

If you can't go out, why not travel the world from home?

This week we travel to Guatemala.

Geography

Guatemala is a country in Central America. It is known for its mixed culture, a product of both Mayan and Spanish cultures, from the colonial period. [Guatemala](#) is known for its ever-changing weather, a product of the mountain range which crosses the centre of the country. Guatemala has many languages, a total of 23. Because of its natural beauty, it is a popular tourist destination.

The capital of Guatemala is Guatemala City. Sadly, the country suffers from extreme poverty.



Music

In Guatemala, the marimba is the national instrument. It is an instrument that is composed of rows of wooden bars, and it is played with mallets. A marimba is usually played with three people when it is a smaller one and four with a bigger one. Click on the picture to hear the music; it sounds a little like a carousel. Make your own xylophone using paper tubes.



*Be very careful when cutting the tubes; work with an adult *

Can you play a tune?



Guatemala is home to the first chocolate bar. The Mayan civilization invented it by using cocoa beans, a product that is now world famous. Many varieties of fruit grow in Guatemala, as it has a varied climate. Raspberries, blackberries, bananas, mango, papaya and pineapple are common. Let's make a simple dessert or snack using chocolate and fruit.



- Wash your hands and the fruit of your choice.
- Melt chocolate.
- Dip part of the fruit in the chocolate and place the fruit on plate.
- If you want, use sprinkles or sea salt to sprinkle on the chocolate before it hardens.
- Put in the fridge to set. Enjoy!

Quetzal



The quetzal is the national bird, and the name of the currency (money) used in Guatemala.

[Try making your own.](#)

Visit Tikal: once used as a set in the original 'Star Wars' Films.



Language

There are many languages spoken in Guatemala. The main language is Spanish, spoken by just over half the population. Spanish is spoken in lots of other places too. Do you know where? Click [here](#) to learn many different words and phrases in Spanish.



Barriletes Gigantes

The tiny town of Santiago Sacatepequez in Guatemala is famous for its annual gigantic kites festival on 'el Dia de Todos los Santos', Day of the Dead or All Saints' Day. The gigantic kites, Barriletes Gigantes, were originally flown as a way to remember and connect to ancestors. Click the picture to make a version of a barriletes gigantes.



Find out more...

- Which countries border Guatemala?
- How many volcanoes are in Guatemala? Which is the biggest?
- What is the name of the precious stone found all over Guatemala?

There are no limits to what you can discover!