



## Chippewa Valley Schools Learning Activity

**TITLE:** Latin American Vacation WebQuest

**CURRICULUM:** Social Studies, with possible extensions to other areas

**GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PURPOSE:** To investigate a Latin American country based on the five themes of geography and complete a multimedia presentation based on these themes.

**CVS STANDARDS/BENCHMARKS:**

**Core Topic: Five Themes of Geography**

- Explain the five themes of geography: location, place, relationship within places, movement, and regions

**Core topic: Western Hemisphere**

- Locate, describe, and compare the ecosystems, resources, and human environment interactions of major Latin American regions
- Locate major ecosystems, describe their characteristics, and explain the process that created them
- Explain the importance of different kinds of ecosystems to people
- Explain how humans modify the environment and describe some of the possible consequences of those modifications
- Describe the consequences of human/environment interactions in several different types of environments
- Describe and compare characteristics of major Latin American cultures including language, religion, belief systems, gender roles, and traditions.

**NETS STANDARDS/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

**5.4 Technology research tools:** Use content-specific tools, software, and simulations (e.g., environmental probes, graphing calculators, exploratory environments, Web tools) to support learning and research.

**3.5 Technology productivity tools:** Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

**6.5 Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools:** Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

**4.6 Technology communications tools:** Design, develop, publish, and present products (e.g., Web pages, videotapes) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.

**5.6 Technology research tools:** Design, develop, publish, and present products (e.g., Web pages, videotapes) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students will create a HyperStudio or PowerPoint multimedia presentation to share with classmates, post on a class web site, or use during parent Night or Open House. Each student will be required to choose a Latin American country to visit. Before leaving for that country, students need to find out as much as they can about the country and the people who live in it.



Using a worksheet downloaded from the [Take a Trip to Latin America](#) web site, students will complete a research project on a Latin American country, using web sites listed within the lesson. This lesson contains connections to various learning styles, with suggestions for dance, drama, music, visual arts, science, mathematics, information skills, and technology, which could be used as extensions to the basic project.

This lesson was written by Sharon Hart, Deborah Burch, Melanie Cox, & Cheryl Taylor, teachers at Bugg Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School, in Wake County, North Carolina.

#### PREPARATION:

- Read lesson at web site above and prepare class per instructions.
- Run worksheets for class.
- Check web sites for availability. (I suggest you use Easybib.com at <http://easybib.com/> for the bibliography site. The one on the *Trip* web site was not functioning when tested.) For additional web sites, see Tools and Resources section.
- Book lab time and library media center time for research.
- Reserve print materials in library.
- Prepare a rubric or use the rubric on the web site. Alternate rubric can be found under Tools and Resources.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Introduce assignment, through directions found on the web site. Cover each section (Introduction, Task, Process, Resources, Websites, and Evaluation.)
2. Explain how project will be graded, showing [students rubric](#) that will be used for the assignment.
3. Assign or allow students to choose a country to “visit.”
4. Start research by using the web sites (listed on the worksheet or found in Tools and Resources) and print materials reserved in library to answer questions from the [worksheet](#) *The Five Themes of Geography*. Give students a few days to complete research, making sure they keep track of any resources by using the [EasyBib](#) web site. You can also use a bibliography-organizing sheet or 3 x 5 cards, if you prefer paper and pencil. For correct MLA form for print and online resources, see list under Tools and Resources. This step will be easier if you teach children how to organize resources before going to the library. Approximate time for research: 1 week.
5. Make sure students look for pictures or clip art to illustrate their slides/cards. Save pictures to home directories (don't forget to get citation information!).
6. Use Inspiration to diagram multimedia presentation. For a very general example, [click here](#). Time for diagram: 1 day.
7. Use [Storyboard](#) to design cards/slides.
8. Use PowerPoint or HyperStudio to create cards. Time in lab: 1 week.
9. Present to class, save for parent presentation, post to web site.

#### TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

Web Sites:

- [OWL: Using Modern Language Association \(MLA\) Format](#)
- [MLA Style Electronic Formats](#)
- [EasyBib.com](#)
- [Grolier Reference Library](#)
- [World Book Online](#)
- Web Sites from Internet lesson

Inspiration Software

Power Point or HyperStudio presentation software

Worksheets from web site and/or other links

**ASSESSMENT:**

Rubric from web site or teacher designed, based on class instructions.  
Multimedia presentation.

**CREDITS (INCLUDING CONTACT INFORMATION):**

Burch, Deborah, et al. Take a Trip to Latin America. Bugg elementary. 11 June 2002  
<<http://bugges.wcpss.net/latinam.html>>.  
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**COMMENTS:**

This lesson plan has not been tried in this district.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Teach students how to use the bibliographic forms.