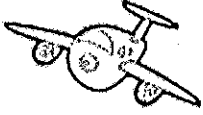


Where Am I?



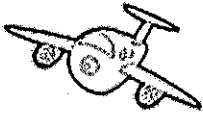
Sarah just got a job as a pilot for a very busy tourism executive. They have embarked on a whirlwind tour of Latin America and the Caribbean, so she does not have much time to communicate with her friends. Since she is a practical joker, instead of telling us the names of the countries she is visiting, she sends us short text messages with clues. Can you figure out where she is by reading the text message?

South America



Text Message ¹ :

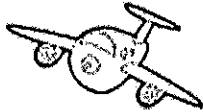
We landed between the Amazon and the Pacific in the second highest capital city in South America. We're surrounded by 2 other countries and the Pacific. This country has high mountains and pristine rainforests. It's one of the few South American countries that produce oil. Galapagos, here I come!





Text Message ²:

We're riding horses in Patagonia, great view of the Atlantic. Tomorrow we're having tango lessons and then we're off to see the penguins in Antarctica. This country has the highest mountain in the Americas. Can you guess which one it is?



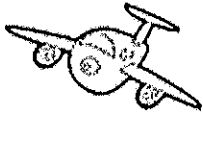
Text Message ³

I'm in South America's smallest sovereign state, one whose official language is not Spanish. It was formerly settled by the Dutch, who established coffee and sugar cane plantations during the 1600s using slaves for labor. Their treatment of slaves was so cruel that many escaped, established free settlements and became known as the Maroons. Much of this country's land is covered by rainforest.



Text Message⁴:

Today we arrived in the largest country in South America. It's famous for its soccer team, its carnival and for having one of the largest statues of Christ in the world and a large portion of the Amazon rainforest. I'm looking forward to our samba lessons so we can prepare for the famous carnival. This country produces lots of oranges. In fact, about 11% of the orange consumed in the US comes from this country!



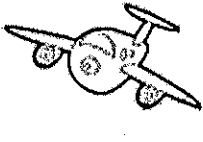
Text Message⁵:

I'm in the so-called "heart of South America" a small country that is landlocked, flat, with no large mountains in sight. It has two official languages: Spanish and Guarani, an indigenous language spoken by more than 90% of the population.



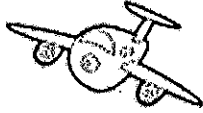
Text Message⁶:

We're taking a break from hiking on the Inca trail to Machu Picchu. On one of our short flights we saw the really cool Nazca lines from the plane. This country has mountains and rainforests. Tomorrow we will visit the church of San Francisco in the capital city. It is famous because of its catacombs which are said to house more than 75,000 skeletons!



Text Message⁷:

Surrounded by two giant countries, I'm in the second smallest country in South America. I'm going swimming in the Atlantic and tomorrow in Rio de la Plata. This country is mostly flat (its highest point is Cerro Catedral at only 1,686 ft above sea level) but it has large grassy plains which explains its large number of sheep and cattle.



Text Message⁸:

In the northern part of South America, this country has a lot of oil! It contains part of the Amazon rainforest and it also has extensive lowland grassy areas called *llanos*. Simon Bolivar, one of the most important leaders of the wars of independence against Spain, was born here. I can't wait to see the beautiful Angel Falls tomorrow, they are the highest waterfall in the world!



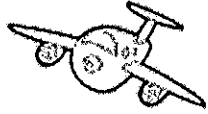
Text Message⁹:

We landed in the highest international airport in the world, but today we are off to the Amazon to see macaws, river dolphins and caimans. This country is crossed by the Andes mountain range but also has extensive lowlands with hot, humid weather. Tomorrow we will navigate the highest navigable lake in the world! After that we will drive up to the salt flats and stay in a hotel made of salt and surrounded by pink flamingoes. I can't wait!



Text Message¹⁰

We have landed in a small South American country that was first colonized by the Dutch and then taken over by the British before achieving independence in 1966 (which explains why its official language is English). The highest point here is Mount Ayanganna. It has a largely unspoiled rainforest, which the country is trying to protect.



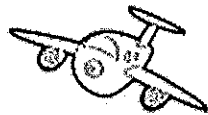
Text Message ¹¹:

Long and narrow country between the Pacific and the Andes, shares borders with 3 other countries. It has large copper deposits but is also famous for its fruits. If you've recently bought grapes and nectarines at the supermarket, they probably came from here. This country has the driest dessert in the world.



Text Message ¹²:

We just flew over the Caribbean Sea to enter this country but we'll soon be landing in its capital city, the third highest in South America. Here I'll see the Andes mountains and the Pacific Ocean coast before moving on.... Maybe I'll see Shakira and Sofia Vergara! If you buy flowers in the US, there is a great chance that they were grown here since 70% of flowers imported by the US come from this country.



North and Central America



Text Message ¹³:

I'm in a long and narrow isthmus, between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. I see ships from all over the world!



Text Message ¹⁴:

Today we flew into the largest country in Central America, between the Pacific and the Caribbean Sea. In 1856 an American adventurer called William Walker established himself as president of this country but he was soon overthrown in 1857.



Text Message ¹⁵:

Now I'm in a country that has no access to the Caribbean Sea but has some great beaches on its Pacific coast. Although it's small in area, this country has the highest number of people per square mile in Central America. The official language is Spanish, but its official currency is the US dollar. It has more than 20 volcanoes and one of them has been nicknamed the "Lighthouse of the Pacific."



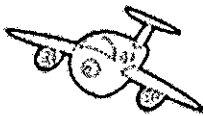
Text Message¹⁶:

We have landed in the northernmost country of Central America. This afternoon we'll have time to tour its beautiful colonial capital city. This country has lots of mountains and Volcán Tajumulco, the highest volcano in Central America.



