

NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital City:
Bogotá



Language:
Spanish



Currency:
Colombian Peso (COP)



Population:
About 53 million people



National Flower:
Cattleya orchid



National Bird:
Andean condor

GEOGRAPHY SNAPSHOT

ANDES MOUNTAINS



Three branches of the Andes cross Colombia, creating valleys, forests, and many climates.



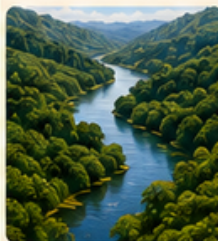
CARIBBEAN COAST



Warm beaches, coral reefs, islands, and busy ports with a rich cultural mix.



AMAZON RAINFOREST



Dense tropical forest filled with rivers, plants, and incredible wildlife.



COFFEE REGION



Rolling hills where coffee plants grow on mountain slopes. The region is famous for its coffee.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES



GEOGRAPHY

Locate Colombia and identify its major regions.



SCIENCE

Understand how mountains and climate create different ecosystems.



CULTURE

Explore traditions, music, foods, and daily life.



HISTORY

Learn how Colombia's past shaped the country today.

BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Why might one country have snowy mountains and rainforests?
- 2 Why do rivers matter to people and wildlife?
- 3 What crops grow best in warm mountain regions?
- 4 Why do some animals live only in certain habitats?
- 5 What would you like to learn about Colombia?



TEACHER TIP

As students read, encourage them to keep track of:

- Animals they discover
- New places the family visits
- Plants and habitats
- Spanish words they learn





DISCOVER COLOMBIA:

SCIENCE, WILDLIFE, PLANTS & NATURAL RESOURCES

How mountains, rivers and forests shape life



ELEVATION & TOPOGRAPHY

Colombia's landscapes change from snowy peaks to tropical coastlines. Different elevations create many habitats and climates.



HIGH ANDES

- Cool temperatures
- Páramo grasslands
- Glaciers
- Mountain lakes



CLOUD FORESTS

- Frequent mist
- Mosses
- Many bird and insect species



AMAZON RAINFOREST

- Heavy rainfall
- Dense forest
- Large rivers
- Tropical climate



CARIBBEAN COAST

- Beaches
- Mangroves
- Dry forests
- Coral reefs

HOW PLANTS ADAPT

Plants grow where the conditions are right for them.

HIGH MOUNTAINS

- frailejones
- mosses
- lichens



CLOUD FORESTS

- orchids
- bromeliads
- tree ferns



RAINFOREST

- giant ceiba trees
- palms
- vines
- heliconias



COFFEE REGION

- coffee plants
- banana plants
- avocado trees



HOW ANIMALS ADAPT

Animals live in habitats that provide food, water and shelter.

ANDES

- spectacled bear
- Andean condor
- mountain tapir



CLOUD FOREST

- hummingbirds
- glass frogs
- butterflies



RAINFOREST

- jaguar
- poison dart frog
- monkeys
- macaws



RIVERS

- pink river dolphin
- giant otter
- caiman



GOLD & EMERALDS

GOLD

Gold has been used in Colombia since long before the Spanish arrived. Indigenous peoples crafted beautiful gold objects for ceremonies, jewelry and everyday life.

The Muisca people inspired the legend of El Dorado. The story was not about a city of gold, but about a leader who covered himself in gold dust during a sacred ceremony at a lake.



EMERALDS

Colombia is famous for its high-quality emeralds. These green gemstones form deep inside the Earth when heat, pressure and minerals work together in the rocks.



Mining can provide jobs and resources, but it must be managed carefully to protect rivers, forests, wildlife and communities.

SCIENCE CONNECTION



Mountains influence rainfall, temperature, and rivers. Because Colombia has many elevations and rock formations, it supports different ecosystems and contains natural resources such as gold and emeralds.



THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

- 1 Why do hummingbirds live where many flowers grow?
- 2 Why are glaciers important for rivers?
- 3 How do heat and pressure help form gemstones?
- 4 Why must mining be planned carefully?
- 5 How are mountains connected to plants, animals and minerals?



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

MATCH THE HABITAT

Draw a line to match each animal with the habitat where it lives.



★ Colombia's mountains, forests, rivers and resources are connected. When we understand nature, we can care for it.



DISCOVER COLOMBIA:

HISTORY, CULTURE & TRADITIONS

A country with a rich past and vibrant traditions.



A LOOK AT HISTORY



Indigenous Peoples

For thousands of years, Indigenous communities such as the Muisca, Tairona, Quimbaya and many others lived across Colombia. They farmed, traded, created art, and respected nature.



Spanish Arrival

Spanish explorers arrived in the early 1500s. They brought new languages, religion, animals and plants, and built towns and churches.



Independence

Colombia declared independence from Spain on July 20, 1810. Leaders such as Simón Bolívar helped free many South American countries.



Modern Colombia

Today, Colombia is a diverse and resilient country known for its people, culture, biodiversity, science, innovation and beautiful landscapes.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Colombia has more bird species than any other country.
- Emeralds from Colombia are among the most valued in the world.
- Colombia has coastlines on both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
- The Amazon rainforest covers almost 40% of the country.



CULTURE & PEOPLE

Colombia is home to many cultures and ways of life.



Many Cultures

Indigenous, African, European and mixed heritages create a vibrant cultural mosaic.



Languages

Spanish is the official language, and more than 65 indigenous languages are still spoken.



Colorful Markets

Markets are full of fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and handmade crafts from many regions.



Coffee Tradition

Coffee has shaped communities and economies in the Andean mountains for generations.



Warm People

Colombians are known for being friendly, welcoming and proud of their country.



THINK & DISCUSS

- Why is it important to protect Indigenous traditions and languages?
- How do festivals help communities come together?
- What role does music play in Colombian culture?
- How do Colombia's history and diversity make the country unique?



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Match the Tradition

Draw a line to match each tradition with its description.

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Mochila | • A traditional woven bag. |
| Cumbia | • A popular dance and music. |
| Arepa | • A round food made from corn. |
| Carnival | • A big celebration with costumes. |

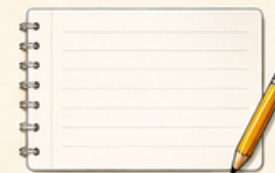
Design a Carnival Mask

Create your own colorful mask inspired by the Barranquilla Carnival.



Write & Share

Write one new thing you learned about Colombia's history, culture or traditions.



Colombia's past, culture and traditions show how people and nature come together across generations.