**INTRODUCTION:** is a representative democratic republic in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

**WHAT THIS BOX INCLUDES:**

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GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND THE AMAZON PLAYING CARDS

DESCRIPTION

These playing cards feature the diverse wildlife of the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon.
TRADITIONAL MUSIC – INKA SAMAI

DESCRIPTION

Music from the area characterized by the traditional panpipe and other woodwinds, as well as a more modern backing with mandolin/guitar, bass, and drums.
PAN PIPE

DESCRIPTION

This is a traditional Andean wood pan pipe. It is the national instrument of Ecuador. In Spanish, the pan pipe is called *zampoña*. In the indigenous language quechua, the pan pipe is called *antara*, and in the Aymara language it is called *siku* or *sicu*. 
Heavy wooden masks are worn by dancers for festivals that take place in different communities. Many of the masks represent animals, including monkeys, wolves, tigers and fierce dogs. The large faces are carved from one piece of wood; the ears are often made separately from wood or other materials then attached later.

Each dancer within a group wears a different animal masquerade.
GOURD BOWLS

DESCRIPTION

Dried, cut and followed *jicara* used for serving or drinking. *Jicara* comes from the Calabash Tree, or *cresentia cujete* in Spanish.
GOURD

DESCRIPTION

The item is a dried calabash fruit (jícara) that is carved and painted. The gourd is decorated with many people and animals along the sides, and the top depicts a variety of musical instruments.
These postcards depict *la iglesia de la compañía*, or the Church of the Society of Jesus in English. This church is located in Quito, Ecuador and is one of the country’s most ornate churches. Construction on the church began in 1605 but was not completed until 160 years later.
WHISTLES

DESCRIPTION

These are whistles with designs painted on the back that have an airway entry in the chin of each. They are typical items in a market in Ecuador.
WOVEN FINGER PUPPETS

DESCRIPTION

These are finger puppets (8) of animals from the Andes and Amazon.
TRADITIONAL BUS

DESCRIPTION

This clay art represents a bus that helps transport residents and their goods to and from markets. Passengers can be seen inside of it and their goods on top include bananas, chiles, watermelons, chicken, and pork.
TRADITIONAL WOODEN SPOON

DESCRIPTION

This is a hand carved wooden spoon from Ecuador.
COINS

DESCRIPTION

The *sucre* was the currency of Ecuador between 1884 and 2000. The *sucre* lost 67% of its foreign exchange value during 1999. Within one week it nosedived 17%, ending at 25,000 sucre = US $1 on January 7, 2000. Two days later, President Jamil Mahuad announced that the US dollar would be adopted as Ecuador’s official currency. Today it still is the currency of the country.
VIRGEN DE PANECILLO

DESCRIPTION

This is a replica of the tourist attraction monument in Quito, Ecuador. The statue is the winged Virgen de Panecillo (Panecillo means “small bread roll”). At the actual monument in Quito, tourists can go inside and climb to the top of the monument and have stunning view of the capital city of Ecuador.
“CANASTOS”

DESCRIPTION

These miniature baskets are sold in marketplaces in Ecuador. Baskets made of straw, agave fibers or reeds are common in Ecuador.
HANDCRAFTED DOLL

DESCRIPTION

This style doll (*muñeca*) is handmade and commonly sold in marketplaces in Ecuador.
BUTTERFLIES

DESCRIPTION

Examples of butterflies (*mariposas*) from the region.
STATUE OF A LORD/GOD

DESCRIPTION

This clay statuette depicts what could have likely been a god figure or lord/lady and ruler figure in any ancient epoch of the Ecuadorian pre-Colombian society.
NATIONAL FLAG

DESCRIPTION

In the center of the flag is the national Coat of Arms. The flag has three colors: yellow signifies the crops and fertile soil; blue signifies the ocean and clear skies; and red represents the blood spilled by the heroes who died in the name of their country.
ALPACA PONCHO, SCARF, AND HAT

DESCRIPTION

The poncho, scarf and hat are all made from alpaca fur. A poncho is a traditional piece of clothing worn to ward off wind and rain. Each community has distinguishing features of the size, shape and color(s) of the poncho.
HANDMADE WOOL TEXTILES

DESCRIPTION

Textiles like these are bought and sold in Ecuadorian markets all the time, by natives and tourists alike. The producers of textiles in Andean regions like Ecuador also may utilize the uniqueness of their natural surroundings and their local community to form a style of textile design that works as a form of identity.