratories, transport services and protection rackets. The boom years began in the early 1980s. The Medellín Cartel, led by a former car thief named Pablo Escobar, became the principal mafia, and its bosses lived in freedom and luxury. They even founded their own political party, held congressional seats, established two newspapers and financed massive public works and public housing projects. By 1983 Escobar’s personal wealth was estimated to be two billion dollars, making him one of the richest criminals in the world. Concurrently, the Colombian government launched a campaign against the drug trade. In response, the cartel bosses disappeared from public life and proposed an unusual peace treaty to President Belisario Betancur. For immunity from both prosecution and extradition, they offered to invest their capital in national development programs. More tantalizing still, they proposed to pay off Colombia’s entire foreign debt, some $13 billion at that time. The government turned down the proposals and violence escalated between the cocaine mafia and the government.

The election of Liberal César Gaviria (1990-94) brought a brief period of hope. Following lengthy negotiations, which included a constitutional amendment to ban the extradition of Colombians, Escobar and the remaining cartel bosses surrendered and narcoterrorism subsided. However, Escobar escaped from his house arrest following the government’s attempts to move him to a more secure site. An elite special military unit of 1,500 officers searched for Escobar for 499 days. They tracked him down in Medellín in 1993 and killed him. Despite this, the drug trade continued. While the government successfully ended the Escobar cartel, others diversified into opium cultivation and heroin trafficking. As those cartels fell in the mid-1990s the guerrillas and paramilitaries filled the void.

**Uribe & the United States**

Fed up with violence, kidnappings and highways deemed too dangerous to use, the nation turned to hardliner Álvaro Uribe, a Medellín politician who had studied at Oxford and Harvard, and whose father had
been killed by FARC. Uribe ran on a full-on antiguerrilla ticket during the testy 2002 presidential election. While his predecessor Andrés Pastrana had tried negotiating with FARC and ELN, Uribe didn’t bother, quickly unleashing two programs. The first was a military push back of groups such as FARC, and the second was a demobilization offer for both paramilitaries and guerrillas, who were promised lenient sentences in exchange for weapons and information. In the post-9/11 era, his branding of guerrillas as “terrorists” helped garner even more U.S. support, which sometimes ran between $500 - $600 million in U.S. aid annually.

A rare Latin American ally with the United States, Uribe became wildly popular. Even his critics acknowledged much progress was made under his watch. From 2002 to 2008, murder rates fell 40 percent, highways cleared of FARC roadblocks became safe, and Uribe’s green light of a successful Rambo-style rescue in 2008 of high-profile kidnap victims from FARC (including French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt) did much to keep his approval ratings near the 80 percent mark. In 2005, politician Juan Manuel Santos helped found the Social Party of National Unity, a coalition of lawmakers and officials from various parties who supported Uribe’s agenda. In 2006, Santos joined Uribe’s cabinet as defense minister, further escalating the government’s military campaign against the FARC.

In March 2008, President Uribe approved a bombing mission across the border into Ecuador that resulted in the successful assassination of FARC leader Raúl Reyes and the retrieval of computer files that indicated that FARC was trying to acquire uranium for bombs. The bombing mission, however, caused ripples, with Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez immediately moving tanks to the Colombian border, but things soon settled. Meanwhile, back in Colombia, Uribe’s popularity hit 90 percent approval levels, although scandals arose during his second term.

In 2009 Juan Manuel Santos resigned his cabinet post to run for president. His promise to continue the policies of Uribe, constitutionally barred from seeking a third term, proved popular with voters. He received 47 percent of the ballots in the first round of polling in May 2010, and in the second round he secured 69 percent of the vote in a landslide victory. Santos took office on August 7, 2010. He won re-election in 2014. On September 23, 2015, at a meeting between Santos and FARC representatives, they agreed to reach a final peace accord within six months. On January 25, 2016, the Security Council of the United Nations agreed to establish a political mission of international observers to verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire, following their signing of the Final Peace Agreement. On June 23, 2016 the government of President Santos signed a ceasefire with the FARC effectively ending the longest armed conflict in Latin American history, a historic milestone in Colombia’s transformation into one of the world’s most attractive and stable emerging markets.

Special thanks to Lonely Planet for historical information, at www.lonelyplanet.com.
List of Famous Colombians

INTRO

Some of your students might be familiar with the U.S. space shuttle Columbia. Some senior high students might even consider sending applications to attend Columbia University (and we won’t even get into the Columbia versus Colombia discussion here... see page 18). However, most students will only be able to name a small handful of famous Colombians... but they might be surprised!

**Fernando Botero** (1932 -) Artist and sculptor from Medellín, Colombia. His signature style, also known as "Boterismo", depicts people and figures in large, exaggerated volume, which can represent political criticism or humor. He is considered the most recognized and quoted living artist from Latin America.


**Radamel Falcao** (1986 -) Professional footballer, sometimes nicknamed “El Tigre,” who plays as a striker for Manchester United on loan from AS Monaco, and the Colombian national team. Commonly cited as one of the best strikers in world football today.

**Nina Garcia** (1965 -) Colombian fashion journalist and critic who has held the post of Fashion Director at *Elle* and *Marie Claire* magazines, and has been a judge on the Lifetime reality television program “Project Runway” since its premiere season.

**Ariadna Gutiérrez** (1993 -) Actress, TV Host, model and beauty queen who won Miss Colombia 2014 and represented Colombia at Miss Universe 2015 where she placed 1st runner-up. Gutiérrez received international attention due to Miss Universe host Steve Harvey announcing her as the winner by mistake.

**John Leguizamo** (1964 -) American actor, voice actor, producer, stand-up comedian, playwright and screenwriter. As of 2009, Leguizamo has appeared in over 75 films, produced over 10 films, and starred on Broadway in several productions. Born in Bogatá.

