

## South America: A Class Field Trip!

**WebQuest Description:** South America is a land full of rich culture, exciting wildlife, and interesting places. Use this Webquest to take you on a journey through one of the twelve countries of South America. Use the information you learn in this Webquest to persuade your teacher to take your class on a South American field trip!

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** South America, Countries, Letters, Culture, Geography, Research

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### Introduction

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! Your teacher has greatly enjoyed teaching you all about South America and the Latin American culture over the past few weeks! In fact, she has enjoyed it so much that she has decided to visit South America for a class field trip! The only problem is there will only be time to visit ONE country in South America. Your teacher cannot decide which country to pick! They all seem so interesting and appealing! She has decided to leave the planning up to you! Now, don't worry! Your teacher will handle all of the travel arrangements. Your only job is to decide which South American country to visit! This is a very important decision! Which country would you like to visit on a class field trip? Use this Webquest to help you research the twelve different countries in South America. Once you have taken a tour of the country, you will write a letter to your teacher to persuade them on the country you have chosen! Make sure you find enough information to show your teacher what an awesome and interesting place South America can be!

### Tasks

The Choice is Up to You! Your teacher is counting on you to choose one of the twelve countries of South America to visit on your class field trip! It is your job to take a tour of South America and learn about what the continent has to offer! First: You will be given a partner to help you with your research! The continent of South America is very large, so you will need your partner's help to learn all that you can about the continent! You and your partner will take a tour of the continent TOGETHER, and TOGETHER you will decide which country your class will visit on a field trip. Second: After choosing one of the twelve countries with your partner, PRINT A FACT SHEET for both you and your partner to use to research your country. The fact sheet is divided into two parts: Geography and Culture. One person will research the geography of your country, which includes size, location, population, capital, climate, language, and landforms. The other person will research the culture of your country, which includes celebrations, businesses, and religion. You will use the websites provided in the Webquest to find your information. Third: Exchange information with your partner so that your ENTIRE FACT SHEET is filled out. Using this information, write a letter to your teacher persuading them why your class should visit the country you have chosen for your class field trip. Good luck and choose wisely!

### Process

Follow All Steps Carefully! Read All Directions! Have Fun! 1. The name of your partner is listed on the front chalkboard. Next to each of your names is a number. This is your assigned computer in the computer lab. You and your partner will be assigned two computers that are NEXT TO each other in the computer lab. These are the only computers that you will use in the lab. You will only use the links that are on this Webquest. All computer lab rules apply! 2. Take a tour of the twelve countries of South America! Visit Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela through the videos on the website listed below titled SOUTH AMERICA TOUR. Click on the name of each country of South America to see a list of videos. Click on THE FIRST VIDEO LINK for each country. Watch only one video from each country. After watching one video from each country, choose ONE COUNTRY with your partner to research. 3. Print the FACT SHEET that is listed below, one for you and your partner. Decide who will research the geography of your country and who will research the culture of your country. Follow the links listed below to find all of the facts about your country to fill in your fact sheets. Fill out your entire fact sheet and exchange information with your partner! 4. After filling out your entire fact sheet, you will write a list of reasons why your class should visit your country for their class field trip. Use the LIST OF REASONS sheet below. Print one for you and your partner. Be sure that you support your reasons with evidence and facts that you learned from the Webquest! 5. Using your list of reasons, you will write a letter to your teacher to persuade them on why your class should visit the country you have chosen on a field trip. Remember the format of a friendly letter that you learned in class last week! Also, remember that in order to persuade your teacher, you must include evidence in your argument!

### Evaluation

Students will be graded on their fact sheet, list of reasons, and persuasive letter.&nbsp; The focus of the grading is on content rather than mechanics.&nbsp; Students will be graded individually.&nbsp; Therefore, each partner will receive his or her own grade.

Category and Score	1 : Unacceptable	2: Poor Work	3: Good Job!	4: Excellent!	Score
Fact Sheet	Student fact sheet has not been filled out at all.	Student fact sheet is partially filled out with information. Only half of the boxes are completed.	Student fact sheet is filled out with information found from given sources, but one box is empty.	Student fact sheet is completely filled out with information found from given resources.	25%
List of Reasons	Student did not complete a list of reasons.	Student has listed 3 reasons and supported each reason with evidence from fact sheet.	Student has listed 4 reasons and supported each reason with evidence from fact sheet.	Student has listed 5 reasons and supported each reason with evidence from fact sheet.	25%
Persuasive Letter	Student does not write a persuasive letter.	Student has attempted to write a persuasive letter, but the letter is not in the correct form. It is difficult to understand and no evidence from facts or reasons is provided.	Student has written a persuasive letter in the correct format. The letter is somewhat easy to understand and some parts are confusing. The student does not use all evidence from the facts and reasons in the letter.	Student has written a persuasive letter in the correct letter format. The letter can be easily read and understood. The letter includes reasons and facts learned from Webquest.	40%
Effort	Student puts no effort into the assignment, does not get along with partner, does not stay on task, and does not complete the assignment.	Student has minor issues with partner, does not stay on task, and completes only half of the assignment.	Student has minor issues with partner, stays on task, and completes all but one part of the assignment.	Student works well with partner, stays on tasks, and completes all parts of the assignment.	10%
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Its time to pack your bags! Congratulations students!&nbsp; You have successfully researched a country of South America!&nbsp; You have learned about the geography and culture of the country, and have decided that it would be a wonderful place to visit on a class field trip!&nbsp; You have completed a list of reasons why your country would be the best place for a field trip, and you have written these reasons down in a letter to your teacher! Your teacher will be very impressed with all that you have learned about your country!&nbsp; If you are feeling confident that your country will be chosen, head home and start packing your bags!&nbsp;

## Teacher Page

This Webquest was used as a summative assessment to a multicultural literature study on South America.&nbsp; This Webquest can be used in conjunction with a similar study, or one its own for a introduction to the continent of South America. The Webquest is designed to meet the following Indiana State Standards: Geography 3.3.7: Physical Systems: Describe how climate and physical characteristics of a region affect the vegetation and animal life living there. Geography 3.3.9: Human Systems: Identify factors that make the region unique, including cultural diversity, industry, the arts, and architecture.&nbsp; Reading 3.2.5: Distinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository (informational) text. Reading 3.2.7: Follow simple multi-step written directions. Writing 3.4.2: Discuss ideas for writing, use diagrams and charts to develop ideas, make a list or notebook of ideas. Writing 3.4.2: Create single paragraphs with topic sentences and simple supporting facts and details. Writing 3.4.4: Use various reference and research materials. Writing 3.5.6: Write persuasive pieces that ask for an action or a response. Writing 3.5.3: Write personal, persuasive, and formal letters.

### Standards

### Credits

### Other