

Colombian library goes beyond books to keep stories alive

Level 1: Elementary/Pre-Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes the efforts being made to promote the culture of an ethnic minority group in Colombia.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

Key:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>site</i> | 6. <i>wrapping</i> |
| 2. <i>carve</i> | 7. <i>community</i> |
| 3. <i>indigenous</i> | 8. <i>award</i> |
| 4. <i>ancestors</i> | 9. <i>threat</i> |
| 5. <i>recipe</i> | 10. <i>displace</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to answer the questions and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. The answers given are suggested answers. Students may answer correctly in different ways, e.g., in item 1 they may say 'every month' or 'each month'.

Key:

1. *once a month*
2. *cameras and sketch pads*
3. *10,000*
4. *They tell them about the past and how indigenous people saw things.*
5. *They made videos.*
6. *one box of books*
7. *The library won a national library award.*
8. *about 35,000*
9. *They killed and displaced hundreds of people.*
10. *in the early 1990s*

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the general topic area of South America and to find out what students know about this area. Note that French Guiana is a department of France rather than a sovereign country, so it is not one of the 12 countries. Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country on the continent. The others are Spanish-speaking with the exception of Suriname, which was formerly a Dutch colony.

Key:

1. *Bogotá*
2. *Portuguese*
3. *twelve*
4. *peso*
5. *Chile*

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that the term *community centre* is often used for a building that is used by the whole community for social events, meetings, etc. The word *recipe* is often mispronounced by learners – the stress is on the first syllable of this three-syllable word (*/re-si-pi/*).

4. Key language

- a. Students can check their answers by finding these phrases in the text. Note that *think of* is used to mean *have an opinion about* as in 'What do you think of him?'.

Key:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. <i>at</i> | 4. <i>by</i> |
| 2. <i>about</i> | 5. <i>of</i> |
| 3. <i>to</i> | 6. <i>with</i> |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas. Make sure they say why they agree or disagree with the statement.

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6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to open an internet web browser and type in 'Colombia'. The answers to all the questions should be relatively straightforward to find.