

NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO BOLIVIA AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
South America



Capital Cities:
Sucre (constitutional)
La Paz (seat of government)



Official Languages:
Spanish, Quechua, Aymara,
and 33 other recognized
Indigenous languages



Currency:
Boliviano (BOB)



Population:
About 12.5 million people



National Flower:
Cantuta



National Bird:
Andean Condor

GEOGRAPHY SNAPSHOT



THE ANDES

The Andes Mountains run through western Bolivia. Tall peaks, cold air, and ancient communities make this region unique.



THE ALTIPLANO

A high plateau over 3,600 meters above sea level. It is home to Lake Titicaca and traditional ways of life.



SALAR DE UYUNI

The world's largest salt flat. In the rainy season, a thin layer of water turns it into a natural mirror.



AMAZON RAINFOREST

Tropical forests in the east are warm and wet, filled with rivers, plants, and incredible biodiversity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



GEOGRAPHY

- Identify and describe Bolivia's major landforms and regions.
- Locate Bolivia and its neighboring countries.



SCIENCE

- Explore how climate and elevation create different ecosystems.
- Understand natural resources and their importance.



CULTURE

- Appreciate Indigenous traditions, languages, and daily life.
- Explore music, food, festivals, and traditional crafts.



HISTORY

- Learn about ancient civilizations and key events in Bolivia's past.
- Understand how history shapes Bolivia today.



BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 What do you already know about Bolivia?
- 2 How do you think living in the mountains is different from living in the rainforest?
- 3 Why do you think Bolivia has more than one capital city?
- 4 What might you see at a place covered with salt?
- 5 How might the weather change as you travel from the Andes to the Amazon?



TEACHER TIP

Encourage students to make connections between Bolivia's diverse regions. Use maps, photos, and stories to spark curiosity and discussion.



EXTENSION IDEAS

- Create a mini travel brochure for one Bolivian region.
- Compare life in the Andes with life in the Amazon.
- Research a Bolivian festival and present it to the class.





DISCOVER BOLIVIA: SCIENCE, WILDLIFE & PLANTS

How mountains shape life across Bolivia



ELEVATION & TOPOGRAPHY

Bolivia is one of the highest countries in the world. Some places are over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, while others lie deep within the Amazon Basin. This dramatic change in elevation creates many different climates.



HIGH ANDES 4,000 m +

- Thin, cool air
- Snow-covered mountains
- Rocky slopes
- Short grasses



ALTIPLANO 3,600 – 4,000 m

- Wide high plateau
- Cold nights and sunny days
- Salt flats and lakes
- Home to llamas and vicuñas



VALLEYS 1,000 – 3,500 m

- Warmer temperatures
- Fertile farmland
- Rivers and forests
- Many towns and farms



AMAZON LOWLANDS 200 – 1,000 m

- Hot and humid
- Heavy rainfall
- Dense rainforest
- Thousands of plant and animal species



HOW PLANTS ADAPT

Different elevations support different kinds of plants.

HIGH MOUNTAINS

- ichu grass
- cushion plants
- mosses and lichens



VALLEYS

- maize
- potatoes
- quinoa
- fruit trees



RAINFOREST

- giant trees
- orchids
- bromeliads
- vines
- ferns



HOW ANIMALS ADAPT

Animals also live where they are best suited.

HIGH ANDES

- llama
- alpaca
- vicuña
- Andean condor



RIVERS & WETLANDS

- giant river otter
- capybara
- caiman



AMAZON RAINFOREST

- jaguar
- macaws
- monkeys
- spectacled bear
- sloths



SCIENCE CONNECTION

Why does elevation matter?

As elevation increases:

- Air becomes thinner.
- Temperatures become cooler.
- Different plants grow.
- Different animals can survive.



Because Bolivia has many elevations, it has one of the richest collections of ecosystems in South America.



THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

- 1 Why wouldn't a jaguar live on a snowy mountain?
- 2 Which plants might grow best where it rains every day?
- 3 How might living at high elevation affect people?
- 4 Why do scientists study countries with many ecosystems?



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Match the Habitat

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



llama



macaw



giant river otter



Andean condor



jaguar



Andes Mountains



Altiplano



Rivers & Wetlands



Amazon Rainforest

★ Every change in elevation leads to changes in climate, plants, animals, and the way people live.

NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO BOLIVIA:

HISTORY, CULTURE & TRADITIONS

A country with deep roots and proud traditions.



A LOOK AT HISTORY



Tiwanaku Culture c. 300 – 1000 AD

A powerful civilization that built impressive temples and grew crops around Lake Titicaca.



Inca Influence c. 1400s – 1500s

The Inca Empire expanded into the Andes and connected many communities with roads and trade.



Spanish Arrival 1538

The Spanish arrived and began the colonial period, bringing new languages, religion and traditions.



Independence 1825

Bolivia declared independence from Spain on August 6, 1825. It was named in honor of Simón Bolívar.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Tiwanaku is older than Machu Picchu.
- Bolivia once had access to the Pacific Ocean.
- It is one of the few countries with two capital cities: Sucre (constitutional) and La Paz (seat of government).



CULTURE & PEOPLE

Bolivia is home to many Indigenous peoples who keep their languages, customs, and ways of life alive and strong.



Aymara People
Many Aymara people live on the Altiplano and around Lake Titicaca. They are skilled farmers and weavers.



Quechua People
Quechua is widely spoken in the Andes. Communities keep ancient traditions in music, farming and festivals.



Guaraní People
In the lowlands, Guaraní people share their language, music and crafts. They have a strong connection to nature.



Many Voices
Bolivia recognizes over 30 languages. This diversity makes Bolivia's culture rich and unique.

★ IMPORTANT SYMBOLS



Wiphala Flag
Represents harmony, equality and the diversity of Indigenous peoples of the Andes.



Kantuta Flower
The national flower of Bolivia. Its name comes from the Quechua word "qantu," meaning "flower of the valley."



THINK & DISCUSS

- 1 How do Indigenous traditions help keep culture alive?
- 2 Why do you think festivals are important to communities?
- 3 How can learning about history help us understand the present?
- 4 What is something in Bolivia's culture that surprised you?



TRADITIONS & EVERYDAY LIFE



Festivals

Bolivia celebrates many colorful festivals. The Oruro Carnival is famous around the world for its music, dance and dazzling costumes.



Traditional Clothing

Women often wear polleras (full skirts) and bowler hats. Bright shawls called aguayos are used to carry items and babies.



Music & Dance

Panpipes (sikus) and the charango are common instruments. Music and dance are shared at festivals, celebrations and family gatherings.



Food

Popular foods include salteñas, sopa de maní, pique macho, llajua (a spicy sauce) and api (a warm corn drink).



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Match the Tradition

Draw a line to match.

Wiphala flag	• Traditional instrument
Panpipes (siku)	• Traditional clothing
Salteña	• Bolivian food
Pollera	• Symbol of diversity

Design a Festival Mask

Create a colorful mask inspired by the Oruro Carnival.



Write & Share

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



Bolivia's history, culture and traditions show how people and nature are connected across generations.

