



Excursion Guide

Ecuador & The Galápagos Islands

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Read Aloud Folktale, Legend or Myth:

Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale from the Andes Mountains by Barbara Knutson (CarolRhoda Books, 2004): Cuy (pronounced “kwee”) the Guinea Pig is always on the lookout for Tío Antonio, the hungry fox. In this story, Cuy escapes Tío Antonio through a series of clever tricks and gets the last laugh. Most of the story is carried through dialogue, which includes some familiar Spanish phrases such as *buenas noches* and *está bien*. There is a glossary with definitions and pronunciations in the back of the book. The author notes that she learned this Quechua story in Peru; however, Ecuador is also home to part of the Andes Mountains and to the Quechua people. Cuy is Quechua for guinea pig.

Remember to:

- Greet each person individually
- Use a globe or large map to show each person the starting point and destination
- Engage people in informal conversation
- Include supplemental materials such as music, souvenirs, coloring pages, or food to enhance the program



Five Facts About Ecuador & The Galápagos Islands

1. Chimborazo is the highest volcano in Ecuador. It is 20,561 feet tall.
2. Panama hats are made in the small Ecuadorian town of Montecristi. Because they were so popular among Chicago-area gangsters, the broad-brimmed style is still referred to as “El Capone.”
3. Ecuador was once part of the Incan Empire, and the Incan language of Quechua is still spoken there.
4. There are no native human populations on the Galápagos Islands, but they are home to many unique animal and plant species made famous by Charles Darwin.
5. The Galápagos penguin is the only species of penguin found in the Northern Hemisphere.



Annotated Bibliography

Unless otherwise specified, the non-fiction books listed here have many color photographs and images (but not cartoon-style illustrations) and they do not have an intimidating or distracting amount of text on the page. Although many of the selections are children's books, they are not obviously juvenile in their layout and illustrations.

Top Selections

Ecuador by Erin L. Foley and Leslie Jermyn (Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2006): This book is longer than most other selections, but the plentitude of photographs will engage browsers and readers alike. With chapters such as "Ecuadorians," "Lifestyle," "Religion," and "Food," and many photographs of Ecuadorian people, Foley's book does a good job of portraying everyday life in Ecuador and how it is both alike and different from American life.

Ecuador by JoAnn Milivojevic (Enchantment of the World Second Series, 2010): *Ecuador* is full of bright, colorful images of architecture, textiles, festivals, animals and plants, and people. There is a photograph on every page, and the boldface text of the captions encourages reading. The book covers familiar topics such as Charles Darwin and Conquistadors, and less familiar topics such as the variety of ethnic groups in Ecuador. There are ten chapters, including "Tradition and Change," "Natural Wonders," "The Story of Ecuador," and "A Tapestry of Peoples."

The Galápagos Islands by Sara Louise Kras (Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2009): Kras's book is unique among these selections for two reasons: it discusses the people who live on the Galápagos Islands, and some of the photographs are spread across two pages. In addition to the main text, there are smaller "feature" areas, such as "Colorful Sands of the Galapagos," which might feel more accessible to less-confident readers. The book includes six chapters: "A Scientist's Paradise," "Volcanic Land,"



“Bizarre Plants and Animals,” “Pirates and Whalers,” “Living on the Enchanted Isles,” and “Saving a World Treasure.”

Galápagos Tortoises by Conrad J. Storad (Lerner Publications, 2009): There is a photograph on each page of this book, including fascinating close-ups of the animals’ faces, shells, and feet. The photographs convey the strangeness and majesty of these animals. The large font and short sentences may encourage reading in addition to browsing. There are five chapters: “Living Giants,” “Island Life,” “Dome or Saddleback,” “From Egg to Adult,” and “Surviving the Future.”

Insight Guides: Ecuador & Galápagos (Insight Guides, current edition is 2013, but for the purposes of this program, the 2010 edition is suitable): This book is full of colorful, unique photographs, including single- and double-page spreads. Subjects include close-ups of architecture, art, and food, images of nature, urban vistas, and portraits of Ecuadorians at work and play. The variety of subjects clearly demonstrates the vast assortment of cultures and landscapes that make up modern-day Ecuador.



Supplemental Materials

Souvenirs: brightly colored feathers, such as those worn and used by Amazon people; small toys or erasers in the shape of turtles; small Ecuadorian flags

Food: tropical fruit grown in Ecuador, including bananas, honeydew or Cantaloupe melons, strawberries, mangoes, and passionfruit; empanadas or humitas (sweet corn tamales)

Music Suggestions (to search on <http://www.youtube.com> or in your own library's collection): Ecuadorian or Quechua folk music and dancing; quena (traditional flute) music

Free coloring pages are available on the Internet from helpful resources such as <http://www.coloring.ws> and <http://www.supercoloring.com>. All coloring pages are subject to their own terms of use, separate from the Tales & Travel Creative Commons License. The following links are suggested for this Excursion: "Galápagos Tortoise" (<http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/galapagos-tortoise/>) and "Curious Guinea Pig" (<http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/curious-guinea-pig/>).

