LESSON 2

LHM—GUATEMALA

Curriculum
The History of Guatemala

The famous Maya Indians were some of the first known inhabitants of Guatemala. They originally settled in the Northern Plain region and developed very sophisticated systems of writing, mathematics, and a very accurate calendar. They built elaborate temples, pyramids and palaces. The most famous of these sites is Tikal, which is in the northeast corner of the country. No one has been able to accurately determine why the Maya left their communities around 900 A.D., but when the Spanish arrived, the Maya had moved south and were living mainly in the Highlands. A large Spanish expedition of soldiers was sent from Mexico to invade Guatemala in 1523. The goal was to conquer the country and claim its resources and riches for Spain. Indian groups were defeated and forced to work as laborers on Spanish-owned plantations.

Guatemala and other Central American countries declared their independence from Spanish rule in 1821. Since that time, political unrest has been constant. Military dictators have organized revolts and takeovers. Power has changed hands through force as often as through election. A 1986 constitution calls for a president to be elected by popular vote, but this has not put a stop to violent and forceful actions. The economy has suffered from a lack of strong, consistent leadership, and investors have hesitated to put large quantities of money into an unstable government.
### Lesson 2 – Lesson Plan – Who Built Up Guatemala?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC INFORMATION BY LEVEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The Maya were some of the first known inhabitants of Guatemala.</td>
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<td>• Elaborate temples, pyramids and palaces were built.</td>
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<td>• Tikal, located in the northeast corner of the country, is the most famous of the sites where these were built.</td>
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<td>• Maya Indians abandoned their cities around 900 AD</td>
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<td>• Spanish expedition of soldiers was sent from Mexico to invade Guatemala in 1523</td>
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**Important:** Keep student maps each day—they will be adding to them every day for take-home at the end of the week.

### GOALS FOR THE LESSON

**PRE-K/GRADE 4**

Children will be able to identify some of the many things created by God and constructed by people in Guatemala.

**GRADES 5-8**

Children will be able to identify some of the many things created by God and constructed by people in Guatemala.

**ADDITIONAL TEACHER CONTENT FOR USE AT ANY LEVEL**

Additional Information:

- Guatemala and other Central American countries declared their independence from Spanish rule in 1821.
- 1986 constitution calls for a president to be elected by popular vote.
- Economy has suffered from a lack of strong, consistent leadership.

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

**PRE-K/GRADE 4**

Students will color the second page of the map.

**GRADES 5-8**

Students will color the second page of the map.

Optional Extension for grade level: BLM G3

**ADDITIONAL TEACHER CONTENT FOR USE AT ANY LEVEL**

Additional options in lesson plan details

### SUGGESTED MATERIALS

**PRE-K/GRADE 4**

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- GMAP1 from yesterday & GMAP2
- BLM G2
- Miguel the Cochero script 2 (BLM 3)

