

Name: _____



Fantastic Places of the World

Touring Costa Rica

I've been thinking about going to another country for some time, but I couldn't decide which one. Did you know that there are almost 200 countries in the world? I only knew 4, so trying to decide the next vacation destination was tough. On the one hand, I wanted to go to a coastal area, where I could go to the beach and play in the sand. On the other hand, I like nature and animals very much, so I would like a country with mountains, jungles, forests, or other wooded areas. I also love visiting big cities with lots of monuments and museums.



After giving it a lot of thought, I suggested to my family that we go to Costa Rica. Have you ever heard of this country? It is located in Central America, between Panama to the southeast and Nicaragua to the north. It also borders with the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

San José, the capital, has many large buildings, parks, and monuments. The language they speak is Spanish, so we will have no problem understanding each other. The slogan of the country, Pura Vida, means pure life which describes the spirit of Costa Rica.



The climate in Costa Rica is tropical. There are two main seasons, the dry season is summer, and the rainy season is winter. The weather is mild, so there are no major changes from one season and another. That makes the choice of clothing and footwear much simpler.

Its flag has blue, white, and red horizontal stripes. It flown at official buildings and some houses.



It is interesting to know that it is a very mountainous country, with magnificent mountain ranges, mountains, and volcanoes. Yes, you heard correctly, volcanoes! One of the most famous and important is the Arenal Volcano, that last erupted in 2008.

Costa Rica also has several rivers, lakes, and waterfalls. Most of the rivers are in mountainous areas. The largest river in the country is called the Térraba River. An indigenous community lives near the river and uses the water resource to live.

Costa Rica is a country with a lot of flora and fauna. Its national flower is the Purple Guaría, a beautiful orchid with bright colors. They are found mainly in the central valley of the country. Costa Ricans use the orchid in some ceremonies, such as in Lent



It is amazing to observe all the animals it has. Its national bird, called yiguirro. Because of its powerful and melodious singing, many writers mention it in stories and national poems. It is a medium-sized, clay-colored thrush with a yellowish beak. The yiguirro's diet consists of seeds, fruits, worms, and insects.

The inhabitants of Costa Rica work in two main sectors, agriculture or tourism. Costa Ricans grow mostly pineapple, coffee, and bananas among others.

Because of the number of tourists visiting Costa Rica, ecotourism is crucial. Ecotourism seeks to reduce the environmental impact, to take care of the environment while the country continues to develop.



Having talked long and hard with my family, we have finally decided that we will go to Costa Rica. I am so excited! I only have 2 months left, and in the meantime, Pura Vida!



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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



1. What does the slogan "Pura Vida" mean in the text? (3rd paragraph)

- a. greetings
- b. a goodbye
- c. an indiscreet question
- d. a pure life



2. What is a similar word for "wooded"?

- a. mountains
- b. forest
- c. volcano
- d. none of the above is correct

3. Why do you think there is an indigenous community living next to the river?

- a. Because they had no other place to live.
- b. Because they didn't want to live near the volcanoes.
- c. Because the river gave them water and fish to eat.
- d. Because they were afraid of water.



4. What makes you think that Costa Ricans value the environment?

- a. They take care of tourism to bring a lot of money.
- b. Take care of tourism so that it is ecological and not harmful to the environment.
- c. Take care of tourism so that it develops by polluting because it gives many benefits.
- d. All the answers are correct.

5. What part of the story describes the location of Costa Rica?

- a. the beginning of the story
- b. the middle of the story
- c. the end of the story
- d. does not say anywhere in the story



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6. What are the inhabitants of Costa Rica called?

- a. Costaricanos
- b. Costa Recanos
- c. Costa ricos
- d. Costa Ricans

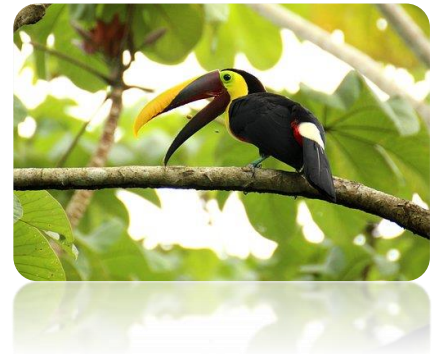


7. What can be deduced after reading the story?

- a. Costa Rica has few volcanoes.
- b. Costa Rica receives little tourism.
- c. Costa Rica has a lot of diverse fauna and flora.
- d. All the answers are correct.

8. What characteristics does the tropical climate have?

- a. It is humid and hot.
- b. It is cold.
- c. Snowy.
- d. It seems deserted.



9. What is grown in Costa Rica?

- a. banana, rice, pineapple
- b. coffee, pineapple, banana
- c. pineapple, banana, rice
- d. coffee, pineapple, sugar



10. If Costa Rica is in Central America, that means

-
- a. It is in the middle of the Americas.
 - b. It is close to America.
 - c. It is in the south of Central America.
 - d. All answers are wrong.



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ACTIVITIES

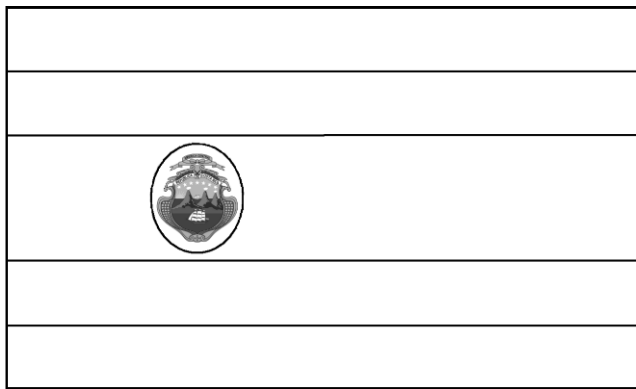
Now that you have read the selection about Costa Rica, the time has come to investigate this country in more depth.