**Gabriel García Marquez** (1927 - 2014) Novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist born in Aracataca, known affectionately as Gabo or Gabito. One of the most significant authors of the 20th century. His books are the biggest selling Spanish language books in the world after the Bible.


**Édgar Rentería** (1975 -) “The Barranquilla Baby,” is a former professional baseball shortstop who played for the Florida Marlins, the St. Louis Cardinals, the Boston Red Sox, the Atlanta Braves, the Detroit Tigers, San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds. In 1997, his RBI single off Charles Nagy in the eleventh inning of Game 7 of the 1997 World Series...
List of Famous Colombians (cont.)

Sofia Vergara (1972 -) Actress, comedian, producer, TV host, model and businesswoman. She has appeared in numerous films, and stars on the ABC comedy “Modern Family” for which she has been nominated for 4 Golden Globe, 4 Primetime Emmy, and 7 Screen Actors Guild Awards. In 2012 and 2013 she was the top-earning actress on U.S. television. In 2014 she was ranked as the 32nd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes.

Activity These 16 famous Colombians provide just a glimpse into the long roster of individuals who have made huge impacts in art, science, literature, politics, sports, and more. Have your students identify another famous Colombian not listed, research their life and accomplishments, and prepare an informative paper about them. Have them present their famous Colombian to the classroom.

James Rodríguez (1991 -) Professional footballer who plays for Spanish club Real Madrid and captains the Colombia national team as an attacking midfielder or winger. Commonly ranked as one of the best young players in the world. He played in the 2014 FIFA World Cup where he won the Golden Boot as the top goalscorer.


Francisco de Paula Santander (1792 - 1840) Colombian military and political leader during the 1810 - 1819 independence war of the United Provinces of New Granada (present-day Colombia). Acting President of Gran Colombia between 1819 and 1826; later elected by Congress as the President of the Republic of New Granada between 1832 and 1837.

Carlos Valderrama (1961 -) From Santa Marta, one of Colombia’s (and the world’s) most recognized footballers, with his distinctive blond hair and flamboyant ball technique. Known as El Pibe (“The Kid”), he played a huge role during the golden era of Colombian football in the 1990s, representing his country in 111 full internationals. He joined Major League Soccer in its first season.

Paulina Vega (1993 -) Colombian TV host, model and beauty queen who was crowned Miss Colombia 2013 and Miss Universe 2014. Born in Barranquilla, she became the first Colombian to win the Miss Universe crown in 56 years.
The Ultimate Colombian Quiz

Colombia is emerging as a desireable and diverse destination. From the lowlands to the highlands and the upper Andeas, this nation offers unmatched wildlife, breathtaking waterfalls and outdoor sports, high fashion and elevated cuisine. There is much to explore, but before you begin, why not test your smarts with this quiz, just to see how well you do. Then revisit this “Ultimate Quiz” once you’ve done your Colombian homework, and see if your score improves. Answers can be found on page 68.

1. What country borders Colombia to the northeast? ______________________________________________

2. Following independence, what was the name of the country that included Panama and Colombia? __________

3. What do Colombians call the vast grasslands in the eastern part of the country? __________________________

4. What color is on the top band of the Colombian flag? _____________________________________________

5. What is the name of the Colombian game which translates as “frog”? _________________________________

6. What is the name of the Colombian river that explodes into a rainbow of colors each year? __________________

7. What is the name of the chicken and potato soup that is very popular in the capital of Bogotá? ________________

8. What is the name of the Colombian president elected for a second term in 2014? _________________________

9. What is the name of Colombia’s southernmost department? ________________________________________

10. What brand new whiskered primate was recently discovered in Colombia? ____________________________

11. In the 1800s, Colombia gained independence from what country? __________________________________

12. What city is known as “The Fashion Capital of Latin America”? _________________________________

13. Where in Bogotá could one find a gold raft depicting the legend of El Dorado? _________________________

14. What is the name of the explosive national sport which involves tossing at a target? _______________________

15. What are those Colombian, pan-fried potato patties, usually topped with peanut sauce? _________________

16. What is La Ciudad Perdida also known as? __________________________________________________

17. Mix a little ketchup and a little mayonaisse together, as the Colombians do, and what do you get? __________

18. Who is the Colombian professional footballer nicknamed “El Tigre”? _________________________________

19. What Colombian city claims the title “La Capital de la Salsa” (World’s Salsa Capital)? _________________

20. What is the collective name of the 1,900 swamps that cover 7,800 sq. km of Colombian territory? ___________

21. What is the name of the warm, wet jungle-filled area separating Colombia and Panama? _________________

22. What body of water borders Colombia’s western coast? _____________________________________________

23. What little bean does Colombia export $1.6 billion worth to the United States each year? ________________

24. What is the lake of the El Dorado legend, into which gold and emeralds were supposedly tossed? __________

25. What Colombian city has South America’s largest network of bicycle routes? _____________________

26. What Colombian writer became one of the most significant authors of the 20th Century? ______________
Comparing Our Country & Colombia
6-8 Grade Learning Unit

Many things divide a country. Let’s take our country, for example, it could be said that horizontally it is divided by the imaginary Mason Dixon line, and vertically it could be divided by the Mississippi River, or into time zones. It could also be divided politically or racially. Now let’s look at our honored country of Colombia. It is divided by many rivers. It is also divided by the mighty Andes Mountains. It is divided into vast rural areas with very small populations, and large contemporary metropolitan areas. It is divided into groups, like contemporary Colombians who live just like us, and indigenous populations, like the Arhuaco, Kogi, Muisca, Nukak and Wayuú, many of whom maintain traditional customs.

