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## Encanto Celebrates the Magic of Colombia

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### Ready

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Movies are made for different reasons. Some are for fun. Others teach about things. What do you think of this idea?

**Fun movies don't to have true facts.**

Agree

Disagree

Explain why you voted the way you did.

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## Read

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**BOGOTÁ, Colombia** (Achieve3000, September 26, 2022). *Where does the magic come from?* This is what Mirabel Madrigal needs to find out in Disney's *Encanto*. But the moviemakers found another kind of magic. It was in Colombia. That's a country in South America. It has a strong culture. And *Encanto* celebrates that in many ways.

One example is the clothing. The people in the Madrigal family wear traditional Colombian clothes. Mirabel wears a colorful dress. It comes from Colombia's Vélez people. She also carries a *mochila* bag. This kind of bag is made by Colombia's Wayuu people.

Colombian food also stars in the movie. Julieta makes popular Colombian foods. One is *arepas con queso*. These corn flour flatbreads are filled with cheese. There is also *ajiaco*. It's a chicken and potato soup.

Then there is the land itself. Colombia is home to many different animals and plants. Many of them appear in *Encanto*. Birds called macaws fly through Antonio's room. He also shares his room with jaguars and smaller animals like capybaras. What about Isabela's colorful flowers? There are real ones just like them. They're all over Colombia.

There are also many butterflies in *Encanto*. You can find them on Mirabel's dress. They're carved on Alma's candle, too. That's because Colombia is home to lots of butterflies. The country has over 3,000 types of them!

Yet the heart of Colombia is its people. And they are all different as well. The movie celebrates this, too. The members of the Madrigal family have different eye and hair colors. They also have different skin colors. This celebrates the fact that Colombians come from many different backgrounds.

Colombian singer Carlos Vives helped with the music in *Encanto*. He likes the movie's diversity. He says *Encanto* shows what it means to be Colombian.

### Think about and discuss these questions:

- What examples would you choose to show Colombia's mix of traditions?
- After reading this article, what other questions do you have about Colombia? Where do you think you might find the answers?

**Want to learn more about the culture of Latin America or other Spanish speakers? Click on the links below to preview these lessons!**

¡Viva Hispanic Heritage Month! (</kb/lesson/preview/?lid=19631&step=11&c=1>)

Cumbia Brings Cultures Together (</kb/lesson/preview/?lid=19043&step=11&c=1>)

The Lowdown on Lowriders (</kb/lesson/preview/?lid=19887&step=11&c=1>)

### Dictionary

**celebrate** (*verb*) to praise something; to say that something is good

**culture** (*noun*) way of life

**diversity** (*noun*) differences within one group

**traditional** (*adjective*) having been around a long time



Credit: Walt Disney Pictures/Album/Alamy

*From its cast of characters to its colorful landscape, Disney's Encanto celebrates the culture and customs of Colombia.*

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**Respond**

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**PART 1**

## Question 1

What is the main idea of this article?

- (A) Many kinds of butterflies live in Colombia.
- (B) *Encanto* celebrates the culture of Colombia.
- (C) The Vélez and Wayuu people live in Colombia.
- (D) *Encanto* shows popular foods of Colombia.

## Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- (A) Colombia is home to people of different backgrounds.
- (B) Colombia is a country that is in South America.
- (C) Colombia is the most beautiful country in South America.
- (D) Colombia is home to macaws and jaguars.

## Question 3

The article says:

Colombia is home to many different animals and plants.... Birds called macaws fly through Antonio's room. He also shares his room with *jaguars* and smaller animals like capybaras.

A *jaguar* is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) plant
- (B) animal
- (C) country
- (D) person

## Question 4

William wants to know more about how to make foods like *arepas con queso*. William should look at a \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) newspaper from Colombia
- (B) map of South America
- (C) cookbook from Colombia
- (D) Spanish-English dictionary

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## Reflect

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Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Fun movies don't to have true facts.**

Agree

Disagree

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**Write**

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The makers of *Encanto* used facts in the movie. How can this help people know about Colombia? Give some examples. What if a movie were made about where you live? What would you like people to know? What facts would you put in the movie? Give some examples.