

EMP5125



# PASSPORT SERIES

## Central & South America



Author: Deborah Kopka  
Contributors: Nancy Klepper and Ann Edmonds (Brazil)  
Editor: Bonnie Krueger  
Original Illustrations: Larry Nolte  
Design and Layout: Jeff Richards

Copyright: 2011 Lorenz Educational Press, a Lorenz company, and its licensors.  
All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy the student activities in this book is hereby granted to one teacher as part of the purchase price. This permission may only be used to provide copies for this teacher's specific classroom setting. This permission may not be transferred, sold, or given to any additional or subsequent user of this product. Thank you for respecting copyright laws.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-1-4291-2259-7



for other LEP products visit our website  
[www.LorenzEducationalPress.com](http://www.LorenzEducationalPress.com)

\*All statistics are based on information from 2010.

\*\* For further information on pronunciations, research foreign language dictionaries and/or the Internet.

# Metric Conversions

The purpose of this page is to aid in the conversion of measurements in this book from the English system to the metric system. Note that the tables below show two types of ounces. Liquid ounces measure the volume of liquids and have therefore been converted into milliliters. Dry ounces measure weight and have been converted into grams. Because dry substances such as sugar and flour may have different densities, it is advisable to measure them according to weight rather than volume. The measurement unit of the cup has been reserved solely for liquid, or volume, conversions.

Conversion Formulas				
when you know	formula	to find		
		when you know	formula	to find
teaspoons	$\times 5$	milliliters	$\times .20$	teaspoons
tablespoons	$\times 15$	milliliters	$\times .60$	tablespoons
fluid ounces	$\times 29.57$	milliliters	$\times .03$	fluid ounces
liquid cups	$\times 240$	milliliters	$\times .004$	liquid cups
U.S. gallons	$\times 3.78$	liters	$\times .26$	U.S. gallons
dry ounces	$\times 28.35$	grams	$\times .035$	dry ounces
inches	$\times 2.54$	centimeters	$\times .39$	inches
square inches	$\times 6.45$	square centimeters	$\times .15$	square inches
feet	$\times .30$	meters	$\times 3.28$	feet
square feet	$\times .09$	square meters	$\times 10.76$	square feet
yards	$\times .91$	meters	$\times 1.09$	yards
miles	$\times 1.61$	kilometers	$\times .62$	miles
square miles	$\times 2.59$	square kilometers	$\times .40$	square miles
Fahrenheit	$(^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times \frac{5}{9}$	Celsius	$(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32$	Fahrenheit

## Equivalent Temperatures

$32^{\circ}\text{F} = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$  (water freezes)  
 $212^{\circ}\text{F} = 100^{\circ}\text{C}$  (water boils)  
 $350^{\circ}\text{F} = 177^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 $375^{\circ}\text{F} = 191^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 $400^{\circ}\text{F} = 204^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 $425^{\circ}\text{F} = 218^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 $450^{\circ}\text{F} = 232^{\circ}\text{C}$

## Common Cooking Conversions

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup = 120 milliliters  
 12 fluid ounces = 354.88 milliliters  
 1 quart (32 ounces) = 950 milliliters  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon = 1.89 liters  
 1 Canadian gallon = 4.55 liters  
 8 dry ounces ( $\frac{1}{2}$  pound) = 227 grams  
 16 dry ounces (1 pound) = 454 grams

# Table of Contents

Argentina .....	4
Brazil .....	25
Chile .....	48
Cuba.....	68
Nicaragua .....	89
Panama.....	109
Peru .....	127
In Your Classroom .....	148
Answer Key .....	152
Additional Resources.....	155

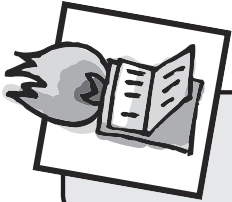
# Argentina



# Welcome to Argentina!

Very cold and very hot, very high and very low, ancient and modern, Argentina is a land of contrasts. It is the second largest country in South America and the largest in land mass among Spanish-speaking nations. After suffering a financial crisis in 2002 that almost ruined its economy, the country is moving forward again. While some things are changing rapidly, other things, fortunately, remain the same—like its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage!

After you have finished learning about Argentina, be sure to check out page 148 for additional classroom activities.



