



ECUADOR

Teacher's Guide

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Ecuador Teacher's Guide

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Ecuador Script

Ecuador is a land of extremes. In cities like Quito and Guayaquil, the country has been changing rapidly to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Ecuador's economy mostly depends upon agriculture. While the country does export petroleum, agriculture employs as much as a quarter of the nation's workforce. Known for the production of sugar, tomatoes, barley and corn, in Ecuador, one can find street vendors selling everything from pineapples to grapefruits, to wheelbarrows full of cherries.

Ecuador's geography is very diverse. With an amazing amount of plant and animal life, the country's natural environment attracts visitors from all over the world. With towering peaks that plunge from the Andes Mountains into the Amazon Basin, Ecuador is a land of rich cloud forests, flower farms, beautiful valleys and stunning waterfalls.

A trip to Ecuador can be a great experience. The country has Native American villages, exciting market towns and endless surprises. Bienvenidos al Ecuador. Welcome to Ecuador. We hope you will enjoy your visit.

In centuries past, Ecuador was home to both mountain and coastal cultures dating back thousands of years. They were succeeded by the Inca, one of the most exceptional civilizations in the Americas. Famous for their precise stonework, the Inca arrived in Ecuador less than 100 years before being overthrown by the Spanish.

The official language in the country is Spanish. But more than 20 other native tongues are also in use, including Kichwa, known as Quechua in Peru. The majority of Ecuador's people are mestizos, having a mixture of Spanish and Indian blood. Ecuador was named after the Equator in 1563. It's a small country, about the same size as the U.S. state of Nevada.

Ecuador has more than a dozen different ethnic groups. About 25% of the country's population is indigenous, totaling three and a half million people. Ecuador's Indians may descend from the Inca, but they have developed their own original dress, customs and lifestyles as well. These differ from similar groups in Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Roman Catholicism is the country's main religion. Ninety-five per cent of the country's people are Roman Catholic. The Catholic Church continues to play a central role in Ecuadorian society.

Ecuador's wealthiest city, Guayaquil, is a huge seaport exporting bananas, shrimp, cocoa and coffee. With a population of more than two million, the city is Ecuador's largest. While it may have fewer attractions than Quito, Guayaquil is a modern city full of shopping malls, museums, and attractive neighborhoods. Guayaquil has had its ups and downs over the years. Its tropical climate made it ripe for diseases like smallpox and typhoid fever. In years past, the city has been attacked by British, Dutch and French pirates.

One of Guayaquil's attractions is called "el Parque Bolivar," named after Simon Bolivar, the liberator of South America. An ideal place for students, parents and small children, the park is one of the few places in the world where land iguanas can be seen out in the open. The iguanas can grow to be three feet long.

Guayaquil has more than a few rough edges. But the city has recently had a major facelift. The highlight of the new Guayaquil is the Malecon 2000, a nearly two mile riverfront park along the banks of the Rio Guayas. With botanical gardens, a pond, several restaurants and even an IMAX theater, the park has created a safe and attractive environment for thousands of Ecuadorians. The park ends at the hilltop neighborhood of Cerro Santa Ana, which feels a bit like San Francisco.

Six hours from Guayaquil by road, we find the lovely city of Cuenca. With clean streets, beautiful weather and colonial architecture, Cuenca has a nice mix of galleries, leather shops and cafes. The city has stores that would feel right at home in London or New York. Cuenca has so many churches that it's hard to keep track of them. The giant domes of Cuenca's main cathedral are made out of blue tiles from Czechoslovakia. From the hillside neighborhood of "el barranco," or "the cliff," the city is most impressive. Cuenca was built by the Spanish out of Inca stonework. The city's flower market is a sight to behold. It's held mostly outdoors. The flowers, which include roses and carnations, are sold locally but are also exported worldwide.

Cuenca's art students remind us that Ecuador is a country of artisans. While the nation has few art galleries, paintings can be found throughout Ecuador, at street fairs and markets and along the boardwalk in Guayaquil.

