

PAÍSES—clave

1. México

- a. la alfarería—pottery, differs by region
- b. la joyería de plata—silver jewelry; Taxco is the center for silver
- c. Tenochtitlán and náhuatl—Aztec capital (current day Mexico city); language of the Aztecs
- d. las pirámides de San Juan Teotihuacán—Just North of Mexico City, built in 150 BC. “The place where men become Gods.” [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

2. Guatemala

- a. el quetzal—bird with long feathered tail, dies in captivity. Currency of Guatemala.
- b. Tikal—Mayan ruins (one of largest Mayan cities) [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- c. El lago Atitlan—deepest lake in Central America (a collapsed volcano)

3. Honduras

- a. Copán—Mayan ruins, large number of hieroglyphics [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- b. Islas de la Bahía—old stronghold for the Pirates of the Caribbean, islanders are native English speakers
- c. cosas de madera—carved wooden figures

4. **Nicaragua**

- a. los volcanes—found in the middle of Lake Managua.
- b. el Lago Nicaragua—los tiburones en el agua dulce

5. **Costa Rica**

- a. las carretas—ox carts that were once used to take sugar cane to mills (now colorful souvenirs)
- b. Arenal—active volcano (one of 10 most active in world)
- c. Tico—Costa Ricans call themselves this
- d. “Pura Vida”—popular greeting/comment

6. **El Salvador**

- a. tamaño (size) del país—slightly smaller than Massachusetts
- b. La Guerra de fútbol—4 day war between El Salvador and Honduras about immigration. Coincided with rioting during a World Cup.

7. **Panamá**

- a. el canal—built by US in 1914, went back to Panama in 2000. 43 miles long
- b. las molas—cloth pictures made by the Kuna
- c. Casco Viejo/Antiguo—la ciudad vieja. [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

8. Cuba

- a. La Habana Vieja-- [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- b. Castillo San Pedro de la Roca(or del Morro)—fortress
- c. Barrio Chino—Havana's chinatown. Chinese brought to work sugar cane fields along side slaves
- d. Guantánamo—US Naval Base in Cuba
- e. El béisbol/la salsa (el baile)

9. La República Dominicana

- a. Los indios Taíno/Quisqueya—original inhabitants of Hispaniola.
- b. Hispaniola/Cristobal Colón—Island with Haiti/D.Republica. First European colony in Americas.
- c. el ámbar—amber jewelry (fossil-like sap from trees, petrified)
- d. Catedral de Santa María la Menor—oldest cathedral in the Americas. [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

10. Puerto Rico

- a. Los indios Taíno Boricua (Borikén)—original inhabitants of Puerto Rico
- b. La salsa (el baile)
- c. El Morro—fortress in Puerto Rico (San Juan) built by Spanish in 1539 for protection.
- d. El béisbol/la salsa (el baile)

11. **Argentina**

- a. la pampa—grasslands where gaucho lives
- b. el gaucho—cowboy
- c. la yerba mate—tea served in a gourd and sipped through a metal straw
- d. la catarata de Iguazú—waterfalls between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay
- e. el Cristo de los Andes—statue for peace in the Andes between Chile and Argentina (1904).
- f. el tango

12. **Uruguay**

- a. Punta del Este—most popular beach resort
- b. La Mano en la Arena—huge hand statue coming out of the sand
- c. El Candombe—national dance of Uruguay. African roots, drum lines down the streets.

13. **Paraguay**

- a. los indios Guaraní
- b. Guaraní—el idioma—first Indian language to be official language of country. (2 along side Spanish)
- c. la yerba mate-- tea served in a gourd and sipped through a metal straw
- d. la catarata de Iguazú-- waterfalls between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay

14. **Chile**

- a. los Andes--mountains
- b. el cobre--copper
- c. el Atacama (desierto)—northern Chile
- d. la Isla de Pascuas—Easter Island, huge figures made of stone called “moai”. 1200 years ago “Rapa Nui” people inhabited island
- e. Aymara—indian group
- f. un charango—type of guitar

15. **Bolivia**

- a. Tiawanaku—indian ruins— precursor to Incan culture
[UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- b. el lago Titicaca—lake between Peru/Bolivia. Highest in altitude in the world.
- c. la llama—camel-like animal used for wool/beast of burden
- d. la alpaca—similar to the llama, but smaller

16. **Perú**

- a. el lago Titicaca--lake between Peru/Bolivia. Highest in altitude in the world.
- b. los incas—indians in Andes regions
- c. Cuzco—Capital of Incan empire
- d. Machu Picchu—city of the Incans, uncovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham
- e. la llama (see above)
- f. la alpaca (see above)

17. **Ecuador**

- a. el ecuador--equator
- b. los sombreros de jipijapa—city in Ecuador. “Jipijapa”
Palm plant found here. Panama hats made of this plant
and worn by canal workers.
- c. los Galápagos—Incas 1st visitors. Known for huge
tortoises and Iguanas—only sea-going in the world.
- d. los tapires—pig-sized mammal with a short snout, like
an ant-eater.

18. **Colombia**

- a. el café—coffee is the main export
- b. las esmeraldas—emeralds. ½ of all emeralds in world
come from Colombia.

19. **Venezuela**

- a. el petróleo—main export
- b. el Orinoco—major river in Venezuela
- c. El Salto Ángel—tallest water falls in the world

20. **España**

- a. la Alhambra (en Granada)—palace of the Moors in
southern Spain [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- b. Toledo/el acero—city most famous for medieval sword
making /steel. Cultural “hot-spot”—many
artists/writers. Christianity/Judaism/Islam co-exist here.
[UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

c. el Prado (en Madrid)—Art Museum, features art from the 12-19th centuries including Las Meninas

d. la Reina Sofia (en Madrid) —Modern Art Museum featuring Guernica

e. **las islas de España**

1. las Islas Canarias: in the Atlantic (Tenerife)

2. las Islas Baleares: in the Mediterranean (Las Palmas, Majorca, Mallorca, Ibiza)