

## CURRICULUM PROJECT

Title: Ecuador: Diversity and Contrast

Summary:

Ecuador is a megadiverse country. It cannot be described in a few words. The plethora of wildlife, archaeological artifacts, ethnic group and geographic traits defy any single statement. It has adopted some modern characteristics of the twenty-first century while still maintaining its local traditions and beliefs.

Grade Level: 10-12

Key (Essential) Questions/Queries:

- What are the major geographic regions of Ecuador?
- What are the major products of Ecuador?
- What are some of the characteristics of Ecuadorian culture?
- What are animals and plants are endemic to Ecuador?

Background Notes:

This project is culmination of several months of preparation following an intensive study of Ecuador in-country through the 2005 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program. Sixteen teachers from across the United States attended seminars given by local authorities in their fields and participated in historical, geographical, and cultural activities in the four different corners of Ecuador.

Standards:

The ACTFL National Standards in Foreign Language Education addressed in this project are listed below.

### *Communication*

- 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
- 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

### *Cultures*

2.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

*Connections*

3.1: Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.

3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its culture.

*Comparisons*

4.2 Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Objectives:

Students will learn about South America and more specifically Ecuador.

Students will understand the unique culture of Ecuador.

Students will learn expressions peculiar to Latin American Spanish and the Indian language Quechua.

Students will understand the problems of sustainability in Ecuador.

Students will become familiar with the diversity in Ecuadorian climate, geography, dress, architecture, and cuisine.

Materials:

Geographical Map

Cultural Map

Tapestry

Jewelry

Flag

CD

Children's Book

Scarf

Dolls

Strategies:

Students will view PowerPoint presentation with commentary in Spanish.

Students will respond to questions in Spanish posed at the conclusion of the presentation.

Assessment (Evaluation):

Students will take a brief quiz to check for comprehension.

Follow-up Activities:

Group Project

Students will be divided into groups. Each group will select a different country from Latin America other than Ecuador or Mexico. Groups will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on their selected country of the Spanish-speaking world. They must address briefly the local history, local languages spoken, geography, products, holidays, flag, art, and music. They must include photos in their presentation. Students will prepare this project in Spanish.

Individual Project

Individual students may select a topic covered in “Ecuador: Diversity and Contrast” and research the topic. Then she or he may prepare a brief exposé to the class on the subject of this topic using visual aids. Then the student writes a personal reaction about the topic. The student must tell why the topic was selected, how the topic relates to her or his own life, and define any new expressions learned during the research. The student will prepare this project in Spanish.

Additional Resources:

PBS Nightly Business Report

National Public Radio

Geographia: <http://www.geographia.com/ecuador>

Official Site of Ecuadorian Ministry of Tourism: <http://www.vivecuador.com>

Lonely Planet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

References:

Kendall, Sarita. ECUADOR. Hong Kong: Chelsea House, 1999.

Barrett, Pam and Brian Bell, eds. Insight Guide: ECUADOR GALÁPAGOS. New York: Langensheldt, 1999.

Humbach, Nancy, and Oscar Ozete. ¡Ven conmigo!. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2003.

Rachowiecki, Rob, and Danny Palmerlee. Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands. Melbourne: Lonely Planet, 2003.

Adès, Harry, and Melissa Graham. The Rough Guide to Ecuador. New York: Rough Guides, 2003.