Ecuadorian music has international appeal. Folklorico styles in particular, have been around for centuries. Traditional instruments continue to be used widely. One is called the rondador, or panpipe made of bamboo. Another is the charango, a mandolin-like instrument with five double strings. Charangos are sometimes made out of armadillo shells.

Food in Ecuador can vary from place to place. Standard meals include rice, beans and chicken, sometimes cooked in coconut sauce. Meals are often served with potatoes, which originated in the Andes. A popular lunch dish at the seacoast is encebollado, a fish and onion soup made with hard kernels of corn. It's usually served with fried banana chips or popcorn. In the Amazon region, one can find river fish like catfish and piranha. Steamed fish are also popular. They're often wrapped in bijao leaves for flavor.

Unusual dishes include tortuga, or turtle, along the Amazon and most famously, cuy, or roasted guinea pig.

Many Ecuadorians buy their food at outdoor markets. The markets may be crowded and noisy but they're exciting as well. The variety of items is enormous and prices are cheaper than anywhere else.

Ice cream is a passion all over Latin America. Ecuador is no exception. The country's cafes and pastry shops serve high quality baked goods and visiting them in the evening can be a treat.

Outdoor eating is routine in Ecuador. Meals are served outdoors both day and night.

Ecuador is a paradise for fresh fruits such as papaya, watermelon and mangos. Juices are mostly called “jugos,” but fruit shakes made with milk, sugar and fruit are called “batidos.”

A traveler’s hideaway and a playground for tourists, Baños is a popular resort town tucked away high in the Andes. Its location is one of the most beautiful in all of Ecuador. The name Baños comes from the hot springs that flow beneath the city’s volcanic rock, creating thermal baths. Ecuador has ten mountain peaks that are over 15,000 feet high. Some are volcanoes, quite a few of which are active. The volcano that towers over Baños to the south is nicknamed “throat of fire.” There have been a number of serious eruptions and the city has been evacuated more than once.

With its gorgeous hills, Baños is a hiker’s paradise. It’s also popular with travelers who enjoy rafting, cycling and horseback riding.

Many of Ecuador’s towns have large arts and crafts markets. A few date back to pre-Inca times. Some towns have daily markets, others once a week affairs. Some attract local villagers, others international tourists. Most goods are from Ecuador but they are from other parts of Latin America as well. At such markets, one can find everything from sweaters and blankets to woven handbags and jewelry, from spices to music CD’s. Also for sale are dolls that are used to decorate gravestones. Weaving techniques that are centuries old are practiced in Ecuador to this day. Ecuador’s markets are a wonderful place to see the country’s culture at its best.

The city of Tena brings us into Ecuador’s Amazonas region. Sometimes called the cinnamon capital of Ecuador, Tena has lately been specializing in ecotourism.

With a land mass covering nearly half the country, Ecuador’s Amazonas region is also called “el Oriente.” Its rivers are formed by melting snow in the Andes which flows into the Amazon Basin and eventually, the Atlantic Ocean. Many parts of the Amazon can be reached only by plane or motorized canoe. The soundtrack in the jungle is mostly that of birds and insects. The rain forest contains hundreds of bird species, including parrots, egrets and macaws. One might also stumble upon animals ranging from turtles to the coati to an elusive jaguar or margay. The area is also home to some fifteen thousand plant species. Some plants are used as medicine, treating everything from arthritis to ulcers, from diabetes to parasites.

The discovery of oil in the 1960's was damaging to the Amazonas. Some cultures and ecosystems were destroyed in less than 20 years. Logging and mining also have taken their toll. But earnings from ecotourism are now helping to preserve much of the area’s resources. Forests have been set aside as national parks and nature reserves.

Some Ecuadorian tribes have had contact with the outside world only since the 1970's. Throughout the Amazon today, from Brazil to Colombia, from Ecuador to Peru, tribal groups are being driven into smaller and more remote territories. For many, living by traditional means is becoming more and more difficult.