As we launch into our exploration of the Republic of Colombia, let’s consider one other divide: what we know about Colombia today, and what we will know about Colombia when our lessons are complete. Provide each student with two copies of the chart below, or have them create their own. For our preliminary activity, we will not only list what we currently know about Colombia (and later compare it to what we’ve learned). This time we will list what we currently know about Colombia, and make a similar comparison to the United States. For example, the equator passes through Colombia, and the Arctic Circle (another important line of longitude) passes through the United States (actually through Alaska). At the conclusion of your classroom study of Colombia, use the second copy of the chart to list new things learned about Colombia, and attempt to provide similar comparables to the United States. They can include weather, geography, wildlife, landmarks, cuisine, and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I Know About Colombia</th>
<th>A Similar Comparison to the U.S.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Amazon River snakes through the Colombian rainforest.
Comparing Colombia & the U.S.

The CIA online “World Factbook” at https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html offers information about all countries around the globe, regarding topics ranging from natural resources, population, government, military and more. In addition to the information provided for this activity, many more facts about Colombia and the United States are available. Consider having students select a category from the website not represented below, make a comparison, and present it to the class. Use the information below to answer questions on the following page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Area:</td>
<td>645,418 sq miles</td>
<td>5,684,050 sq miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources:</td>
<td>Petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds, hydropower</td>
<td>Coal, copper, lead, gold, phosphates, timber, uranium, iron, mercury, nickel, silver, natural gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Products:</td>
<td>Coffee, cut flowers, bananas, rice, tobacco, corn, sugarcane, cocoa beans, oilseed, vegetables, shrimp, forest products</td>
<td>Wheat, corn, fruits, other grains, vegetables, cotton, beef, poultry, pork, dairy products, fish, forest products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP:</td>
<td>$642.5 billion (2014 estimate)</td>
<td>$17.35 trillion (2014 estimate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita:</td>
<td>$13,500 (2014 est.)</td>
<td>$54,400 (2014 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Below Poverty Rate:</td>
<td>32.7% (2012 est.)</td>
<td>15.1% (2010 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate:</td>
<td>9.1% (2014 est.)</td>
<td>6.2% (2014 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Debt:</td>
<td>46% of GDP (2014 est)</td>
<td>74.4% of GDP (2014 est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Users:</td>
<td>Total, 24.3 million; % of population, 52.4%; country comparison to the world, 25</td>
<td>Total, 276.6 million; 5 of population, 86.8%; country comparison to the world, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The information on the previous page, pulled from the CIA “World Factbook” website, provides population, economic, and education comparisons between the United States and Colombia. Utilize the information provided, as well as other research sources such as library reference materials and the internet, to determine answers to the following questions.

Activity - Study the charts comparing Colombia and the U.S., and answer the following questions.

1. How many times larger is the United States than Colombia in land area?
2. Calculate how many times larger Colombia is than Tennessee in land area.
3. The population of Colombia is most similar to what U.S. state’s population?
4. Based on the chart, what natural resources do the two countries have in common?
5. What does GDP stand for? What does it mean? What does GDP Per Capita mean?
6. Notice the difference between the two countries when it comes to labor force by occupation. Write a short paragraph explaining some possible reasons for the differences.
7. Research and list the top five service jobs for people in Colombia.
8. What has happened to the value of the Colombian peso compared with the U.S. dollar over the last five years? What might be the causes for this?
9. If a Colombian self-balancing electric scooter cost 800 Colombian pesos in 2014, how many U.S. dollars would it have cost at that time?
10. Notice the labor force numbers for each country. What are some advantages to having a large labor force like the United States? What are some of the disadvantages of a large labor force?
Use the map of Colombia on the next page to explore the cities and geographical features of Memphis in May’s 2017 honored country. The map can also be used to answer the following questions and complete the accompanying map skills activity. Teachers may choose to incorporate an art activity into this lesson plan, and have students create a large wall map of Colombia utilizing butcher paper and markers. On it they can label cities, departments and bodies of water. The wall map could also be used to label Colombia’s many national parks and mountain ranges, or to even create weather overlays for each region.

**Map Skills Activity** - Use the map on the following page to answer the following questions.

1. Use the scale in the lower left corner of the map to measure the distance between each of these two cities.
   
   A.) Bogota and Pasto _______________________________
   
   B.) Mitu and Cucuta _______________________________
   
   C.) Santa Marta and Turbo ___________________________
   
   D.) Bogota and Mitu _______________________________

2. Find the absolute location of the following Colombian cities.
   
   A.) La Tagua _____________________________________
   
   B.) Inirida _______________________________________
   
   C.) Buenaventura _________________________________
   
   D.) Cucuta ______________________________________
   
   E.) Puerto Bolivar _________________________________

3. Answer the following questions using the map.
   
   A.) What countries border Colombia?
   
   B.) Measure the amount of coastline that Colombia has on the Pacific side and then on the Atlantic (Caribbean) side. What are some advantages to having straight access to both oceans? What might be some disadvantages?
   
   C.) According to the map, how many “departments” does Colombia have? List them. What do you think a Colombian “department” might be?
   
   D.) The designations on the key show the gray line for major roads. Where are most of the roads concentrated? What might this tell us about the areas of Colombia through which most of the roads run, as opposed to the areas where roads are more sparse?
Excavating Colombian Treasures

Not unlike indigenous decline throughout North America, Central America and other areas of South America, the arrival and occupation of Spanish conquistadors and settlers brought devastating results to these cultures’ health and lifestyles, especially as they brought European disease to the Western Hemisphere. Today, Colombia still has dozens of indigenous tribes. Some tribes continue to thrive, while others struggle under contemporary pressures. Many villages have become Westernized, while others still cling tightly to traditional customs. None of these tribes became as prominent as other major Central and South American tribes like the Incas, Aztecs and Maya.

