

KULTURE KIDS RESOURCE GUIDE

RECUERDO SER SIMPÁTICO:
REMEMBER TO BE NICE!

a tale from Costa Rica, Central America



Facts from *TALKATIVE TURTLE*:

Turtle carries his house on this back. Turtles in Costa Rica can live on land and be aquatic. Sea Turtles can be found in September and October arriving on the beach to lay their 100 eggs and two months later baby turtles hatch and go out to the Pacific Ocean. Santa Rosa National Park is a major nesting site for turtles. Green turtles are an endangered species and Costa Rica has a program to save the turtles.

Temperature in Costa Rica averages between 72-90 degrees.

Costa Rica is about the size of New Hampshire and Vermont. It lies between Nicaragua and Panama, with the Caribbean Sea on one side the Pacific Ocean on the other. The people call themselves *ticos* which comes from the word *hermanitos* meaning *little brothers*.

There are many different kinds of animals in Costa Rica.

100 different kinds of bats.

200 species of snakes.

160 species of amphibians.

218 species of reptiles.

130 kinds of freshwater fish.

Over 200 different kinds of mammals.

Over 850 species of birds including the scarlet macaw, laughing falcon, toucan, tanager, hummingbirds, orange parakeets, blue-footed booby and the bird revered by the Mayans - the rare, pigeon sized blue green feathered quetzal - often considered the world's most beautiful bird.

There are also cattle, skunks, sluttish, white-faced capuchin monkeys, green tree frogs, armadillos, giant anteaters, jacamars, harpy eagles, squirrel monkeys, crocodiles, wild pigs and many members of the cat family such as jaguar, the largest most powerful member, pumas, margay cat and ocelots.

Pigs DO keep their bodies cool by rolling in mud.

Green iguanas CAN grow to be 6 feet long.

Bats DO use sound waves to see with their ears.

Cows DO moo.

Vultures DO eat dead, rotten animals.

Chimpo Grande IS the highest mountain on Costa Rica.

There are 7 active volcanoes in Costa Rica. Over hundreds of years, these volcanoes left volcanic rock on Costa Rican land. This rock has enriched the soil and made the valley into good farmland (hence the name Costa Rica or Rich Coast). Hundreds of years of ocean waves pounding the rock have made the famous Costa Rican black sandy beaches.

The movie *Jurassic Park* was filmed on Isla del Coco, which lies off the Coast of Costa Rica.

Further Discussion on *TALKATIVE TURTLE*:

1. Why do you think the turtle was always boasting? Why do people boast? Is it good or bad to boast? Why?
2. Why did the other animals stop speaking to turtle? Do you think once turtle learned his lesson, they forgave him? Why do people get angry at each other? Do they often stay angry or get over it? Why. How do you feel when you are mad at someone? How do you feel when someone is mad at you? What do you do to solve your differences?
3. Why did turtle say mean things to the other animals? Is it all right to say mean things to others even if the things are true? Why or why not? Is it OK to call others names? Why or why not? How do you feel when someone says mean things about you or calls you names? What should you do when that happens?
4. What would you do if your friend has bad breath? Tell him to keep his mouth shut, like turtle did, or find some other way to let him know?
5. At the end of the tale, turtle never says a word. Was that right for him to stop talking altogether after what happened?
6. Can you think of any similar stories that you may have heard or seen on TV, in movies or read?

Spanish *Costa Rican* Expressions:

Costa Ricans are very polite people. Manners are very important to them. Consequently, they use expressions such *con permiso* (when entering someone's home or just passing someone on a crowded street) or *upe* (which is called out, instead of knocking at door). In fact, it is against the law, in Costa Rica, to offend someone's honor or dignity either in writing or face-to-face. If you offend someone, you could end up in jail!

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| Escuchar y no hable | (es-koo- cha -ee-noh ah -blay): | <i>listen and no talking</i> |
| Buenas Dias | (bway -nas- dee -ahs): | <i>Good Day</i> |
| Achara | (ach-a- rah): | <i>What a pity</i> |
| Buena note | (bway -nah- noh -tay): | <i>Cool</i> |
| Maje | (mah -hay): | <i>Buddy (males only)</i> |
| Con permiso | (kahn-pur- mee -so): | <i>Excuse me</i> |
| Pura vida | (poor -ah- vee -dah): | <i>Great</i> |

Spanish Proverbs:

Do we have any similar American proverbs?