## ***FAST FACTS***

<b>Official Name:</b>	Argentine Republic
<b>Location:</b>	Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay
<b>Population:</b>	40,913,584 (2010 estimate)
<b>Capital City:</b>	Buenos Aires
<b>Area:</b>	1,068,302 square miles. Argentina is slightly less than three-tenths the size of the U.S.
<b>Major Language:</b>	Spanish (the official language) Italian, German, English, and French
<b>Major Religion:</b>	Christianity (predominantly Roman Catholic)
<b>Currency:</b>	The peso      1 peso = 100 centavos (cents)
<b>Climate:</b>	Mostly temperate. The climate ranges from tropical in the north to subpolar in the south. The hottest and coldest temperatures in South America have been recorded in Argentina.
<b>The Land:</b>	Rich plains of the Pampas in the northern half, stretching west to east; the flat to rolling plateaus of Patagonia in the south; the rugged Andes along the western border
<b>Type of Government:</b>	Federal presidential republic

<b>Flag:</b>		The Argentine flag has three equal horizontal bands of light blue (at the top), white, and light blue. Centered in the white band is a yellow sun with a human face called the Sun of May. The colors represent the clear skies and snow of the Andes. The sun's features are those of Inti, the Incan sun god. The sun commemorates the appearance of the sun through cloudy skies on May 25, 1810, during the first mass demonstration in favor of independence.
--------------	---	--

**Coat of Arms:**

At the top is the Sun of May, which is also found on the Argentine flag. In the center of an ellipse are two shaking hands that come together in friendship, symbolizing the unity of the Argentine provinces. The hands hold a brown pike, which represents the willingness to defend the freedom symbolized by the red Phrygian cap (the traditional French liberty cap) on top of the pike. (In ancient Rome, slaves who had been given their freedom wore the Phrygian cap. These slaves were touched with a wooden pike by their owners before they were freed.) The background in the ellipse is blue on the top half and white on the bottom—the same colors that appear on the Argentine flag. The entire ellipse is surrounded by a laurel wreath, which is a classical symbol of triumph.

**National Flower:** Ceibo (Cockspur Coral Tree—a flowering tree)

**National Animal:** Cougar

**Motto:** “In union and freedom”

## Natural Environment

### *Four Major Regions*

Argentina is about 2,400 miles long and about 870 miles wide at its widest point. It lies in the Southern and the Western Hemispheres. Its natural environment makes it truly a land of contrasts, from its subtropical north to its subantarctic south. There are four major regions in the country, and each of them is different. These include:

- the Andes Mountains along the western border with Chile
- the northern plains and Andes foothills
- the central plains of the Pampas where most of the crops are grown
- the flat to rolling southern plateau of Patagonia (including Tierra del Fuego), which is rich in oil

### *The Andes*

South America’s major landform is the rugged Andes Mountain Range along Argentina’s western border. The mountains are highest and widest in northern Argentina. The highest of these peaks is in Mendoza province at Cerro Aconcagua (22,841 feet above sea level). It is the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere. Argentina’s lake district—a popular tourist center—is in the southern Andes.

In northwestern Argentina, rivers that began hundreds of years ago in the mountains have carved deep valleys down the eastern side of the Andes. There are salt lakes in many of the basins between the mountains.

Nothing grows in the highest elevations of the Andes, which reach 13,000 feet. Nevertheless, the mountains are home to llamas, *guanacos* and *vicuñas* (both relatives of the camel), alpacas, and the Andean Condor (the largest flying land bird in the Western Hemisphere). The mighty Andean Condor is an endangered species.

In central west Argentina is a mountainous area called Cuyo, which is known for its viticulture (growing grapes).

### *Northern Plains and Andes Foothills*

The northern plains to the east of the Andes are part of a large lowland area that extends north into Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. This region is composed of two subregions: the Gran Chaco (called the Chaco) and Mesopotamia.

The Chaco extends east from the foothills to the Paraná River. It's a woodland area composed largely of grassy savanna with subtropical forests and plants. Several rivers cross the Chaco; they cause flooding during the summer. Since the soil isn't good for farming, much of the Chaco is used for grazing.

Mesopotamia lies between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers. This is a humid lowland of rolling prairies. It rises to forest in the northeast where rivers rush over the great Paraná Plateau. As a result, this area is known for its spectacular waterfalls—particularly the Iguazu Falls on the border with Brazil.

In the warm and moist northeastern area of this region, you'll see many tropical plants such as the palm. The red *quebracho* provides extremely hard wood as well as tannin, an important ingredient in tanning leather. In the dry Andean regions of the northwest are many species of cacti.

In the north is Argentina's widest assortment of wildlife! Indigenous animals here include monkeys, jaguars, pumas, ocelots, anteaters, and tapirs. Birds include flamingos, parrots, and hummingbirds.