While customs have been passed down among some tribes, early pieces of art or pottery remain to help archaeologists and anthropologists research their cultures. Few pieces have been discovered as intact as “Figure Seated on a Bench.” It was excavated near Popayán, Colombia, created by an unknown artist sometime before 1500 A.D.

We will use this artifact to study Colombian culture, art and archeology.

Activity Overview

This artifact resides at the Denver Art Museum. The museum offers lesson plans related to many of its exhibited items, so that teachers can integrate them into their own classroom curriculum. After analyzing the significance of the artistic features of the “Figure Seated on a Bench,” students will design and create a comic strip based around the ideas represented in the figure. By creating a comic strip based around an artistic feature of the Figure, students will learn to interpret a piece of art and transform the ideas and beliefs represented in the piece into a new form of visual representation. This activity should take approximately 45 minutes.

The full lesson plan is available at http://creativity.denverartmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/PopayanFigure_Sec.pdf.

Rationale

Through the completion of this lesson plan, students will be able to: • Identify artistic features of the Figure Seated on a Bench; • Create a creature based on a key concept represented in the figure; and • Design a comic strip.

Materials • Drawing paper and colored markers/pencils for creating comic strips; • “About the Art” sheet on “Figure Seated on a Bench” (found at the end of the lesson plan); • One color copy of the figure for every four students, or the ability to project the image onto a wall or screen.

(continued on next page)
Excavating Colombian Treasures (cont.)

Who Made It? Little is known about the peoples of the Cauca River Valley in west-central Colombia who produced Popayán [po-pah-YAHN] style gold and ceramics. The dates of the Popayán style, reminiscent of several surrounding artistic traditions, are yet to be determined. Though we do not have a lot of information about it, this piece is the most impressive known example of Popayán ceramic art. Two similar vessels are known, but this is the only complete example. The artist modeled this figure out of buff-colored, gritty clay, which was then fired to a light grey/tan.

What Inspired It? The original function of this object is unclear, but it seems likely that it once held very precious or sacred materials of some kind. The figure’s headdress is removable, and the body serves as a vessel. Bones or cremated human remains were often stored in human effigy containers, but these are usually much larger. Stools or benches were important symbols of rank in ancient Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica. The figure’s commanding pose, with his right hand to his chest, his headdress, shield, and jewelry all indicate a person of power and wealth.

Activity

1. Warm-up: Invite the students to reminisce, sharing stories and memories, about their first pet and ask them questions such as: What did your pet like to do? Was your pet fun or boring? What kinds of adventures did you have with your pet? What is the most memorable characteristic of your pet? If students have never had a pet, have them imagine what it would be like to have their dream pet.

2. Display the Figure Seated on a Bench for the students to see. Ask them to name different artistic features of the figure: the geometric designs on the headdress and shield, the exaggerated calves, the bench he is seated on, etc. Point out the creature with a spiral tail on the figure’s back. What do the students think this creature is? What is it doing on the figure’s back? Why did the artist put it there?

3. Using the About the Art sheet, explain that there are many interpretations for this design element. The lizard-like creature could be a costume element, represent a shamanic alter ego, or represent a spirit-companion that supports and strengthens the man.

4. Have the students imagine they have a creature, real or imaginary, that follows them like a shadow and provides support or strength. The shadow creature could bestow upon the student some sort of power, provide encouragement to accomplish a difficult task, or keep the student safe. An example might be Harry Potter’s Patronus Charm that

(continued on next page)
Caring for Colombian Wildlife

Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, lagging only after its neighbor, Brazil, which is approximately 7 times larger in land mass. Its high biodiversity, with the highest rate of species by area unit, makes it a world leader. Of all world countries, Colombia also has the largest number of endemisms (species that cannot be found in their natural environment anywhere else in the world). About 10% of the Earth’s species live in Colombia, including over 1,900 species of bird, more than in Europe and North America combined, Colombia has 10% of the world’s mammals species, 14% of the amphibian species and 18% of the bird species.

Colombia is one of only 17 megadiverse countries in biodiversity, ranking first in bird species. As for plants, the country has between 40,000 and 45,000 plant species, equivalent to 10 or 20% of total global species. This is even more remarkable given that Colombia is considered a medium-sized country. Colombia has about 2,000 species of marine fish and is the second most diverse country in freshwater fish. Colombia is the country with more endemic species of butterflies, number one in terms of orchid species and also has approximately 7,000 species of beetles. Colombia is second in the number of amphibian species and is the third most diverse country in reptiles and palms. There are about 2,900 species of mollusks and, according to estimates, about 300,000 species of invertebrates. In Colombia there are 32 terrestrial biomes and 314 different types of ecosystems.

Extension Activities

- Many different shapes can be found in the form and surface design of this figure. Have the class pick out as many different shapes as they can find.
- This figure is a zoomorphic figure, meaning it has both human and animal features. Have students closely look at the Popayán figure and pick out which characteristics are human and which are animal and from which animals do they come. Are there any features that seem neither wholly human nor wholly animal?
- Scholars are not positive who is being depicted here but believe this figure is a depiction of the solar deity as the First Shaman, an important mythological figure to the people. Have students write about who they think this figure may be and what role he plays in society.

Special thanks to the Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado!
Caring for Colombian Wildlife (cont.)

Colombia’s Wildlife Conservation Society saves and protects wildlife through science, global conservation, education and management of the world’s largest system of urban parks and protected areas. Fundación ProAves is the leading conservation group in Colombia, managing 20 nature reserves throughout the country. Colombia is at the forefront of protection (such as programs for the endangered Colombian woolly monkey, pictured left) and discovery (like the recently discovered red-bearded titi, opposite page). Colombia’s diverse ecosystem supports species which flourish in jungles, savannas, freshwater, oceans and extreme altitudes.