**GRADES 5-8**

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- GMAP1 from yesterday & GMAP 2
- Blackline master G2 Optional: G3
- Miguel the Cochero script 2 (BLM 3)
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<td><strong>LESSON PLAN DETAILS</strong></td>
<td>Long ago in Guatemala, the people built big cities and temples to worship their gods, but the people died and so no people lived in the temples and cities anymore. Things have changed a lot. Things change for us too, but Jesus never changes. We can always count on His love. (See Hebrews 13:8)</td>
<td>Long ago in Guatemala, the people built big cities and temples to worship their gods, but the people died and so no people lived in the temples and cities anymore. Things have changed a lot. Things change for us too, but Jesus never changes. We can always count on His love. (See Hebrews 13:8)</td>
<td>Students attach map pieces 1 and 2 today. People have been given the brains and creative ability to build many wonderful things. The Maya built huge temples and pyramids long before the invention of heavy machinery or sophisticated building supplies and equipment. God also has created families, a way to build relationships and pass on the love He has first shown to us. Ask students to identify and discuss things that have been built in their neighborhoods, cities, countries, and lives. Do these buildings and relationships glorify God? Is there anything they could do to point others to Christ in the way they live or in the things they create with their God-given talents?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moving On</strong></td>
<td>Today you will add a second piece to your map. Depending on the age and abilities of your children, you may wish to have someone glue the two pieces together before distributing the maps to the children.</td>
<td>Today you will add a second piece to your map. Show the picture and say, “This is Miguel and his sons. They are a happy family. They enjoy being together. All of us who believe in Jesus are members of God’s family. We want the children in Guatemala to know about Jesus and be a part of His family.”</td>
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<td>“This is Miguel and his sons. They are a happy family. They enjoy being together. All of us who believe in Jesus are members of God’s family. We want the children in Guatemala to know about Jesus and be a part of His family.”</td>
<td>“Long, long ago, many people lived in the jungles of Guatemala. They built cities. They built temples to worship many gods. They did not worship Jesus. Long ago, those people died. Today, monkeys and beautiful birds live where the people once did. Things have changed. When we share the Good News about Jesus with the children of Guatemala, they can believe in the Savior. Jesus is alive! Jesus does not change! This is Good News to share!”</td>
<td>1. Words for the day—— madre (mother) padre (father) familia (family) construir (build) crear (create)</td>
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<td><strong>Moving on</strong></td>
<td>Moving on: Distribute the blackline master. It is a drawing of Miguel and his sons. Say, “Jesus loves Miguel and his sons. Color their pictures and then draw yourself and your family and your friends in the picture. Fill the picture with people that Jesus loves! Jesus loves you! Jesus loves the children of Guatemala!”</td>
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<td>2. BLM G3 — Students see an example of a stele. These carved stone monuments told stories of ancient gods and gave times and descriptions of important events. Have students create a stele of their own to tell the story of God. Creation might be symbolized by a world, clouds, trees; redemption by a cross, crown of thorns, tomb; heaven by sun, crown, dove, angels. If students finish, have them use separate paper to create a stela which represents their family or important events in their life.</td>
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**CLOSING PRAYER**

“Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. You love the children of Guatemala. Thank you for making us part of Your family. Help us to share the Good News of Your love with the children of Guatemala. We love You, Jesus! Amen.”

Ask students to join in a prayer thanking God for one tangible (house, streets, car) thing in their lives and one person (friends, grandmother, parents) who has helped them develop their daily walk with God. After students have had a moment to think, give them directions for an order to follow and have them state their thanks as a closing prayer. The teacher might begin with a short example and close with thanks for the Gospel message that will be given to the children in Guatemala.
Script Two

(Miguel enters with a soccer ball.) Goals in soccer, goal to share with the children in Guatemala.

Miguel: “Buenos días (BWAY-nose DEE-ahs)! I am Miguel the Cochero, at your service. (Miguel takes off his hat in a sweeping bow.) I’ve come from beautiful Guatemala! If you could take a ride in my horse cart through the streets of my city, we would pass by children playing soccer. The Spanish name for soccer is fútbol. The children in Guatemala love soccer! They practice and practice. They especially wish to do one special thing—kick the goal! Tssst, tssst! When they kick that goal, how they celebrate!

Miguel: This week, during our unit on Guatemala, we are working hard to make a goal too. Our goal will not be when we kick a ball, but to share the message of Jesus with the children of Guatemala! Our goal is to pray for all of the children in Guatemala. Every single prayer is important to helping make our goal. Then we will celebrate! Vaya con Dios! (VI-ah con DYOS)! Go with God!”
Amigos en Cristo
Friends in Christ
WHAT CAN YOU BUILD?
WHO WILL “HEAR YOUR STORY?”

The ancient Maya were a highly developed people. They lived in northern Guatemalan tropical forests from about 300 A.D. – 900 A.D. Remains from their civilizations show that they were master architects, mathematicians, astronomers, artists, and writers. One way they communicated and preserved their history and culture was through carving on a stele, a tall stone pillar decorated with intricate symbols, dates, and pictures. The example shows a warrior, a corn crop with rain and symbols for months. Use your own creative ideas to use the stele on the right to tell God’s story with symbols and pictures. You might want to divide it into three sections: creation, Jesus’ payment for sin, and heaven.