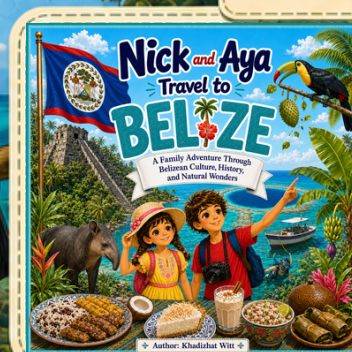


NICK & AYA TRAVEL TO BELIZE AT A GLANCE!

TEACHER CLASSROOM UNIT
GRADES 1-4



QUICK FACTS



Continent:
North America
(Central America)



Capital City:
Belmopan



Language:
English (Official)



Currency:
Belize Dollar (BZD)



Population:
About 420,000 people

FUN FACT!

Belize is home to the second-largest barrier reef in the world, stretching about 300 km (190 miles) along its Caribbean coast!

IMPORTANT PLACES TO KNOW



Belize City

Belize's largest city and the country's main port, where many visitors begin their adventure.



Belmopan

The capital city, built after Hurricane Hattie to provide a safer location inland.



Belize Barrier Reef

The second-largest barrier reef in the world, home to colorful coral reefs, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and hundreds of fish species.



Great Blue Hole

A giant underwater sinkhole famous for its deep blue color and incredible marine life.



San Ignacio

A town near ancient Maya cities, caves, rivers, and tropical rainforests.



Placencia

A peaceful beach town known for its long sandy beaches, fishing, and nearby mangrove forests.



BEFORE READING

Ask students:

- 1 Where is Belize located?
- 2 Why are coral reefs important?
- 3 What animals might live in a tropical rainforest?
- 4 Have you ever gone snorkeling or explored nature?
- 5 What do you know about the ancient Maya civilization?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- ☒ Locate Belize on a map
- ☒ Learn about coral reefs, mangroves, and rainforests
- ☒ Discover Belize's amazing wildlife
- ☒ Explore Maya history and Garifuna culture
- ☒ Understand how people can help protect nature

EXPLORE

LEARN

DISCOVER

CONNECT



TEACHER TIP

As students read the book, have them keep track of:



Animals
they discover



New places
they visit



Ways people
help protect nature



Traditions and
cultures they
learn about

BELIZE: NATURE'S CONNECTED WORLD

Belize may be a small country, but it protects one of the richest natural environments on Earth. Rainforests, rivers, mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs all work together to support thousands of plants and animals.



1 The Belize Barrier Reef

- Second-largest barrier reef in the world.
- Home to hundreds of fish species.
- Sea turtles, nurse sharks, rays, coral and much more!



2 Mangroves: Nature's Nurseries

Mangrove roots:

- protect coastlines from storms and erosion
- shelter baby fish and many animals
- filter water before it reaches the reef



3 Seagrass Meadows

- Sea turtles eat seagrass.
- Manatees graze there.
- Seagrass helps keep ocean water clean and provides oxygen.

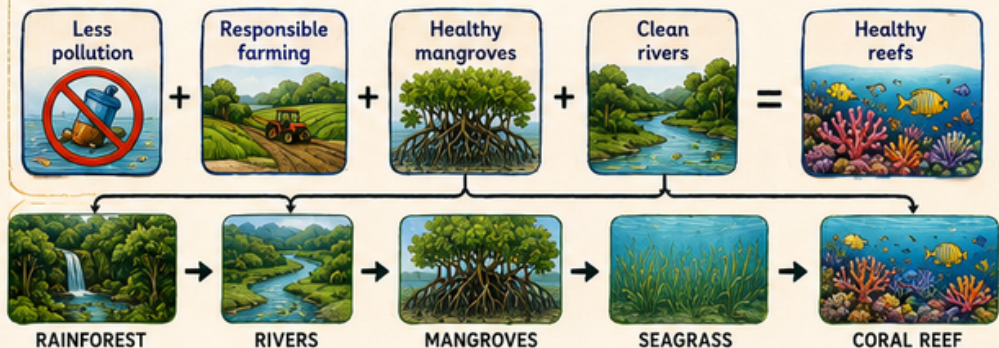


DID YOU KNOW?

Coral animals are tiny living creatures called polyps that build giant reefs over thousands of years!



4 Why Coral Reefs Need Our Help



ACTIVITY: CONNECT THE OCEAN'S SYSTEM

Draw arrows to show how everything is connected. Start with the rainforest and end with the coral reef!



AMAZING ANIMALS OF BELIZE

Belize is home to incredible wildlife. Different animals live in the rainforest, rivers, caves, wetlands, and coral reefs.



BELIZE
Wild, Wonderful
and Worth Protecting!

RAINFOREST



Jaguar

A powerful big cat with beautiful spots.



Baird's Tapir

Belize's national animal.



Howler Monkey

Known for its loud morning calls.



Keel-billed Toucan

Belize's national bird with a colorful beak.

RIVERS & WETLANDS



American Crocodile

One of the largest reptiles in the Americas.



Green Iguana

Often seen basking in the sun near rivers and trees.



Jabiru Stork

The tallest flying bird in Belize.

CORAL REEF



Spotted Eagle Ray

Graceful swimmers that glide over the coral.



Nurse Shark

Gentle sharks that rest on the ocean floor.



Seahorse

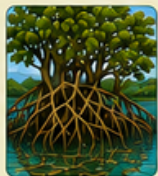
Tiny and unique creatures found in seagrass.



Parrotfish

Help keep the reef healthy by eating algae.

BELIZE'S AMAZING PLANTS



Mangroves

Protect the coast, shelter wildlife, and keep the water clean.



Mahogany Tree

Belize's national tree, valued for its strong and beautiful wood.



Black Orchid

Belize's national flower. Rare and very special!



Cacao Tree

Used to make chocolate, a treat enjoyed by many!

HABITAT MATCH!

Draw a line to match each animal with its home.



Jaguar



Howler Monkey



Toucan



American Crocodile



Green Iguana



Spotted Eagle Ray



Rainforest

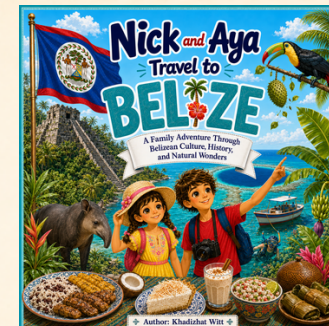


Rivers & Wetlands



Coral Reef

YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE! ❤️



Explore Belize with Nick and Aya



FUN FACT!

Belize protects over one-third of its land and much of its ocean through national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and marine reserves.



THINK & DISCUSS

- Which animal would you most like to see in Belize? Why?
- How do different habitats help animals survive?
- Why is it important to protect plants and animals?

