

Me llamo _____.

Es _____.

Español I – Cultura – Capítulo 5A

Hora _____

Costa Rica

Christopher Columbus visited Cariari... (now the city of Puerto Limón) in 1502.

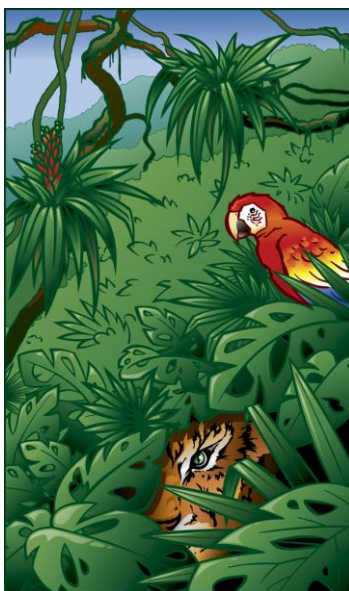
He named the land Costa Rica because... he thought the area offered a wealth of gold and silver.

Today, this small, Spanish-speaking... country has a population of about four million people, most of whom live in the capital and industrial city of San José.

Situated at the center of the American... continent, Costa Rica features a diverse landscape of beaches, mountains, volcanoes (like the Irazú), and rain forests (*selvas tropicales* or *bosques lluviosos*).

In fact, Costa Rica is famous throughout the world for its... ecological tourism and has dedicated over 25% of its land as protected areas, national parks, and reserves, which are the seasonal home for 10% of the world's birds, over 9,000 species of plants, and 1,200 species of orchids.

The country has a long democratic tradition, spends... more money on education than many of its Latin American neighbors, and has had no army for more than 50 years.



It is noteworthy in this peace-loving nation... that one of Costa Rica's former presidents, Óscar Arias, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Costa Rica

Costa Ricans have their own... regional words and expressions that give their Spanish its own special flavor.

For example, they refer to themselves... as *ticos* or *ticas*, which is a typical ending they add to everyday words (chico → chiquitico).

Ticos and *ticas* are courteous and... respectful and do not use *tú* as freely as people from other Spanish-speaking countries.

When you are visiting the country, you may... hear the phrase *pura vida* (pure life), which is very popular as a positive response or reaction to almost any situation.

Other popular expressions in Costa Rica include the following:

¡Buena nota! → Okay!

el chunche → thing (or whatchamacallit)

macho, macha → refers to anyone with blonde hair

maje → buddy, pal (among friends)

