

Cultura 3 B

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Diego Rivera (1886-1957) This detail of a mural entitled “La Gran Tenochtitlán” by Mexican artist Diego Rivera is located in the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City. It shows *el tianguis*, the bustling marketplace at Tenochtitlán, capital of the Aztec Empire. In the foreground there are many kinds of merchandise being traded, including corn and different varieties of beans. This mural is one of many by Rivera that focus on pre-Columbian life and civilizations.

1. Where is Diego Rivera from?
2. What is el tianguis?
3. What was Tenochtitlán?
4. Describe the mural *La Gran Tenochtitlán*.

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El mate is the national beverage of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. This herbal tea is shared among family and friends. It is served hot in a hollow gourd, also called *un mate*, with a straw called *una bombilla*.

5. El Mate is the national beverage of what countries?
6. What is el mate?
7. How is it served?

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La tomatina. How would you like to attend a festival where a gigantic food fight with tomatoes is the highlight of the day? That’s what happens at the annual *Fiesta de la Tomatina* in Buñol, Spain. After the town council distributes more than 130 tons of ripe tomatoes to participants, the hour-long tomato throwing festival begins.

8. What is la Tomatina?
9. Where does it take place?
10. How long does it last?

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Los mercados, or open-air markets, are common throughout Latin America. Many towns have a central market, held on a given day of the week, where people come from all around to buy and sell food, as well as flowers, crafts, and clothing.

11. What is a mercado?
12. What happens at un mercado?

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El fútbol is the most popular sport in the world, and has many *fanáticos* (fans) in every Spanish-speaking country. Every four years, teams throughout the world compete regionally in order to become one of the 32 teams to advance to the World Cup (*la copa mundial*). Many Spanish-speaking countries compete in what has become the most widely watched sporting event in the world. Since the competition began in 1930, three Spanish-speaking countries have won the World Cup competition. Uruguay in 1930 and 1950, Argentina in 1978 and 1986, and Spain in 2010 (which was the last world cup). Spain also won the Euro Cup in 2008 and 2012, and is considered one of the favorites to win the 2014 world cup which will be held in Brazil.

13. What is the most popular sport in the world?
14. What is la Copa Mundial and how often does it occur?
15. Which Spanish speaking countries have won la Copa Mundial?

SOUTH AMERICA

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In the early 1900s, the area of *las cataratas de Iguazú* was made an Argentine national park. Three countries—Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay—meet at these spectacular falls, which are **four** times wider and **two** times higher than Niagara Falls. Hundreds of species of insects, birds, and mammals are found in the area, and at least 500 species of butterflies. As many as 4,000 tourists a day visit the falls, a worrisome number for environmental groups, who continue to lobby against nearby hotel construction projects.

16. What are las cataratas de Iguazú?
17. What worries environmental groups about this area?

At 22,840 feet, Argentina's Cerro Aconcagua is the highest point in the Western Hemisphere, but is considered a relatively easy climb. Chile's Torres del Paine, consisting of three granite towers, are nearly 6,000 feet lower, but their sheer cliffs, high winds, and extreme cold make them some of the most challenging climbs in the world. Both mountains are part of the Andes, a range that extends from Colombia to the southern tip of South America.

(As a comparison, look at this: Denver, the mile-high city, is exactly at 5,280 feet. Mount Everest is at 28,028 feet and 10 inches. Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America, is 20,328 feet and 1 inch. Airplanes fly on average at 25,000 to 35,000 feet)

18. What is the highest point in the Western Hemisphere?
19. Where do the Andes extend from?

Spain introduced horses, cows, sheep, and pigs to the Americas in the sixteenth century, transforming the ecology, culture, and economy of the region. In the nineteenth century, the growth of cities, the expansions of railways, and improvements in shipping created a worldwide market for South American meat and hides—and helped spur the development of the cowboy culture throughout the Americas.

20. What did the Spanish introduce to the Americas?
21. What helped spur the cowboy culture?