The People of Guatemala

The population of Guatemala is approximately 15.1 million. There are two main groups of people in Guatemala. Indians are descended from the original Maya civilization which thrived in Guatemala between about 300 and 900 A.D. Many groups speak languages and follow traditions passed down by their ancestors. Ladino or mestizo refers to people of mixed Spanish and Indian ancestry. Ladinos speak Spanish most of the time and follow more Spanish or Western customs and traditions. There is a greater concentration of Indians in the western Highlands, while there are Ladinos in the eastern Highlands. Estimates report that about half the people in Guatemala are illiterate. Even though school is mandatory and free, you may not attend if you do not have a pencil. There are neither enough schools nor teachers to accommodate the needs of the people. Many families find it difficult to own substantial pieces of land and must work for minimum wages on larger plantations.

Guatemalan people are proud of their traditions and heritage. Woven skirts, shawls, and belts often reflect the tribe or family ancestry. Masked dances are common at frequent rural town festivals. The marimba is the national musical instrument and often is used to accompany these dances. It is similar to a large xylophone made of hollow wooden boxes.
### LHM – GUATEMALA

**Lesson 3 – Lesson Plan – Who Loves Guatemala?**

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<tr>
<th>BASIC INFORMATION BY LEVEL</th>
<th>GOALS FOR THE LESSON</th>
<th>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SUGGESTED MATERIALS</th>
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<td><strong>PRE-K/GRADE 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Crayons, markers, colored pencils, GMAP from yesterday, BLM G4 or BLMG5, Miguel the Cochero script 3 (BLM 4), GPIX 3, GPIX4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRADES 5-8</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ADDITIONAL TEACHER CONTENT FOR USE AT ANY LEVEL</strong></td>
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*• There are two main groups of people in Guatemala. Indians descended from the original Maya people. Ladino or mestizo refers to people of mixed Spanish and Indian ancestry. It is estimated that approximately half of Guatemalans are illiterate. School is mandatory and free.*

**Important:** Keep student maps each day—they will be adding to them every day for take-home at the end of the week.

*Children will be able to “connect” with Guatemalan children by writing letters which share friendship and God’s love. Students will add pictures to the map for two items learned about Guatemala.*

PRE-K/GRADE 4

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- Indians descended from the original Maya people.
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- It is estimated that approximately half of Guatemalans are illiterate.
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**Additional options in lesson plan details**
Lesson 3 – Lesson Plan – Who Loves Guatemala? (cont.)

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<th>LESSON PLAN DETAILS</th>
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<th>GRADES 5-8</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL TEACHER CONTENT FOR USE AT ANY LEVEL</th>
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<td><strong>Jesus loves us and the children in Guatemala.</strong> Jesus is with us and with the children in Guatemala. Limit the time you spend on this section to allow the children to use the copy of the black-line master to write a note or draw a picture for the children in Guatemala. Distribute the student map and show the picture of the girl from Guatemala and of the market and say, “We talked about the country of Guatemala and of the children who live there. This picture shows us other children who live in Guatemala. The picture shows how they can make money for their family. There are many more children in Guatemala like them. Jesus loves them all.” You may wish to write a note together that the children copy on their paper. Sample: Dear Amigo my name is (their name). I live in (your location). Jesus loves you! He loves me, too! He died and rose again for you and me! Your amigo en Cristo, (their name). (Amigo en Cristo means friend in Christ.) Another choice is a page with no lines to use to draw a picture. Say, “Today we will draw a picture to show the children that Jesus loves them. What could you draw that would show Jesus’ love?” Show the children that the words “Jesus te ama!” is written in the border. This means “Jesus loves you” in Spanish.</td>
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<td>Add picture 4, Girl doing wash. Pix 5 – Smiling girl with purple purse. Pix 6 – Pix 7 – Jesus. As students discuss the pictures and attach all three map pieces together, help them to recognize the differences in culture (washing methods, dress, homes) while at the same time having the same universal need—Jesus’ forgiveness. The picture of Jesus is at the center of the map, just as He is at the center of our lives as Christians. Moving On 1. Words for the day - Jesucristo (Jesus Christ) - amigo (friend) - compartir (share) - Biblia (Bible) - cielo (heaven) 2. Students will be able to write a letter to a Guatemalan child as part of the lesson. The master has a small map of North and South America and John 3:16 written in Spanish at the bottom. Encourage students to share personal information as well as a message of God's love for their brothers and sisters in Guatemala. Ambitious writers may want to try to include some of the Spanish words they have learned during the lessons.</td>
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**Closing Prayer**

After the children have finished their notes and pictures, you may wish to gather the children in a prayer circle and place the papers in the middle. Or, gather around a classroom altar. Then, say this echo prayer: “Dear Jesus, bless the message/ of our letters and pictures. May the children in Guatemala/ believe that You love them. Let them know/ we love them, too. Thank you/ for Your love Jesus.” Amen.

**Dear Lord, we thank You for meeting our needs and giving us an opportunity to share with others. Forgive the times we have not shared willingly or with a joyful heart. Bless these pictures and messages to our friends in Guatemala and let those who receive them know of Your love for them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**
Script Three

(Miguel enters with a letter and a picture.)

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 cart along the roads of Guatemala, people would wave and greet us! We are friendly people! Our friends and family are very important to us. We love to do special things for them!

Miguel: “A special message to a new friend in Guatemala is one of the things that goes a long way. You will each make one. The message you create might be like this beautiful picture. I like this one—it shows the love Jesus has for us. On this picture is written, “Jesús te ama (HAY-soos tay Ah-mah)—Jesus loves you!” Or, you might write a letter a little like this: ‘Dear Amigo, my name is Julie. I live in (your location). Jesus loves you! He loves me, too! He died and rose again for you and for me! I hope you know how much Jesus loves you! He wants us to learn more about Him. Your amigo en Cristo, Julie.’

Miguel: “Both of these messages will tell a child in Guatemala about Jesus. When you write your message this week you are being a true friend! God bless you and your service! Vaya con Dios! (VI-ah con DYOS! Go with God!”

LHM – GUATEMALA, LESSON 3 – BLM4
Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en Él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna.” John 3:16
Draw a picture for a friend in Guatemala.

Jesus te ama!
(Jesus loves you!)