Activity

For students in these grades, teachers should assign topics to be researched and be presented as full research papers or comprehensive group classroom presentations. Students should choose or secretly draw from among these Colombian wildlife topics: (1) reptiles, (2) marine life, (3) mammals, (4) birds, (5) insects, (6) reptiles, (7) amphibians, (8) invertebrates, (9) nocturnal species, (10) freshwater fish, (11) plant life, (12) endemic species, (13) endangered species, (14) Colombian nature reserves, (15) Colombian wildlife conservation. Teachers with students in younger grades can still incorporate this activity into their curriculum. Have students select one of the animal species native to Colombia, like those pictured below, and write a research paper or develop a classroom presentation. Students in the earliest grades can draw and color a picture of Colombian wildlife.
Soccer isn’t the only sport for which Colombians are passionate. Across the country, local sports that have been played for centuries conjure up fierce competition and a lot of fun. One of the most beloved competitive games dates all the way back to the 15th century. That game is tejo.

Here is what you need to know about this traditional game in case you ever visit Colombia, or just want to strike up a game at the next family picnic. It’s widely believed that over 500 years ago, indigenous inhabitants of the departments of Cundinamarca and Boyaca, known as the Muiscas, enjoyed playing a game that involved launching a disc to hit a target. They called it Turmeque, and though there is no official history of the game, it’s rumored that the disc they used at the time was made of gold, and was often played to earn the right to wed a beautiful maiden from an opposing tribe.

Gameplay consisted of hurling golden discs into a hole approximately 20 meters away (sort of sounds like corn hole, doesn’t it?). With the arrival of the Spanish to Colombia the game evolved, and because of the Conquistadors’ tireless quest for precious metal, the gold discs were melted down and the game began to be played with stones or discs of less precious metals. The Spanish also made another subtle change to the game, and that was the addition of explosives to the mix!

In the game’s modern version the target is a raised clay-filled box with gunpowder or small firecrackers in the center to produce an explosive sound. In June of 2000, tejo was declared a national sport by the Congress of the Republic. Today tejo is played across the Andean highland area of Colombia as well as many other sites around the country. In 2016, it was even featured on the CBS television program, “The Amazing Race.”

The Rules for Playing Tejo

The sport’s current incarnation features dense steel discs, thrown into a box measuring one square meter (just over three feet square) located at the far end of the tejo lane. A small paper triangle packed with gunpowder sits on the lip of a plastic circle in the center of the clay-filled box. The game can be played by as few as two people, or as many as six.

While there are a lot of rules which apply to formal and competitive play, for a fun recreational game you only need to keep a few rules in mind. Your goal is to hit a metal ring, known as a “bocin,” with the “tejo” from about 20 meters (or about 66 feet or 22 yards) away. That is no short distance! This should be accomplished with an underhand toss. Opposing players take turns and the first to 27 points is the winner.

(continued on next page)
Colombia’s Explosive National Sport (cont.)

There are four ways to earn points:

**Mano:** One point is given to the tejo that is located closest to the metal cylinder after all players toss. The winning tejo has to actually stick in the clay to count.

**Mecha:** Three points are given to the tejo that hits a firecracker and makes it explode! Please note that the tejo does NOT have to stick in the clay to win the mecha points.

**Embocinada:** Six points are given to the tejo that lands inside the metal cylinder and sticks to the clay. If this happens, then the round is over immediately and players who have yet to throw miss their turn.

**Moñona:** A full nine points are given to the tejo that makes a firecracker explode and sticks to the clay afterwards inside the metal cylinder.

The player that wins each round will be the first player to throw in the next round.

With each round, players switch sides of the court. A player should be at least 2/3 of the court length away when throwing. In the beginning players may start closer, but should try moving further away as they get the hang of it. Many rural areas throughout Colombia sport tejo fields, and locals are all too willing to shame tourists right in front of their girlfriends. However, don’t think of tejo as just a man’s sport. Many Colombian chicas are also happy to trounce their competition in the art of exploding lawn darts! Youth leagues practice on the weekends, with smaller amounts of gunpowder, minimal adult supervision, and large amounts of giggling, running and firecracker pops.

**Activity**

As a culminating activity for your classroom’s unit on Colombia, students could create very basic tejo courts and play the game with sandbags, all while munching on delicious lapachochos. It might be a good idea to make each court shorter, depending on the age of your students.

Challenge students and teachers in other classrooms to tejo tournaments, or even make it a school-wide competition with a big Colombian carnival at the conclusion of the tournament.

Special thanks to Medellin Living (medellinliving.com) and Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/colombia/travel-tips-and-articles/12948) for their help with this lesson plan.
A Colombian Culinary Celebration

Colombian food is very diverse, with each region of the country having its own characteristic dishes. This wonderful cuisine offers dishes that have been handed down from generation to generation, not only influenced by indigenous Colombian culture, but Spanish, African and Arab cultures as well. Colombian food is versatile, rich, full of flavor, colorful and comforting. Colombia’s varied cuisine is influenced by its diverse fauna as well as the cultural traditions of the ethnic groups. Colombian dishes and ingredients vary widely by region.

