

# Unit 3: Central America

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

## Unit Overview

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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

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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

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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...

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## **Students will know that...**

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- 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...**

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- 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**

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- 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 questions 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

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- 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

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- 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

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

## Resources

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- 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](#)