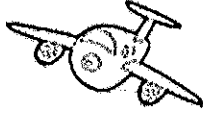
Text Message¹⁷:

I'm in Latin America and North America at the same time! This country is the largest Spanish-speaking nation in the world. The Aztecs ruled this area before the Spanish conquistadors invaded the area. Its capital is the largest city in Latin America. Tomorrow we will be visiting Chichen Itza, a temple built by the Mayans and named one of the new "Seven Wonders of the World" in 2007.



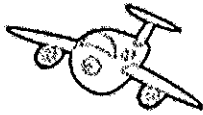
Text Message¹⁸

This country is bordered by 3 other countries, the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. We will be visiting the beautiful ruins of Copán. Although the official language here is Spanish and most of its people speak Spanish, this country is also home to the Garifuna. The Garifuna people originated when two Spanish slave ships sunk, leaving the surviving slaves stranded in the nearby islands. The African survivors befriended the indigenous people and decided to fight to retain their freedom. Today's Garifuna are the descendants of the various marriages between the African survivors and the indigenous people.



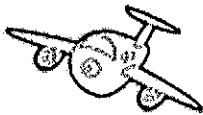
Text Message ¹⁹

Since this country is mostly rainforest, some of its leading exports are bananas and wood. It is the only country in Central America whose official language is not Spanish. It shares borders with Mexico and Guatemala.



Text Message ²⁰

I'm in the "rich coast" (its name translated into English) although gold and silver are not produced here. The main exports here are coffee, bananas and sugar and its most important source of income is tourism, especially eco-tourism, which is why we will be spending a lot of time here. It shares its border in the south with a country that has a famous canal.



The Caribbean



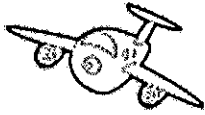
Text Message²¹:

We're having a great time and have seen some beautiful beaches. I ordered an ice cream in Spanish but paid with US dollars! Off to see Old San Juan today. Tomorrow, we'll be swimming in one of the most beautiful bioluminescent bays in the world! According to what we've heard, if you swim in this bay at night, the water is lit up in a blue-green light by small microorganisms. It should be spectacular!



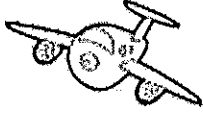
Text Message²²:

We've landed in the Greater Antilles, the flag is green- black- yellow. This is a former British colony. Its capital is Kin.....



Text Message²³:

We've landed in the largest country in the Caribbean. Columbus landed here in 1492 and the Spanish colonized this area, which is why Spanish is now the official language. We are very close to Florida. The US leases a bay from this country. A favorite sport in this country is baseball.



Text Message²⁴:

More than 700 islands make up this country! Tourists flock to this Caribbean country known for its beautiful beaches and great snorkeling. English is the official language.



Text Message²⁵:

I am in the Caribbean and I finally practiced my French! This nation has been devastated by hurricanes and a powerful earthquake in recent years. It shares the island of Hispaniola with another country (a Spanish-speaking country).



Text Message²⁶:

We've landed on an island that was sometimes called the Isle of Spice. This place has mountains and highlands. It was once governed by France, then by Great Britain and now is free but a member of the British Commonwealth.



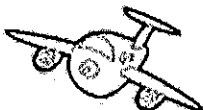
Text Message ²⁷

This country is between 2 islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique. Carib Indians live here. Hot springs lead into Boiling Lake.



Text Message ²⁸

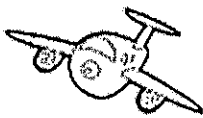
We've landed in the region of the Leeward Islands. This country is made up of 2 small islands (one larger than the other): one has black volcanic sands on its beaches and the other has beautiful coral reefs, making them a favorite tourist destination. This country is a member of the British Commonwealth.





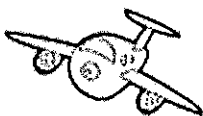
Text Message ²⁹

Since landing here, I've been eating delicious fruits, especially bananas, since this country is the leading exporter of bananas in the region. We are in the Eastern Caribbean and we'll be visiting the Twin Pitons and boiling sulphur springs. The capital city is called Cast.....



Text Message ³⁰

This country includes a larger island and a string of smaller ones made up of coral reefs. The larger island has tall volcano called Soufriere.



Text Message ³¹

I'm in the Eastern Caribbean Sea in the Caribbean's easternmost island. This country was the only one in the Caribbean with a scheduled Concorde service. It still has a Concorde plane parked in its international airport terminal (although the plane is no longer in use). We are planning a great day at the beach because this coral island country is famous for its white sandy beaches. In political terms, it is famous for having the 3rd oldest parliament in the world!

**Text Message ³²**

I'm on the island of Hispaniola, but we need to speak Spanish here because it is a former Spanish colony. Columbus landed here in 1492. The capital has the name of a saint. This is the second largest nation in the Caribbean. Baseball is a favorite sport here which explains why Manny Ramirez and Albert Pujols are such good players!

**Text Message ³³**

I'm in a tiny nation made up of 3 islands. Because it's a former British colony, its official language is English. One part of its name means "old" in Spanish. It's very interesting to us because its main industry is tourism. Columbus landed on one of its islands in 1493!

**Text Message ³⁴**

I'm in a two-island nation. We will be visiting a bird sanctuary called Caroni Swamp. This country is famous for its music, since calypso and steelpan (also known as steel drums) originated here as well as the limbo dance. In fact, the limbo dance is so popular here (especially with the tourists!) that it is considered to be this country's unofficial national dance.