Some of the most common ingredients are cereals, such as rice and maize, tubers like potatoes and cassava, assorted legumes, meats including beef, chicken, pork and goat, fish and seafood. Colombia cuisine also features a wide variety of tropical fruits such as cape gooseberry, feijoa, arazá, dragon fruit, mangostino, granadilla, papaya, guava, blackberry, lulo, soursop and passionfruit. There are a large variety of dishes that take into account the difference in various regional climates. For example:

- In the city of Medellín, the typical dish is the bandeja paisa. It includes beans, rice, ground meat or carne asada, chorizo, fried egg, arepa, and chicharrón. It is usually accompanied by avocado, tomato, and special sauces.
- In the city of Cali, the most traditional dish is “sancocho de gallina,” a soup composed mostly of chicken, plantain, corn, coriander, yuca root, and other seasonings.
- In Bogotá and the Andean region, ajiaco is the traditional dish. It is also a type of soup made of chicken, potatoes, and flavored with a locally grown herb called “guasca”. Traditionally, cream and capers are added just before eating. Both soups are served with white rice, salads with a hint of lemon, avocado, or plantain chips, either sweet or salty. For breakfast people often eat changua, milk, scallion, and egg soup.
- Along the Caribbean coast, spicy cooking, with fish and lobster, is practiced. Coconut rice is a common dish.
- In the Amazonas, the cuisine is influenced by Brazilian and Peruvian traditions.
- Dishes like lapinachos, a cooked potato patty, are popular in Colombia but they are not unique to Colombia.

Activity As part of a culminating activity, students can create a few of the basic dishes and bring them to class for a celebration of Colombia. Teachers can also ask students to choose one of the many diverse areas of Colombia (coastal areas, rainforests, Andes, savanna, etc.) and research the traditional foods of that area, like those mentioned above, and explore the unique ingredients each region utilizes in these dishes, and how they are grown and harvested in these regions. On the next page are two basic, yet very traditional Colombian dishes which students can try at home and bring to class for your Colombian celebration.
Ajiaco is a traditional Colombian soup, common within the capital city of Bogotá. Chicken and potatoes are the primary ingredients, also flavored with corn and heavy cream. It is also often served with white rice. Arepas, one the most popular foods in Colombia, are served in almost every home and are the equivalent of tortillas in Mexico. There are different versions of arepas throughout Colombia, each region having its own variation.

Buen provecho!
Have students use this curriculum guide and other online resources to complete this crossword puzzle. There is a Word Bank on page 68 you can provide to students. Answers are available on page 68.

Colombian Crossword Puzzle

Across
6. Borders Colombia to the southeast
8. Capital and largest city in Colombia
9. Body of water that connects Colombia to the Atlantic Ocean
10. Colombian professional footballer; former national team captain (2 words)
12. Re-elected President in 2014
13. Tribe associated with legend of El Dorado
17. Colombian fashion journalist (2 words)
18. Explosive traditional sport in Colombia
20. Wall built around Cartagena to protect against Spaniards & pirates (2 words)
21. Food made of ground maize dough or cooked flour
22. Borders Colombia to the east
23. Connects Colombia to Central America
24. Major gemstone export
25. Most popular sport in Colombia

Down
1. Colombian-American actress, comedian, producer and businesswoman (2 words)
2. Famous Colombian Indycar driver (3 words)
3. Most populous city in southwest Colombia
4. Colombian politician, former senator and anti-corruption activist (2 words)
5. “Mythical” fruit of several cactus species indigenous to Colombia (2 words)
7. Rain forest that lies partly in Colombia
11. Region that contains the majority of Colombia’s urban centers
12. Colombian singer, songwriter, dancer & record producer... what a voice!
14. Pictured on Colombian coat of arms
15. Woody shrub native to South America, with an edible, starchy, tuberous root
16. Potato patties cooked until golden brown
19. Country on Colombia’s southwest border

La Candelaria
region of Bogotá
Here are the answers we promised! Included below are the answers to most of the puzzles and quizzes included throughout this Curriculum Guide, providing your students with a wealth of information about the honored country of Colombia.

**Ultimate Colombian Quiz, page 16**
1. Venezuela
2. New Granada
3. Los Llanos
4. Yellow
5. Rana
6. Caño Cristales
7. Ajiaco
8. Juan Manuel Santos
   Calderon
9. Amazonas
10. Red-bearded titi
11. Spain
12. Medellín
13. Museo del Oro
14. Tejo
15. Lapingachos
16. The Lost City
17. Salsa rosado
18. Radamel Falcao
19. Cali
20. Ciénagas
21. Chocó
22. Pacific Ocean
23. Coffee
24. Lake Guatavita
25. Bogotá
26. Gabriel García Márquez

**Two-Part Word Search Puzzle, page 32**
1. La Muralla
2. condor
3. amarillo
4. Mechis
5. Juegos Deportivas Nacionales
6. Fernando Botero
7. Equator
8. El Dorado
9. hormigas culonas
10. emeralds
11. Las Novenas
12. Simón Bolívar
13. Uribe
14. Shakira
15. chivas
16. Isla de Malpelo
17. capybara
18. volcanoes
19. Festival Iberoamericano
20. jaguar
21. Arepas
22. Venezuela
23. Panama
24. Soccer

**Crossword Puzzle Word Bank, Page 56**
Across
1. Venezuela
2. New Granada
3. Los Llanos
4. Yellow
5. Rana
6. Caño Cristales
7. Ajiaco
8. Juan Manuel Santos Calderon
9. Amazonas
10. Red-bearded titi
11. Spain
12. Medellín
13. Museo del Oro
14. Tejo
15. Lapingachos
16. The Lost City
17. Salsa rosado
18. Radamel Falcao
19. Cali
20. Ciénagas
21. Chocó
22. Pacific Ocean
23. Coffee
24. Lake Guatavita
25. Bogotá
26. Gabriel García Márquez

**Crossword Puzzle Answers, Page 56**
Across
1. Venezuela
2. New Granada
3. Los Llanos
4. Yellow
5. Rana
6. Caño Cristales
7. Ajiaco
8. Juan Manuel Santos Calderon
9. Amazonas
10. Red-bearded titi
11. Spain
12. Medellín
13. Museo del Oro
14. Tejo
15. Lapingachos
16. The Lost City
17. Salsa rosado
18. Radamel Falcao
19. Cali
20. Ciénagas
21. Chocó
22. Pacific Ocean
23. Coffee
24. Lake Guatavita
25. Bogotá
26. Gabriel García Márquez

