INTRODUCTION:

Colombia is a geographically diverse country connecting the high Andes Mountains to rainforests to the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. This culture box features items that tell stories of Colombia’s past and present and aims to provide resources for approaching Colombia in a multidisciplinary way.

WHAT THIS BOX INCLUDES:

1. Flag of Colombia, Flag Bag
2. Colombian Peso
3. Reusable Bag
4. Wayuu Bag
5. Images
The flag of Colombia has three horizontal bands of yellow, blue and red. Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela all share the same three colors on their flags with slight variations. There are two popular theories on the significance of the flag’s colors:

Yellow = Sovereignty and justice; or universal liberty.
Blue= Nobility, loyalty and vigilance; or the seas that reach Colombia.
Red= Valor, honor, generosity and victory through bloodshed for Colombia’s independence from Spain; or fraternity.

There is a popular Colombian children’s song which says “yellow is our gold, blue is our vast seas, and red is the blood that gave us our freedom.”
COLOMBIAN PESO

DESCRIPTION

The Colombian Peso is the national currency of Colombia. All the bills are brightly colored. Simon Bolivar and General Francisco de Paula Santander are found on one side of this peso, and on the reverse are images of a waterfall, a mountain, and a condor (bird).

What is the significance of the images depicted on the peso?
REUSABLE BAG

This reusable bag is from the Colombian fertilizer company “Ecofertil.” This company sells different mixtures of fertilizers that help to grow different kinds of crops typical to Colombia, including coffee, rice, bananas, plantains and avocados.
WAYUU BAG

DESCRIPTION

This traditional bag is of the Wayuu people (pronounced “Wah-You”), an indigenous group of the arid Guajira Peninsula in Northern Colombia and northwest Venezuela. The Wayuu live in small settlements called “rancherias,” which are made up of five or six houses. Organized by matrilineal clans, the Wayuu children carry their mother’s last name. The Wayuu women are both the center of their families and cultural leaders. The tradition of weaving bags by Wayuu women is an important part of Wayuu culture.

Wayuu mothers teach their daughters how to crochet and weave. The Wayuu believe that weaving is a symbol of wisdom and creativity. When young Wayuu women come of age, they learn to make the Wayuu bags. Each bag design is unique to the weaver, telling a story through the pattern, colors and shapes. Weaving all day, Wayuu women can take up to a full month to complete one single bag.