

Learn About Latin American Geography

Target Audience: Grades 3-5

RELATED CONTENT AREAS

World Geography & Cultures , Visual Art, Spanish

OVERVIEW

This hands-on and interactive presentation introduces students to Latin American geography by looking at geographical regions like Central and South America and the Caribbean, learning about Latin American countries, and identifying different country maps. The event includes Spanish vocabulary exposure and finishes with a creative class activity where students get to complete a Latin American map of countries.

STANDARDS

3rd Grade World Geography and Cultures: 3.33 Identify on a map major countries of South America

3rd Grade World Geography and Cultures: 3.34 Identify major physical features of South America

3rd Grade World Geography and Cultures: 3.32 Use timelines to summarize the history of a region.

Modern Languages Elementary K-5: 2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to recognize geographical regions in Latin America like Central and South America and the Caribbean.
- Students will be able to identify Latin American countries and their respective maps.
- Students will be able to make spatial connections between United States geography and Latin American geography.

VOCABULARY

Mapa	Bandera	Colores de mapas (rojo, amarillo, verde, azul, blanca)
Región	Caribe	
País	América Central	América del Sur

TIME

45 minutes

MATERIALS

Computer with projector, internet connection, paper, colored pencils.

PROCEDURE

PRE-EVENT MATERIALS

Teacher will remind students of previous geography course material (ex: if they studied United States geography and regions and states) The teacher will ask students what they know about other places and regions in the world such as different continents, languages, and landscape. The teacher will ask the students if they know what regions or countries of the world speak Spanish.

WORKSHOP

1. Using the PowerPoint presentation, show map of Latin America. Ask students if they know anything about the region and if they've heard of any countries or regions before.
2. Using the PowerPoint slides, introduce the Latin American regions and, by region, a review of the countries. By using driving questions listed below, remind students throughout presentation the relation of some of these countries to the United States (Caribbean and Central America specifically) and that there are countries outside of Latin America that speak Spanish (U.S. and Spain, for example).
3. Show students YouTube video of song that reviews the Latin American countries and introduces country flags (review of Spanish phrase at beginning of song: "los paises en el mundo donde hablan Español")
4. Show students image of Latin American country flags and ask them what they see in some (colors, images, shapes, how are these flags similar to our own, etc.) while integrating Spanish vocabulary.
5. Provide students a blank map of Latin America (countries are separated and there are blank lines coming from each country). Students will label their maps with the regions and countries discussed in the event. The students will color each Latin American country according to their flag colors.

DRIVING QUESTIONS

- What countries in the world speak Spanish?
- What regions of the world are these countries located?
- What importance does a country's flag have?

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

During the lesson, students will complete a map of Latin America by writing in the names of the appropriate countries and regions. After the discussion, students will have time to color in the countries with their respective flag colors.

MODIFICATIONS

For shorter sessions, eliminate hands-on activity. For older students, event can discuss capitols, different indigenous languages, and country specific facts.

EVALUATION

The event will leave Country Graphic Organizers for the teacher to complete with the students at a later date as part of an independent project. The students may individually pick a certain country and find out more information about it, including official language, population, and capitol, for example. The students may present their research to classmates ([Graphic Organizer](#)).