Research using the internet, books, or guides. If you need help, you can ask your parents or others in your family.

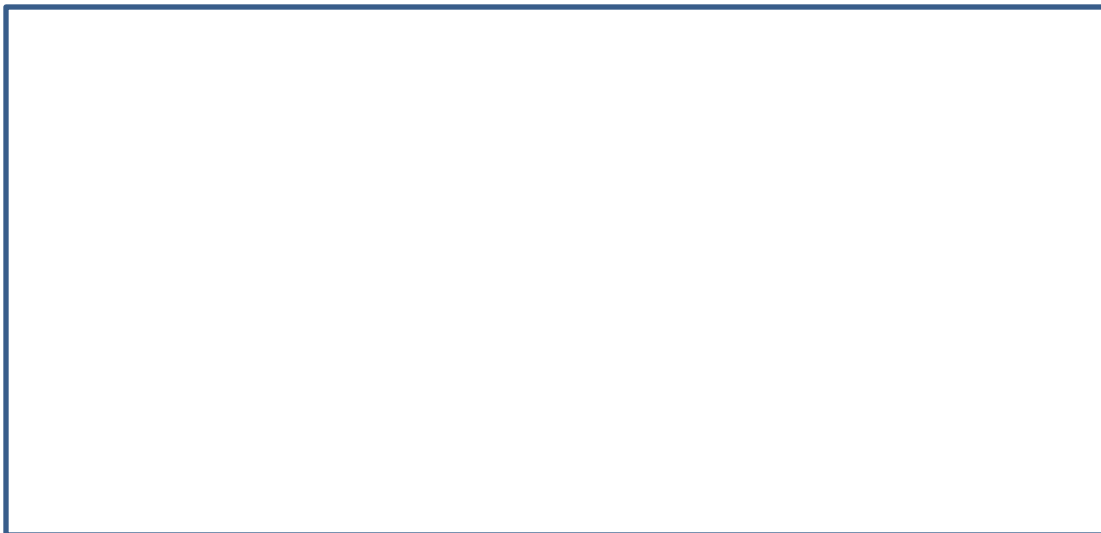
1. **Location:** Show where the capital, the Arenal Volcano, the Térraba River, and all the countries and seas that border Costa Rica are located on the map.



2. **Flag:** Color the flag of the country correctly.



3. **Flora:** Draw the Purple Guaría. Add information about this flower.



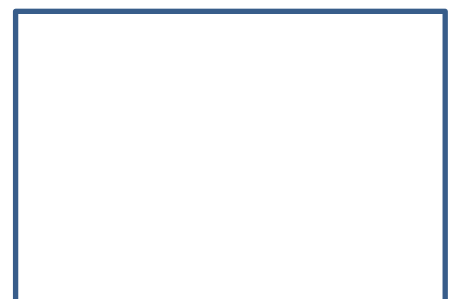
4. **Fauna:** Research the yigüirro (where it lives, what it eats, how it reproduces, its nests, its description), write a few sentences with the information you find and draw a picture of it.



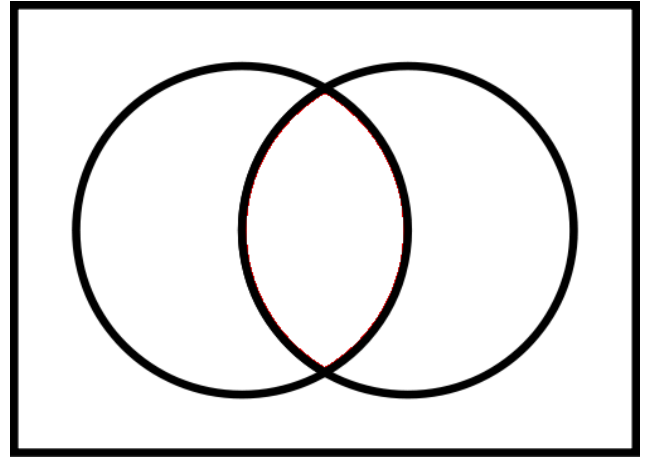
5. **Famous people.** Research a famous Costa Rican character. Write a few sentences about the person and why you chose that person.

6. **Hobbies:** Research what hobbies or activities Costa Ricans enjoy doing. Write a few lines about it. Tell if you would like to try any of them and why.

7. **Cuisine:** Research its cuisine. Choose one and write about it, include the ingredients and a recipe. Draw a picture of it..



8. **Education:** Research about the education in Costa Rica. For example, what age do they start attending school and what subjects do they have. Do a comparison of their education with your education using a Venn Diagram.



9. **Volcanos:** You know that Costa Rica has many volcanoes. Research one of them and write a few sentences about it. Include a description of its size, its classification, and its eruptions. List the active volcanoes in Costa Rica.

10. **National Park:** Choose a National Park in Costa Rica and write about it. Include the type of vegetation and animals found there, park rules for visitors, tours offered, and the cost. Write whether you would visit it and why. Mark its location on the map.

Remember to write neatly and check for any spelling mistakes. Go ahead, you can do it!