Nestled in a valley 10,000 feet, the city is the second highest capital in South America, after La Paz, Bolivia. Quito has 86 churches. Many are attached to monasteries, chapels or convents. A mix of Spanish, Moorish and indigenous influences, Ecuador's capital is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sadly, the city is also located on a major fault line for an earthquake.

Part of Quito is called the "New Town," an area that's growing rapidly. Traffic problems are becoming severe and air quality has deteriorated. Many parts of Ecuador, Quito included, are being overbuilt.

Nearly two miles high, Quito's weather feels like May in New England. Evenings, however, are much cooler.

The city's old town is one of the most impressive colonial centers in the Americas. With its cobblestone streets, steep hill and narrow byways, the city is the heart and soul of Ecuador. There are always surprising events going on in Quito. Whether they be political rallies, festivals or military bands, the city surely keeps visitors on their toes.

Ecuador is not a country that is stuck in the past. Volunteers have recently been helping to bring the internet to small villages. The country's newer restaurants have international appeal and cable TV can be found nearly everywhere.

We'll continue to hear about Ecuador in the future. The country's rich oil reserves, its large Amazonas Region and its relations with neighbors like Colombia and Peru will keep the nation in the news.

Ecuador's people and natural beauty are unforgettable. It's exciting to see a country that is moving forward while also preserving its rich and varied past.

Gracias por visitar al Ecuador. Esperamos que regresen pronto. Thanks for visiting Ecuador. We hope you will come back soon.

Glossary

Arthritis - swelling of the joints

Barley - a kind of cereal grain

Civilization - the ways of life of a people who have developed cities, and agriculture

Cobblestone - large natural rounded stone used for paving streets

Descend - to go down

Deteriorate - to worsen

Diabetes - a sickness that caused more urine production

Ecosystem - an environment and its animals, plants and other living things

Ecotourism - tourism that seeks to limit effect on environment

Parasites - Organisms that live in or on another organism (its host) and benefit by deriving nutrients at the host's expense

Petroleum - a dark, sticky liquid that occurs naturally and is found underground. It is used to make things like gasoline

Piranha - a kind of tropical South American fish that can sometimes attack large animals as a group

Political - having to do with government

Small pox - a disease that was common in the past that came with boils and was very deadly

Typhoid fever - a disease caused by a bacterium in food and or water

Ulcer - a disease caused by bacteria in food or water

Introduction

Ecuador is famous for being the home of the Galapagos Islands. It is also the home of Quito which along with Krakow was the first UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites.

