Unit 3: Central America

Content Area: **Spanish**
Course(s): **Generic District Course, Spanish**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students learn about the different Spanish-speaking countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Students will learn about the people, history and traditions of Central America and the music and food of the Spanish Caribbean.

Standards

WL.7.1.NM.A.3	Recognize a few common gestures and cultural practices associated with the target culture(s).
WL.7.1.NM.A.4	Identify familiar people, places, and objects based on simple oral and/or written descriptions.
WL.7.1.NM.B.3	Imitate appropriate gestures and intonation of the target culture(s)/language during greetings, leave - takings, and daily interactions.
WL.7.1.NM.C.5	Name and label tangible cultural products and imitate cultural practices from the target culture(s).

Essential Questions

How are the countries in Central America different? How are they similar?

How are the Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean different? How are they similar?

How important is transportation in the countries of Central American?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- Advances in transportation helped modernize some small villages
- Arañitas, made of shredded plantains seasoned with salt, butter and garlic, is a traditional dish in Puerto Rico
- Belize is the only country in Central America whose citizens do not speak Spanish
- Central America is comprised of countries south of Mexico and north of Panama
- Common Cuban dishes are Ropa Vieja, made with shredded beef and Boliche, beef roast stuffed with chorizo and a hard-boiled egg
- Cuba is known for Mambo music
- Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean
- Cuba's food has been influenced by the cultures of Spain and Africa
- Many countries of Central America have been influenced by the Mayan culture, especially Guatemala
- Plantains are an important crop in Puerto Rico
- Puerto Rico is known for Salsa music
- Small villages where they speak indigenous languages and follow Mayan customs still exist
- The Dominican Republic is known for having a dish called Mangu, made of plantains, butter, onions and cheese
- The Dominican Republic is known for Merengue music
- The island on which the Dominican Republic is located is half the country of Haiti and half the Dominican Republic
- The Spanish-speaking Caribbean islands are Cuba, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico

Students will be able to...

- describe the importance of the Mayan people in Central American culture
- explain how transportation has changed the lives of the people in Central America
- identify food dishes from different Caribbean countries
- identify music from different Caribbean countries
- locate the Spanish-speaking countries in Central America and the Caribbean
- recognize important cultural items, such as a huipil, from Central America

Assessments

- Central America Unit Test
- Country Project
- Diagnostic: Other visual assessments
- Formative: Oral Report
- Pre-Assessment
- Students will have to try to label the map projected on the Smart Board. Students will also try to identify cultural items projected on the Smart Board.

- Students will label the Central American and Caribbean Spanish-speaking countries on the map. Students will have a word bank to assist them. Students will also answer multiple choice countries about these Spanish-speaking countries.
- Students will pick a Spanish-speaking country in the Caribbean or Central America. They will show the class where the country is located, name its capital and state some basic facts about the country.
- Summative: Other written assessments

Activities

- label a map of Central America and the Caribbean; color in the Spanish-speaking countries
- take a virtual trip around Central America and the Caribbean
- view Smart Board pictures of important cities and cultural artifacts in Central America and the Caribbean
- listen to cultural music and taste regional foods of Central America and the Caribbean
- create woven item using paper
- play a Jeopardy review game

*see link

Map- Central America

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- review culture and geography by playing a jeopardy review game on the board
- learn the name and location of the different countries in Central America and the Caribbean using a mnemonic device: Gwen (Guatemala) believes (Belize) Ellen (El Salvador) has (Honduras) Nick's (Nicaragua) costly rice (Costa Rica) pan (Panama)
- practice Central American geography by playing an internet review game

*see link

Central America- Geography

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Central American and Caribbean Geography (Social Studies)
- Merengue, Salsa and Mambo (Music)
- Weaving (Art)

Resources

- Worksheets

- Geography Review Website
- Pictures
- Websites
- Central American Books

*see links

- Central America- Geography
- Map Worksheet- Central America
- Central America Word Search
- Central America and the Caribbean Worksheets
- World Flags
- Central America Website
- Central American Pictures
- Spanish Caribbean Website
- Cuba Photos
- Puerto Rico Pictures
- Pictures of the Dominican Republic