**Two-Part Word Search Puzzle, Page 33**

**Crossword Puzzle Answers, Page 56**
Across
1. Venezuela
2. New Granada
3. Los Llanos
4. Yellow
5. Rana
6. Caño Cristales
7. Ajiaco
8. Juan Manuel Santos Calderon
9. Amazonas
10. Red-bearded titi
11. Spain
12. Medellín
13. Museo del Oro
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19. Cali
20. Ciénagas
21. Chocó
22. Pacific Ocean
23. Coffee
24. Lake Guatavita
25. Bogotá
26. Gabriel García Márquez

**Resources** - A good selection of books and websites to assist you and your students in the study and exploration of Colombia, and to help with puzzles and assignments like those on this page, can be found listed on page 72 of this guide.
Education Programs

Your study and exploration of the Republic of Colombia continues past the pages of this curriculum guide. Each year, Memphis in May produces many educational and cultural events and contests to showcase its honored country. Throughout the year, Memphis in May offers contests, exhibits, performances and other educational opportunities for teachers and students to learn all about Colombia. Additional information about each, as well as updated details and deadlines, is available at www.memphisinmay.org/education. All programs are subject to change or modification.

Introducing the Official Microsoft Memphis in May International Classroom Program

Make Your Classroom the Official Microsoft Memphis in May International Classroom

Why should you become a Memphis in May International Classroom? International awareness is at the core of Memphis in May International Festival’s commitment to the education of the Mid-South community. Memphis in May’s goal: by the time a student graduates from high school, they will have had the opportunity to experience the customs and cultures of 12 different countries from around the world. Help us achieve that goal by starting in your classroom!

Participation is simple! Just incorporate a combination of Memphis in May resources into your classroom. It is very easy to get started. Register online now! Visit www.memphisinmay.org/education for details.

BlueCross BlueShield World Cargo Crates

The “Gateway to South America” is sending a bit of its own culture straight to your classroom! Each year, Memphis in May receives an international shipment from its honored country. The festival loads the goods into four different “World Cargo Crates” designed to be transported to Memphis area schools. “World Cargo Crate” is loaded with educational items, cultural items, historical items, games, musical instruments, costumes, handicrafts, and more, as well as a description of each item and its significance to Colombian culture. Your school can reserve a crate free of charge for a one-week period so that classrooms throughout your school will have the chance to explore the crate. The Memphis in May “World Cargo Crates” are available for reservation for dates between January and May 2017. To reserve a crate for your school, or for more information, please email education@memphisinmay.org. One week per school, please. The crate will be delivered to your school before 12 noon Monday morning, and picked up the following Monday by 10:00 a.m., courtesy of Blue Sky Couriers.

International Teachers’ Conference

Mark Saturday, February 25, 2017 on your calendar! “Memphis in May International Teachers’ Conference - Bringing International Culture to Every Classroom” provides teachers with information on how to utilize international studies to enhance their curriculum. Teachers will gain hands-on knowledge needed to teach students about the culture and history of the honored country of Colombia.

Applications, additional details, deadline information, program changes and frequent educational opportunity updates are available online at www.memphisinmay.org/education.

(cont. on next page)
Education Contests

This year we are making it easier to sign up for our programs and integrate the Memphis in May Curriculum into your classroom activities. Memphis in May provides easy to use resources to enable teachers to integrate education about the honored country into your classroom. Memphis in May will recognize teachers that utilize these resources during the year as an Official Memphis in May International Classroom. A minimum level of participation is required. Visit www.memphisinmay.org/education for details.

Become the Official Microsoft Memphis in May International Classroom Program

Classroom Competition / Grades K - 12

Teachers, you can win $1,000 just by incorporating the honored country of Colombia into your classroom. Involve the students in your classroom or grade level in classroom decorations and activities with a theme based on this exciting country. Fill your classroom (and your students’ minds) with images of Colombian culture. Visit www.memphisinmay.org/education#competitions for details. Entries must be received by Friday, May 12, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Sedgwick CMS International Teacher Competition

Teacher Competition / Grades K - 12

Now teachers have the chance to win alongside their students! Whether you always celebrate the honored country with Memphis in May, or whether you are considering incorporating Memphis in May into your classroom for the first time, this competition is for you. Memphis in May will recognize the teachers with the most outstanding “global classrooms,” teachers who utilize international programming to supplement their curriculum and introduce a foreign culture to their students. Sign up for and participate in one or more of Memphis in May’s education programs and events, complying with all the guidelines for that program. Participate in as many of the programs and events as possible to increase the international appeal of your classroom. Entries will not be judged solely on the quantity of Memphis in May activities, but rather the main criteria will be the educational impact, creative use of curriculum, and quality of the learning and educational activities in the classroom. Downloadable entry forms are available on the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org/education#competitions. Entries must be received by Friday, May 12, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Creative Writing Contest Grades 4 - 12

The Memphis in May Creative Writing Contest promotes literary creativity and allows students to incorporate what they have learned about the Memphis in May honored country through the written word. Creative Writing Contest entries can include any type of literary work, fiction or non-fiction, including but not limited to poems, essays, short stories, plays, narratives, scripts and biographies. First, second and third place winners will be chosen in three grade categories (Upper Elementary - 4th & 5th grades, Middle - 6th - 8th grades, High - 9th - 12th grades). The competition is open to students attending any public, private or home school within the Shelby County area. Each entry must be submitted with a completed Creative Writing Contest entry form (typed or printed only). Downloadable entry forms are available on the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org/educational#competitions (subject to change, check website for any updates). Entries must be received by Friday, March 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Entries must be submitted to the Memphis in May International Festival offices at 56 S. Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103.
Education Contests (cont.)