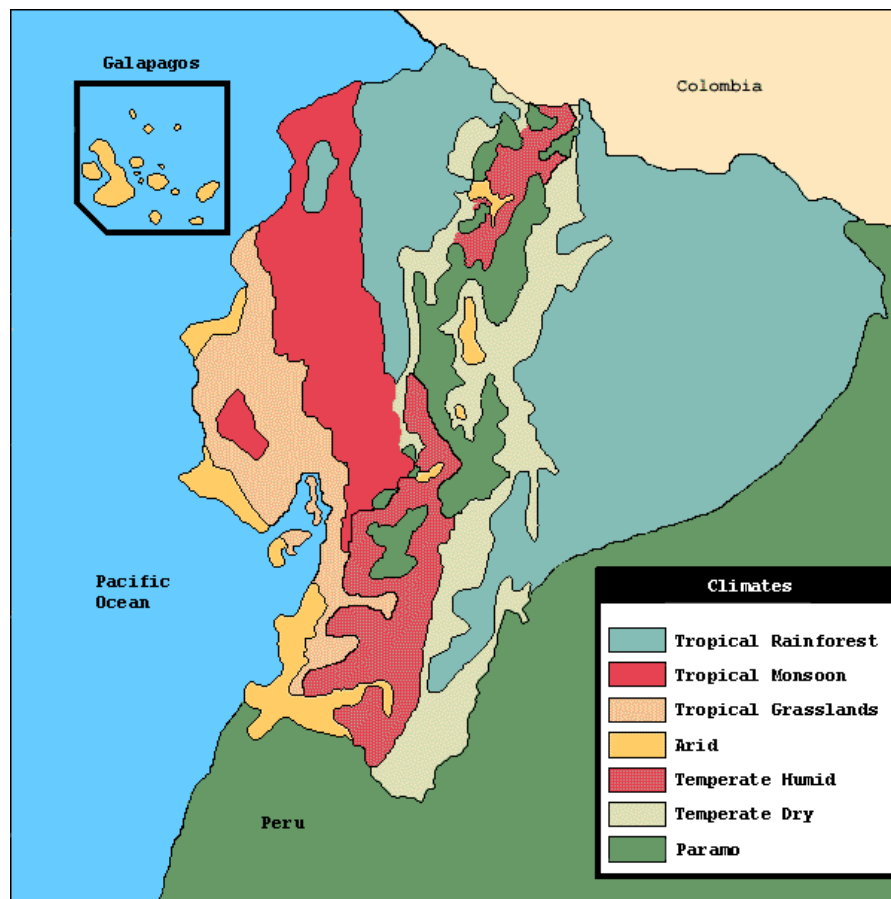
Land and Climate

Ecuador is about the size of Arizona, Italy or Philippines. It lies in the northeast of South America and is bounded by the Pacific Ocean, Peru and Colombia. The country is comprised of a large coastal plain, a chain of mountains that are part of the Andes and the tropical rainforests of the Amazon basin.

The climate is determined by the latitude, the proximity to the ocean and the altitude. The higher the latitude the cooler it is. The coastal areas are affected by ocean currents and between January and April are hot and rainy with average temperatures of 25 °C (77 °F). The oceanic breezes make its temperatures lower than lands in similar latitudes.

Proximity to the equator yields a fairly constant climate, and an upland location like Quito would have a subtropical highland climate with average temperature of 64 °F (18.9 °C). The dry season (summer) runs from June to September and the wet season (winter) is from October to May.

The Amazon basin has a tropical climate. There are basically two seasons: a rainy season and a not-so-rainy season. In the rainy seasons, one can expect up to 60-180 inches. In the "dry" season, one can expect anywhere from 30 inches to 100 inches.



Source: <http://myweb.unomaha.edu/~mschweitzer/geog3000/Ecuador/wc3map.gif>



Source: <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/samerica/ecnewzzz.gif>

Plant and Animal Life

Forests cover approximately 40% of Ecuador. Ecuador is the eighth most biodiverse country on Earth. Ecuador has almost 20,000 species of plants, over 1,500 species of birds, more than 840 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 341 species of mammals.

At the coast there are mangrove swamps; around the mangrove roots live fish, mollusks, crustaceans and many other invertebrates. On the branches you'll find nesting and resting pelicans, frigates and other sea birds. Today, many of these trees are being destroyed by the development of Ecuador's shrimp farms.

Tropical dry deciduous forests still exist along the coast, where there are distinct wet and dry seasons. Logging has reduced much of the original forest cover.

Tropical cloud forests are found in isolated valleys in the highlands. This is an uncommon type of tropical rain forest. They are so named because the trees trap and create clouds which provide moisture allowing several types of plant species to survive. The dense vegetation of this type of forest allows rare species of mammals to survive, such as the woolly monkey, tapir, Andean spectacled bear, and puma.

Rainforest animals include capybaras, manatees, anteaters, caiman, river dolphins and anacondas. Among of the great number of plants include 4500 species of orchids.

Above this altitude lies the paramo, or high altitude grasslands and shrub lands. The soils are wet and peaty, and collect water which is eventually collected and used by people in the highland's towns and cities. Llamas are raised in some areas.

