

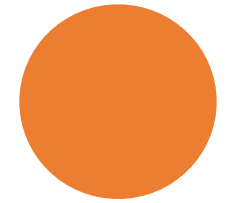
A vibrant street scene in Guatemala, featuring colorful buildings in shades of red, orange, yellow, and blue. The street is paved with cobblestones and leads towards a yellow archway. In the background, a large volcano is visible under a clear blue sky, with a layer of white clouds at its base. The overall atmosphere is bright and sunny.

Guatemala

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Physical Geography

- Guatemala has many volcanoes. Out of 30 volcanoes 3 of the volcanoes are still active. Pacaya volcano is the most active, it is located by Guatemala City.
- Guatemala has the deepest lake in Central America. This lake formed when a volcano erupted around 84000 years ago and created a volcano crater. This lake is known as Lake Atitlán. This lake is about 900 feet deep and takes up 48 square miles.
- Guatemala is about 6 times smaller than Texas. Guatemala has many mountains. About 1/3 of Guatemala population is living on high land villages.
- Guatemala is the 3rd largest country in Central America, but it's still the size of Tennessee making it about 42042 square miles. Guatemala is surrounded by Mexico, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- Guatemala has many rivers. The greatest river Guatemala has is Río Usumacinta. Usumacinta is a big part of Guatemala's border with Mexico. Usumacinta flows all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.





History

- Guatemala was home to the ancient civilization of the Mayans. The Maya civilization built a ton of pyramids you can still visit today. The Maya civilization was thriving around 250 A.D – 900 A.D this was known as the classic period. When the Europeans arrived the Maya civilization was already decreasing. The Spanish Conquistadors Pedro Alvarado destroyed the Mayan civilization and then the land became part of the Spanish colony.
- Guatemala had a hard time keeping their independence from Spain in 1821. An attempt was made by Mexico City to keep Guatemala and stay in Central America by the Mexico Empire but the Spanish colonies of Central America left Mexico in 1823.
- While the Maya civilization had the land of Guatemala, mathematicians discovered the concept of zero and developed a solar calendar.
- The Maya civilization made balling courts. On the courts they played a game called “pok a tok”. The sport seems like basketball but the losing team would get executed.
- Pedro de Alvarado was the founder of Guatemala. He was part of a group called Hernán Cortés, they conquered Mexico. Then Pedro de Alvarado was sent to explore the land south of Mexico and he discovered Guatemala in 1523.

Culture

- Guatemala speaks 22 different languages. The most used languages are Spanish, Kiche, Q'eqchi, and Kaqchikel. Spanish is the most popular language though. Hola means hello and adios means goodbye in Spanish.
- Pepian in Guatemala national dish. Pepian is a very old dish, its one of the oldest meal still made in Guatemala. Pepian is like a chicken stew, usually Severo on a tortilla with a side of rice. You can get pepian almost from any restaurant in Guatemala. You can get it from a fancy restaurant to a street truck.
- Guatemalas music is very diverse. Many towns have wind and percussion bands, usually played during lent and Easter week. The most important instrument is the marimba, its mostly used for Guatemala traditional songs.
- Easter is a very important holiday in Guatemala. In Antigua, Guatemala Easter is a big deal. They have parades and Siri pretty distraught and lots of visitors , Easter is a Holy Week in Guatemala.
- Rigaberta Menchu Is a very important woman in Guatemala. She was born the year before Guatemala Civil War started. Rigaberta grew up in a ingenious family, then soon became a activist. She thought for ingenious rights and leader won the Nobel peace prize.



What do you like best about this country?



- I like that Guatemala is known as the land of trees. Quite a moles of known as the land of trees because Guatemala is covered in trees, also got him is known as the country of internal spring because of a tear around mild climate.
- One thing that stood out to me is how diverse Guatemala is. You already know Guatemala speaks 25 languages but Guatemala also has 25 ethnicities and 4 cultures, Ladina, Xinca, Garífuna, and Mayan.
- Coffee is a very big deal in Guatemala, like a really big deal. 90% of Guatemala's exports is coffee, coffee is also want to Guatemala's biggest income. Guatemalas coffee has a rich, amazing taste with cocoa flavor. So if you want a good cup of coffee go to Guatemala!
- I thought it was very cool that the first chocolate bar was invented by Guatemalan during the Mayan times. It was made in 1847.
- I think it's cool how many people visit Guatemala. Guatemala gets many tourist. They get more than 1.2 million Who is it from each year.
- Mayans wear many different colored clothing. Each town has it own individual design of clothing.



How does Fishers Junior High benefit from having families from this country as a part of our school and community?

- They bring new cultural perspectives and ideas. They help us see things differently which could help us solve problems. Also they bring different things from their cultures to Fishers, for example food or art and Guatemala brought Pepian, the dish I made. The main thing is the Guatemalans help bring diversity.

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