Valero Memphis Refinery Children’s International Poster Competition  Grades K - 6

The 2017 Valero Memphis Refinery Children’s International Poster Competition promotes the creative artistry of students in grades K-6. Patterned after the Memphis in May Fine Art Poster Program, the student’s work must depict some aspect of the honored country of Colombia through the medium of drawing and coloring. One student will become the Grand Prize winner, and their work depicting Colombia will then be printed and sold by Memphis in May as the 2017 Valero Memphis Refinery Children’s International Poster. Since there will be a limited number of signed and numbered prints created, this lucky young artist’s poster has the potential of becoming a unique collector’s item. The Grand Prize winner will sign and number 100 of the prints. First, second and third prize winners will also be recognized in various grade divisions. All artwork must be designed and executed by the student. Downloadable entry forms are available on the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org/education#competitions. Entries must be received by Friday, March 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Entries must be submitted to the Memphis in May International Festival offices at 56 S. Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103.

PowerPoint Competition  Grades 9 - 12

This competition promotes design creativity and allows students to incorporate what they have learned about Colombia through overall presentation, graphic design, and written word. Students have a chance to create unique presentations illustrating the honored country’s history, geography, people, language, food, art, music and dance. This competition is a wonderful tool to get students acquainted with PowerPoint, an important program in the business world. Teachers may also opt to have students present in front of the class, giving them valuable practice in communication skills, all while exposing them to international history and culture. This competition is open to all high school students attending public, private, or home school within the Shelby County area. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded. Downloadable entry forms are available on the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org/education#competitions. Entries must be received by Friday, March 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted to the Memphis in May offices at 56 S. Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103.

Blue Cross Blue Shield World Cargo Crate Photo Contest

The World Cargo Crate Photo Contest encourages teachers to use their cameras to capture special moments in their classrooms. The photographic entries portray special “learning moments” between the students, their teachers, and the unique items from the honored country. As most of these items are foreign to the students, their reactions of interest, surprise, and curiosity are clearly visible in the photos. The winning teacher receives a Memphis in May prize package for their classroom and the privilege of being the first to reserve the World Cargo Crate for the upcoming school year. The winning teachers and students also get to see their pictures displayed on the Memphis in May website as “the face” of the World Cargo Crate for the next year. Up to 5 photos may be submitted per entry, along with the teacher’s name and title, school name, school address, school phone number, and teacher’s email address. Entries must be received by Friday, May 19, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Entries must be digital and may be submitted by email or on a CD to 56 S. Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103. For more information, visit www.memphisinmay.org/education#competitions or contact mim@memphisinmay.org with any questions.

Exhibitions & Field Trip Opportunities

Each year, Memphis in May plans cultural exhibitions and performances involving art, artifacts, speakers and performers from the honored country. In 2017, teachers and students can expect many opportunities to explore the beauty, culture and history of Colombia. Many exhibits and performances offer great opportunities for classroom field trips. As the festival approaches, visit the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org/education for updates on exhibitions, field trips opportunities and additional educational materials. You may also call 525-4611, ext. 108, to be placed on an education email list for notifications throughout the year.
With numerous geographic regions, 32 departments, and one of the most megadiverse environments of biodiversity in the world, with hundreds of thousands of exotic species, it’s hard to fit a country like the Republic of Colombia into just 72 pages. Below are many useful books and websites which can help your students locate additional information for many of the educational assignments throughout this curriculum guide. These resources will also help them explore many more fascinating aspects of Colombia. Teachers may also want to utilize the Internet to reach out to other schools in Colombia to establish communication between their classroom and a similar classroom in that country, especially since English is spoken and we are in the same time zone with Bogotá. Your students could even reach out to like-aged students in Colombia via Twitter or Facebook, and establish a web-pal program!

**Books**


*Short Walks From Bogotá: Journeys in the New Colombia* by Tom Feiling

*Colombia: A Concise Contemporary History* by Michael J. LaRosa and Germán R. Mejía

*Colombia - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture* by Kate Cathey

*Secrets of Colombia Cooking: Expanded Edition* by Patricia McCausland - Gallo

*A Great Perhaps? Colombia: Conflict and Divergence* by Dickie Davis, David Kilcullen, Greg Mills and David Spencer

*The Making of Modern Colombia: A Nation In Spite of Itself* by David Bushnell

*Walking In the Clouds - Colombia Through the Eyes of a Gringo* by Michael F. Kastre

*Colombia: Building Peace in a Time of War* by Virginia M. Bouvier

**Websites**

Embassy of Colombia in Washington DC - http://www.colombiaemb.org

Colombia Travel - http://www.colombia.travel/en


Nations Online - www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/colombia.htm


**Need a Curriculum Guide of Your Own?**

We teach students to share, but for your own copy of this Curriculum Guide, visit the Memphis in May website at [www.memphisinmay.org/education](http://www.memphisinmay.org/education). This entire Curriculum Guide about the honored country of Colombia is available on-line in a downloadable PDF format, so you can print your own Curriculum Guide copy for free!

**Questions?**

Each year, Memphis in May receives questions from educators about the honored country. This year, teachers might need a little help with their Spanish for their study of Colombia, or how to tell the difference between a capuchin and a capybara. Each year, Memphis in May strives to identify local citizens who are native to the festival’s honored country. These citizens are often available to answer teachers’ questions, and sometimes are available for classroom visits. Memphis in May also organizes a speakers bureau which offers presentations to schools and civic organizations. Interest and requests can be made by calling 525-4611 or by emailing Memphis in May at mim@memphisinmay.org.

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**Join the Memphis in May Education Email List!**

Receive Information and applications as soon as they become available. To join the list, simply email education@memphisinmay.org!