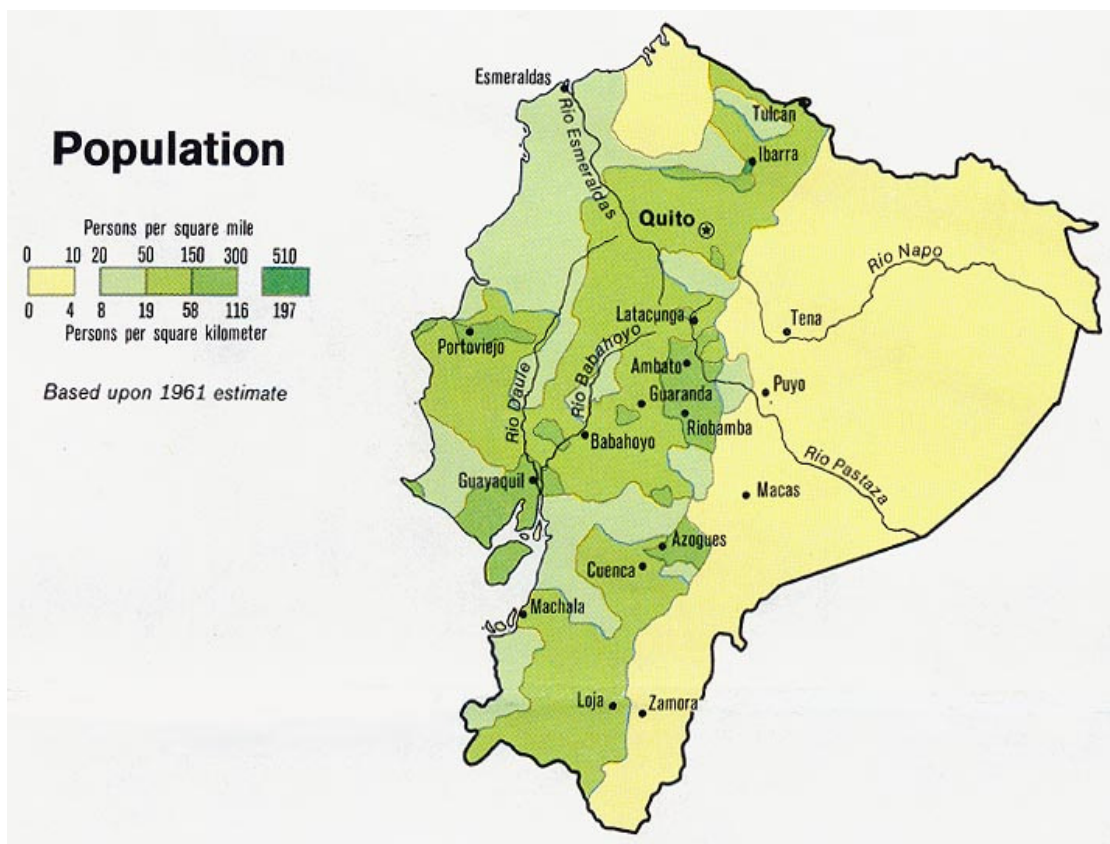
The Ecuadorian government created a national park and a biological marine reserve around the areas of the Galapagos Islands. Sea lions, tortoises and marine iguanas are the major large animals of the islands.

People

The Ecuadorians today are mostly the descendants of Spanish colonialists and Amerindian women. These mestizos comprise 70% of the population. Another quarter are pure Amerindian, the remnants are a small European and mulatto population.

As the first Spaniards did not bring their women, many took Amerindians as wives. There was no large scale importation of African slaves to most mainland Spanish colonies in South America.

The population density map shows that the Amazon region is sparsely populated and the majority of the population lives around the highlands on the Amazonian side of the Andes with another cluster around Guayaquil and Portoviejo.

