

Teaching Guide -The Ica People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Ica people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Ica people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Ica people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Ica people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Ica people group provide for basic human needs:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Human relationships
 - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
 - Are these customs of the Ica people different from the way you live?
 - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
 - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Ica people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Ica people?
 - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
 - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Ica people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
 - Bible stories
 - Christian radio
 - Christian music Christian drama
 - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Ica people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.



I

Ica

(EE-kah)

Jiggle! Clip clop, clip clop! An Ica man rides close to the snow-capped mountains of Colombia. Proudly he wears clothes he wove himself. The poncho stripes and the pattern on the shoulder bags are his own design. His white cap glows like the mountaintop it represents.

Bump! Tara bump! Bump bump! The air ripples with rhythm as a woman throws the pestle in the mortar again and again. Click! Chickety click! An Ica woman always walks and weaves at the same time. Baby snores peacefully in the special hammock slung on her back. Snore and fooh! Bump bump and chickety click! Jiggle and clip clop clip!

The Ica people do not have the Bible in their own language.



The Ica People

Continent: South America

Country: Colombia

Geographical Information:

The Ica (Arhuacos) people live in the South American country of Colombia.

- The country of Colombia shares a border with five other countries. It also has coastline along the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
- Look at the map of South America and find Colombia and its five neighbor countries. Also locate the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
- Colombia has many interesting wild animals. You will learn about two kinds in this lesson. Cotton-top Tamarins are a type of monkey. Anaconda snakes are the largest type of python in the world.

Facts about the Ica people:

- The Ica people live in the high coastal mountain region in the northern part of Colombia.
- There are about 9,000 people who speak the Ica language.
- The people have a few villages with schools, clinics and places for ceremonies and meetings.
- Most of the Ica people do not live in these villages. They live on their own land farming and raising cattle. They stay in the village homes for special occasions.
- The homes of the Ica are different types. Some are rectangular. Other houses are round with cone shaped grass roofs. Most houses do not have separate rooms.
- In the center is the fire used for cooking and light and warmth.
- The Ica people use horses and mules to take goods to market for selling. They also herd cattle. The men and boys ride horses and donkeys.
- Most Ica people make and wear their own type of clothing. It is made of white cotton or wool cloth which is woven by the men.
- Ica men wear wide pants of mid-calf length. They wear a white poncho woven with rays of color. Wide wool or cotton belts and high pointed hats are also worn. The hats are white and represent the snow on the mountain peaks.

- Women wear long white, woven dresses. They carry their babies in woven bags hung over their backs from the forehead.
- Everyone carries a woven bag. Mothers carry small babies in the bag hanging down their backs. Men always have two bags crossing the chest and hanging beneath their arms.
- Most Ica people still believe and worship objects in nature.
- Some Ica people claim to be Christians. They do not live like Christians.

You can pray for the Ica people.

- Pray that the Ica people they will be safe from armed men fighting against the Colombian government.
- Pray that the Ica people will be safe from those who sell drugs.
- That the work of Scripture translation will continue and not be opposed by the Ica leaders.
- That those who claim to be Christian will live lives that honor Jesus and show His love.
- That Ica Christians will share the Message of Jesus with their people.

Colombia Animal Study

Cotton-top Tamarins are found only in northern Colombia. Their name comes from the shock of white hair on their heads. They are about the size of a squirrel and are a tiny type of monkey (primate).

- Cotton-top Tamarins live in trees found in three different climate areas:
 - wet-tropical rainforests
 - moist forests of the Andes Mountains
 - Dry thorn forest/savannah region
- Cotton – tops eat fruit and insects that they find in the:
 - lower portions of the forests. They obtain their water
 - from the fruits they eat and also lick the morning dew
 - off leaves in the forest.
- Cotton-tops live in groups of between 2 –12 animals.
- Female cotton-tops usually give birth to twins once a year.
- Both the males and females of the group care for the infants.
- Fathers, brothers and sisters have been seen carrying the babies on their backs.

Since the forest homes of these Cotton-top Tamarins are being cut down, the number of these cute little animals is getting smaller. Some day they may all be gone.



Cotton-top Tamarin Monkeys



Cotton-top Tamarin

Anaconda Snakes

Anaconda snakes live in the Amazon Rainforest of South America. They are the largest snake in the world. Anacondas continue to grow throughout their life. The longest anaconda ever found was 37.5 feet (11.4 m) long.

- Anacondas are not poisonous.
- They kill animals by squeezing them until they can no longer breathe.
- Sometimes they drown their prey.
- Like all snakes they swallow the prey whole, head first.
- They can swallow very large animals because their jaws stretch.
- Anacondas eat wild pigs, deer, crocodiles, birds, fish, rodents and even people.
- After eating a large animal they don't need food for a long time. They must rest quietly for weeks.
- Anacondas are excellent swimmers and spend most of their time in swampy shallow water.
- They can also climb trees.
- Sometimes they drop from tree branches and quickly wrap themselves around whatever animal they want to eat.
- Female anacondas give birth to live young.
- Between 20 and 40 baby snakes are born at one time.
- They can care for themselves soon after birth.
- Anaconda babies can be eaten by large animals.
- Anacondas are greenish-brown with a double row of black oval spots on the back and white marks on their sides.
- The scale skin is dry even though it glistens like it is wet.
- Anaconda nostrils are on top of their nose which lets them breathe while swimming.
- Anacondas smell with their tongues but they have no fangs.



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