En boca cerrada no entran moscas.
In a closed mouth, flies do not enter.

Es mejor callar porque el hablar trae problemas.
It is best to be silent, because talking can get you into trouble.

Tendre que tener mas cuidado con lo que digo.
I'll be more careful about what I say.

Hay que pensar bien lo que uno va a decir antes de hablar.
A person should think before he speaks.

Cuando una persona habla mucho es para ocultar su ignorancia.
When someone talks as much as he does, it's because he's trying to hide his own ignorance.

Las personas que tienen conocimientos de verdad, los comparten sin hacer alarde de saber mucho.
People who really know something, share what they know without making so much noise.

Basic facts on Central America:

Central America is located in the southern part of North America, attached by the Isthmus of Panama to South America. Central America is made up of seven countries: Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. All these countries together are about twice the size of Colorado.

Except for Belize and Costa Rica, Central American countries have precarious governments and very low incomes for their people. The United States government has given financial and military aid to Central American governments. The USA has also, brought in their own military to deal with heated situations, believing that what happens in Central America directly affects the United States of America.

Central America has many attractions including active volcanoes, tropical rain forests, the barrier reef of Belize, the Panama Canal and beaches on the Caribbean coast. The most famous civilization of Central America was the Mayan Empire of almost two thousand years ago. In the 16th century, European explorers arrived looking for gold. Products from Central America include: timber, iron, copper, lead, tin, silver, shellfish, corn, beans, bananas, coffee, sugar, avocados, cattle, cotton, cut flowers, ornamental plants and some spices. It is believed that avocados, chocolate and corn originally came from Central America.

The major languages in Central America are Spanish, English and several Indigenous languages. The people of Central America are of descended from Indian, Black, Spanish, Chinese, American and other European ancestries.

Craft:

PONCHO or REBOZO

Poncho is a military cloak or great coat. Rebozo is a muffler or woman's shawl. Ponchos originally come from ancient Central America. They are usually made of wool for warmth and practicality. They could be used as a blanket or a coat and were easy to roll up to carry on your saddle. They are simple to make. A rebozo can wrap around you instead of slipping over your head.

Supplies:

Scissors

For poncho: square piece of fabric or an old blanket measuring about 36" x 36" (larger if you are taller than 5' 2").

It is nice for both poncho and rebozo if the blanket edges are fringed or you can sew fringe on.

For rebozo: rectangular piece of fabric or blanket measuring about 43" x 56".

Needle.

Thread to match fabric or blanket.

Fringe if you want (By sewing on fringe or only if material does not unravel, merely cut the ends to look like fringe).

Directions:

1. Fold rectangle in half **or** diagonally fold square in half.
2. **Rebozo:** Cut a line down the center with a "V" at the top center on one side in the center of the rectangle (see picture below) ONE SIDE ONLY.
Poncho: Cut an opening for your head and neck on one side at the center on the fold of the square (see picture below) ONE SIDE ONLY.
3. Turn over the edges of the cut sections and stitch so the material does not unravel (unless material does not unravel).
4. That's it!

For Further Information on Central America, contact:

www.towd.com for connections to tourism offices, visitors bureaus and chambers of commerce world wide.

Embassy of Costa Rica
2114 S Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of Belize
2535 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of Nicaragua
1627 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of Honduras
3007 Tilden St. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of El Salvador
2308 California St. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

Embassy of the Republic of Panama
2862 McGill Terrace NW
Washington, DC 20008

Recipe:

HORCHATA- *a tasty drink. You can buy it already made in Spanish grocery stores.*

Ingredients:

1 Quart water

1/2 cup sugar

1 cup tigernuts (you can get these at a Health Food Store)

Equipment:

Stove

Saucepan to boil water

Wooden Spoon

Big Strainer

Blender

Large Bowl

Directions:

The night before you plan to make Horchata, soak the tigernuts in water.

The next day:

Remove nuts from soaking and rinse well

Heat (but do not boil) the water in sauce pan

Put the tigernuts and the water from the sauce pan in blender and mix until smooth

Put the mixture in the strainer and press the mixture with the wooden spoon until it goes through the strainer into a bowl below

Add the sugar to the mixture in the bowl and stir

Cool, then chill in the refrigerator for four hours

Then serve and enjoy!