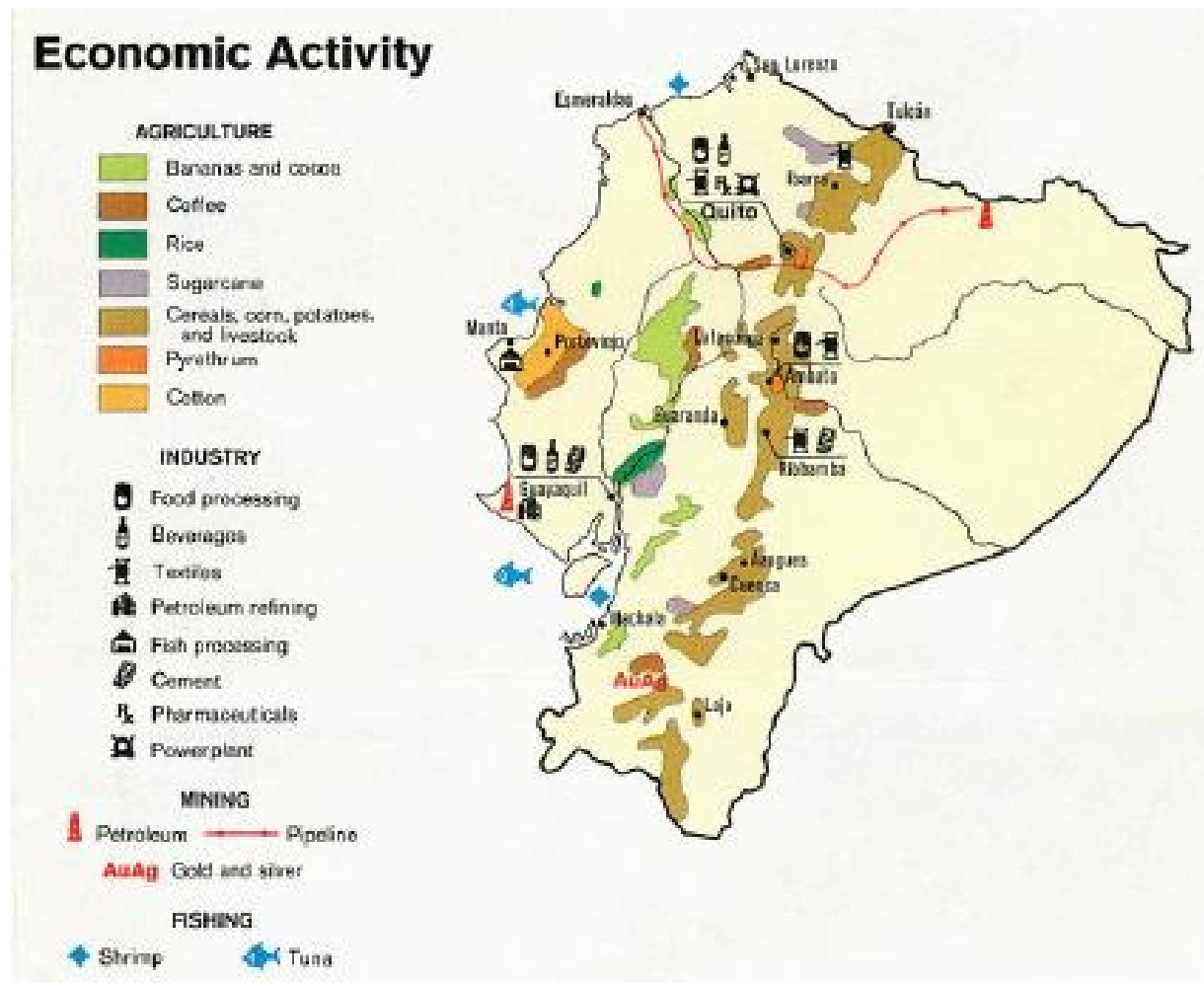


Source http://images.nationmaster.com/images/motw/americas/ecuador_pop_1973.jpg

Economy

The major agriculture products are bananas, coffee, cocoa, rice, potatoes, manioc (tapioca), plantains, and sugarcane. Livestock include cattle, sheep, and pigs. There is also commercial cultivation of balsa wood, and a large fishing industry with fish and shrimp as major products.

Industries include petroleum, food processing, textiles, wood products, chemicals, and dairy products.



