

## Comparisons

Optional Student Activities Employing the Five C's of World Language Learning  
Based on the Traveler's Passport to the Caribbean, Central, and South America

- A. (Comparing for understanding and explaining)** When thinking of language, notice that some Latin American countries use a language which may have originated in their own or parent country, in the United States, or elsewhere. Some use several languages. Why do differences in languages between the countries exist? Does distance or trade from a mother country matter in this case? Does immigration make a difference? Are the countries trade partners which influences the type of language used? Such information may help us to understand each country better. To do this, first choose one of the three regions of Latin America: the Caribbean, Central, or South America. Within your region of choice, find the language a country and then find another country in the same region which uses the same language, as well as a different one. To explain why a country sometimes uses a second language, compare and contrast the two countries using ideas from above and your own thoughts. Record these. Afterward, complete the same procedure in the two other regions. Design a poster to explain your findings and conclusions to your classmates and teacher in Spanish.
- B. (Comparing in order to learn)** As a knowledgeable tour guide of Puerto Rican parks (p. 55), design a three-day trip for U.S. citizens to visit the two main Puerto Rican parks - 'El Morro' and 'El Yunque.' Since your clients (students and teacher) are looking for areas that are unique in Latin America, find five facts that are unique to each park. Convince them in Spanish that the unique qualities that they would see in each park would definitely '*¡Vale la pena!*' and that you are the person to lead their expeditions! Remember that you may want to include facts such as location, pictures of local sites, and photos of local cuisine specialties (p. 22) as well. Design your information into a travel brochure and present it to your classmates and teacher in Spanish.
- C. (Comparing in order to reflect and create a sense of awareness)** For fun, look at the colors of the country flags of the Caribbean, Central American, and South American regions. Make a list of the three basic colors that you see as the most commonly used in the flags and then, page by page for each of the regions above, make a tally of how many times each color is used for each region. Record which is the most used (dominant) color for each region?

Next, select two country flags within each region that use its 'dominant color' and record the names of these countries. Are there any reasons that might explain the interest in this color? Hint: Look at the pictures for these countries and consider their landscape's natural colors, animal and bird colors, and the colors of their most favorite foods. Create an interesting poster to demonstrate your findings and present this to your teacher and class.