### *The Pampas*

The humid Pampas (often called the Pampa) lie south of Chaco. These plains stretch west in a semicircle from Buenos Aires on the east coast for hundreds of miles.

You won't see many trees in the Pampa, except for some imported species like the eucalyptus and sycamore planted along the roads. But you'll find plenty of native grasses! You'll also find rich, deep, black soil that makes this region one of the best farming areas on earth. Thus, much of Argentina's farming and industry are in the Pampa, along with much of the population.



*Pampa*

The Pampa is also home to the legendary gauchos of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These South American cowboys herded wild cattle and trained wild horses.

### *Patagonia*

The lower part of Argentina that tapers to a point is composed of the rocky plateaus of Patagonia. They extend from low cliffs along the Atlantic coast to more than 5,000 feet at the base of the Andes in the west. The geography of this area includes canyons and valleys. The lowest point in the Western Hemisphere is Laguna del Carbón in Santa Cruz province at 344 feet below sea level.

Northern Patagonia ends in the lake district. Because of its rocky soil and fairly treeless land, people would have a hard time making a living in most of this area. So, few people live here.

Plant life in Patagonia consists of herbs, shrubs, and grasses. There are many fir, cypress, pine, and cedar trees in the Andes foothills. Wildlife here as well as in the Pampas includes armadillos, foxes, martens (a small animal related to the weasel), wildcats, hare, and deer. Birds include the American ostrich, hawks, falcons, herons, and partridges.

### ***Major Rivers and Lakes***

Most of Argentina's many rivers empty into the Atlantic Ocean. The Paraná (the largest) and Paraguay rivers join with the Uruguay near Buenos Aires. They form the Rio de la Plata River. This, in turn, forms part of the border between Argentina and Uruguay. The spectacular Iguazu Falls is on the Iguazu River, which is a tributary of the Paraná. Another important river is the Río Colorado, which forms the northern boundary of Patagonia.

The lake district in southern Argentina is a popular summer and winter tourist spot known for its many lakes, evergreen forests, and beautiful mountains and glaciers. The district extends from the Andes to Patagonia.

In northern Patagonia, the Nahuel Huapí Lake and the area surrounding it make up the Nahuel Huapí National Park. Lake Buenos Aires is shared with Chile.



# A HISTORY OF ARGENTINA

## Early Inhabitants

The earliest people to live in the Americas came from Siberia between about 60,000 and 8000 BCE. They probably walked to Alaska across a land bridge now covered by the Bering Strait. Then they spread to North and South America over thousands of years.

Those who came during this long migration period probably reached Argentina around 10,000 BCE. The Cave of the Hands in the Patagonia region is one of Argentina's oldest archaeological sites. It has beautiful and unusual cave paintings (mostly of hands) that date from around 7300 BCE.

By the time the Spanish arrived in the 1500s, much of today's Argentina was inhabited by nomadic tribes. They moved from place to place, hunting with weighted strips of leather called *boleadoras*. They could throw these weapons—which are still used today—great distances to catch an animal.

The native tribes in the northwest were very influenced by the highly advanced Incas. The Incan Empire expanded into Argentina from Peru in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. As a result, the northwest tribes were the most developed of Argentina's indigenous people. They practiced irrigated farming in the eastern foothills of the Andes.



*Cave of the Hands*

The native people as far south as Tierra del Fuego were also hunter-gatherers. They wore little clothing but kept themselves warm with constant fires. They even lit fires in their canoes! The Spanish called this region *Tierra del Fuego*, which means *Land of Fire*.

## Arrival of the Spanish

In the early 1500s, Spanish adventurers began exploring at the mouth of the Río de la Plata River that forms the border between Argentina and Uruguay. Not surprisingly, they were looking for treasures—especially silver. They were so sure of finding it that Spanish explorer Sebastian Cabot gave the great Rio de la Plata its name (River of Silver). He also called the new territory *Argentum* (which is Latin for *silver*). But he never found silver!

The Spaniard's first attempt to create a permanent settlement in 1536 at Buenos Aires on the Río de la Plata estuary failed after four years. They tried again and reestablished Buenos Aires in 1580. They continued to found settlements throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1599, members of the Jesuit Catholic religious order arrived in one of the new settlements—Córdoba. They founded what is now the National University of Córdoba, which is the fourth oldest university in the Americas. They also established about 30 missions in northeast Argentina. But the Spanish felt they were getting too powerful and expelled them from the country in 1767.

## Independence

The British invaded Argentina twice between 1806 and 1807, when Spain was an ally of France in the Napoleonic Wars. But neither invasion was successful.