

## **Classroom Activity: Geography is History: Locate the Countries of Central America**

*This activity can help your students (from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to adult) identify and remember the location of Central American countries. Copy the hints and cut into strips. Divide students into small groups. Give each group a complete set of map hints and blank maps. Suggest that the students share the hints and help each other label the countries on the map.*

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Each member of your group has two map hints. Take turns reading your hints out loud and using the information to complete your maps. You are encouraged to help each other and use information that you already know about the region:

**Nicaragua is also known as the “land of the lakes.”**

**El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America.**

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Each member of your group has two map hints. Take turns reading your hints out loud and using the information to complete your maps. You are encouraged to help each other and use information that you already know about the region:

**Panama was once part of Colombia in South America.**

**Panama was chosen for a canal due to its narrow width.**

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Each member of your group has two map hints. Take turns reading your hints out loud and using the information to complete your maps. You are encouraged to help each other and use information that you already know about the region:

**Costa Rica is south of Nicaragua.**

**Many Salvadorans travel north through Guatemala on their way to Mexico and the United States.**

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Each member of your group has two map hints. Take turns reading your hints out loud and using the information to complete your maps. You are encouraged to help each other and use information that you already know about the region:

**El Salvador shares borders with Honduras and Guatemala.**

**Many Guatemalans feel that Belize belongs to Guatemala. Belize’s Atlantic Coast is one reason why Belize would be beneficial to Guatemala.**

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Each member of your group has two map hints. Take turns reading your hints out loud and using the information to complete your maps. You are encouraged to help each other and use information that you already know about the region:

**The Contras attacked Nicaragua from their bases above the northern border in Honduras.**

**Nicaragua is in the center of Central America.**

## Map of Central America

**Students:** Use the hints distributed by your instructor to assist you in completing the map below.