Source http://www.zonu.com/imapa/americas/small/Ecuador_Economic_Activity_Map.jpg



Source <http://myweb.unomaha.edu/~mschweitzer/geog3000/Ecuador/r1map.jpg>

The road network shows that the Guayaquil, Quito and Manta triangle is the most economically active parts of Ecuador. The limited number of roads crossing the Andes from the ocean to the Amazons illustrate the fact that the mountain ranges are still a significant barrier to movement.

History

There is evidence of human habitation in the area of Ecuador for over 11,000 years. The first evidence of farming dates from 8000 years ago. 5500 years ago a culture known as the Valdivia thrived along the coast. The Valdivia lived in a community that built its houses in a circle or oval around a central plaza and were sedentary people that lived off farming and fishing, supplemented with hunting. From the remains that have been found, it has been determined that Valdivians cultivated maize, kidney beans, squash, cassava, hot peppers and cotton plants, the latter of which was used to make clothing.

The Valdivia culture was the first to use pottery in the Americas. Valdivian pottery initially was rough and practical, but it became splendid, delicate and large over time. They generally used red and gray colors; and the polished dark red pottery is characteristic of the Valdivia period. In their ceramics and stone works, the Valdivia culture shows a progression from the simplest to much more complicated works.

A period of growth and integration followed. Trade routes were established as far as Western Mexico, Chile, the Andean highlands and the Amazon basin. Villages organized themselves into confederations, and many different cultures appeared, coalesced and subjugated each other.

In 1463, the Incan empire based in Peru began its conquest of Ecuador. In less than 50 years, it had conquered the whole area. In 1531 Francisco Pizarro landed on the Pacific coast of Ecuador with his conquistadores during an Incan civil war and an epidemic. The Spanish quickly destroyed the Incan empire with the help of the recently defeated local Amerindian peoples. Spanish landlords were given large tribal areas to rule.

The Spanish mostly left the highland Amerindians to themselves. The major economic activity occurred along the coast. Here Amerindians could be hired or coerced to work in textiles or manufacturing.

The coastal economy revolved around shipping and trade. Guayaquil, despite being incessantly plagued by either yellow fever or malaria, was a center of vigorous trade among the colonies, with Guayaquil becoming the largest shipbuilding center on the west coast of South America before the end of the colonial period.

The Ecuadorian economy, like that in the mother country, suffered a severe depression throughout most of the eighteenth century. Textile production dropped an estimated 50 to 75 percent between 1700 and 1800. Ecuador's cities gradually fell into ruins, and by 1790 the elite was reduced to poverty, selling haciendas and jewelry in order to subsist.

The 19th century brought stronger sentiments for independence. With help from both Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin, Ecuador threw out royalist Spanish forces. A period of warfare ensued to determine whether Ecuador would be part of some Latin American confederation.

In 1830 the Republic of Ecuador was established, and civil strife marked most of its next 150 years. In search of better opportunities, almost half a million Ecuadorians have immigrated to the United States and another million to Europe.

Since 1979, Ecuador has had a transition to democratic government. It has been a beneficiary of the commodities boon in the early 21st century.

Flag of Ecuador



Three horizontal bands of yellow (top, double width), blue, and red with the coat of arms superimposed at the center of the flag; the flag retains the three main colors of the banner of Gran Columbia, the South American republic that broke up in 1830; the yellow color represents sunshine, grain, and mineral wealth, blue the sky, sea, and rivers, and red the blood of patriots spilled in the struggle for freedom and justice

Note: similar to the flag of Colombia, which is shorter and does not bear a coat of arms

Map of Ecuador



Some Basic Quechua Words

<u>English</u>	<u>Ecuadorian Quichua</u>
One	Shuc
Two	Ishcai
Three	Quimsa
Four	Chuscu
Five	Pichca
Man	Cari
Woman	Huarmi
Dog	Allcu
Sun	Inti
Moon	Quilla
Water	Yacu
White	Yurag
Yellow	Quillu
Red	Puca
Black	Yana
Eat	Micuna
Hear	Uyana
Sing	Taquina

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What languages do Ecuadorians speak?
A. Spanish and Quechua B. Spanish and English C. Spanish and French
2. What kind of geography does Ecuador not have?
A. Low lying coastal region B. High mountain ranges of Andes
C. Amazonian basin rain forests D. Temperate zone plains
3. Who are Ecuador's nearest neighbors?
A. Bolivia and Peru B. Peru and Colombia C. Brazil and Peru
4. What is the largest ethnic group in Ecuador?
A. Whites B. Mestizos C. Amerindians
5. Which of the following is not a top export of Ecuador?
A. Wheat B. Petroleum C. Flower
6. Which of the following countries do not lie on the Equator?
A. Ecuador B. Panama C. Brazil
7. Which one of the reasons did not contribute to the low level of economic development in Ecuador?
A. Difficult Geography B. Political Instability C. Foreign Invasion

Answers to Multiple Choice Questions

1. What languages do Ecuadorians speak?
A. Spanish and Quechua

2. What kind of geography does Ecuador not have?
D. temperate zone plains

3. Who are Ecuador's nearest neighbors?
A. Bolivia and Peru

4. What is the largest ethnic group in Ecuador?
B. Mestizos

5. Which of the following is not a top export of Ecuador?
A. Wheat

6. Which of the following countries do not lie on the Equator?
B. Panama

7. Which one of the reasons did not contribute to the low level of economic development in Ecuador?
C. Foreign Invasion

True or False Questions

1. T F Spanish is the only national language of Ecuador.
2. T F Weather in most part of Ecuador is wet.
3. T F Ecuador is on the continent of North America
4. T F There are many species of animals and plants in Ecuador.
5. T F Very few Ecuadorians use technology.
6. T F Guayaquil is the largest city in Ecuador.
7. T F Spain and Mexico are neighbors of Ecuador.
8. T F Ecuador is very mountainous.
9. T F Ecuador is an underdeveloped country.

Answers to True or False Questions

1. F Spanish is the only national language of Ecuador.
2. F Weather in most part of Ecuador is wet.
3. F Ecuador is on the continent of North America
4. T There are many species of animals and plants in Ecuador.
5. T Very few Ecuadorians use technology.
6. F Guayaquil is the largest city in Ecuador.
7. F Spain and Mexico are neighbors of Ecuador.
8. T Ecuador is very mountainous.
9. F Ecuador is an underdeveloped country.

Appendix: Facts about Ecuador

Geography

Total: 283,561 sq km

Land: 276,841 sq km

Water: 6,720 sq km

Note: includes Galapagos Islands

Elevation extremes:

Lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m

Highest point: Chimborazo 6,267

Note: due to the fact that the earth is not a perfect sphere and has an equatorial bulge, the highest point on the planet furthest from its center is Mount Chimborazo not Mount Everest, which is merely the highest peak above sea-level

Natural resources: petroleum, fish, timber, hydropower

Land use:

Arable land: 5.71%

Permanent crops: 4.81%

Other: 89.48% (2005)

Interesting fact: Cotopaxi in Andes is highest active volcano in world

Economy

GDP: \$84 billion (31 December 2012)

Agriculture - products:

bananas, coffee, cocoa, rice, potatoes, manioc (tapioca), plantains, sugarcane; cattle, sheep, pigs, beef, pork, dairy products; balsa wood; fish, shrimp

Industries: petroleum, food processing, textiles, wood products, chemicals

Exports:

Exports - commodities: petroleum, bananas, cut flowers, shrimp, cacao, coffee, hemp, wood, fish

Exports - partners: US 34.41%, Peru 10.05%, Chile 7.15%, Panama 5.3%, Colombia 4.58%, Russia 4.11% (2009)

Imports:

Imports - commodities: industrial materials, fuels and lubricants, nondurable consumer goods

Imports - partners: US 28%, Peru 10.05%, China 11%, Colombia 9%, Peru 5% (2009)

Ecuador uses the United States dollar as legal tender.