



# **Families of Guatemala**

## **Teacher's Guide**

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## **Families of Guatemala Script**

### **Rural Script**

This is our farm in the mountains of Guatemala. It's 6 o'clock in the morning and Mom's waking me up for school. My name is Mariaelena and I'm 7 years old. I live here with my Mom and Dad, my 10 year old brother Mariano, my younger sister Beatrice and my grandmother.

We grow coffee and macadamia nuts on our farm. We also milk cows and sell some of the milk and cream in town.

Sara works for us by helping out in the kitchen. We have both an electric and a gas stove in case one or the other doesn't work, but today Sara doesn't have to use either one, because I'm having corn flakes and orange juice for breakfast.

It takes about 15 minutes to get to our school in town, so it's time to get going. We have to leave enough time to drop off our milk and cream at the store before we go to school.

Mom teaches kindergarten at a school near the one I go to, so she drops me off on her way to work. Beatrice is in Mom's class, so they go to school together.

We start out each school day with exercise. Most Guatemalans love sports, especially football, which some people call soccer.

Maybe you noticed that we don't have any boys here. That's because this is a Catholic school for girls. About half the people in Guatemala are Catholics. There are hundreds of students in our school, and we have about 50 kids in our class.

We start our class with a prayer. Our teacher is reminding us to be thankful for our family members, school director, teachers and all the girls at school.

In our first class we're listening to the sound the balloon makes when the air is going out to help us pronounce the ZZZZZZZZZzz sound. Then we'll practice the sound with vowels.

While I'm in school, Mom's teaching her class. Her school has both boys and girls. Here in Guatemala, half of the students go to school in the morning and half in the afternoon. Morning students like me start class at 7:30 and finish at 1 o'clock. Afternoon classes go from one o'clock until five.

Kids in this class are telling about all the things they did before coming to school... "washing our hands, face, and mouth, having breakfast, hugging Mom and greeting the teacher".

Mom only teaches in the morning so she takes Beatrice and me home with her when she finishes work. While we're at school, Dad's busy back at the farm. He's deciding what

supplies we need to buy and how many workers we need to help keep the farm running. He also has to figure out how much coffee and nuts we'll have to sell and what price we can get when we sell them.

Fourteen people live and work full time here on the farm. When the coffee harvest starts in November, we'll need 200 more people to help do the picking.

We have two seasons here, the rainy season and the dry season. It's June now, so it's the rainy season. Mornings are usually sunny and nice like this, and almost every afternoon we get rain.

This is coffee we harvested last winter. After we pick coffee, it goes through lots of steps before it's ready to be sold. This machine is separating the coffee beans from their outside cover. The bean is the part that we sell, and the outer cover that we take off is put back into the soil.

We roast the beans in this machine. The operator keeps checking to be sure they don't burn. When the coffee is roasted just the right amount, we grind it and put it in bags with our company's name. Then they're ready to sell. Our coffee company and our farm are called Finca Las Merceditas. They're named after St. Mercedes.

Besides coffee, people around here grow corn, fruit and vegetables. Every Saturday farmers come to the open market in town to sell things they've grown. Today some farmers are also selling cattle.

Mom says about half of the people in Guatemala are Mayans. Over a thousand years ago they built great cities all around Central America and we can still see some of the ruins today. Archeologists say one of the Mayan cities here in Guatemala was the biggest city in the world at that time!

Mayans were here when the Spanish conquerors came 500 years ago, and most of them were killed by the Spanish or by the diseases the Spanish brought that were common in Spain, but that had never been seen here.

Some Mayans survived, and a lot of their descendents live in this area. Mom says they're able to live pretty much the same way they did all those years ago.

Mayans know a lot about farming. They grow maize or corn, squash and beans together in little hills.

Mayans believe that after harvest "the land is tired" and "what is taken from the earth must be returned". So just before the rainy season, they put fallen leaves and manure on the fields to feed the land and create new soil. It's like when we put the coffee hulls back into the soil.

Mom teaches school for a half day and then picks me up to go home.

When we get home I change out of my school clothes. Then we all have dinner together.

My uncle and two cousins are visiting us for a few days. Today we're having sausage and rice with beans, tortillas and juice. Guatemalans eat corn tortillas or tamales at almost every meal. Mom says when we eat corn and beans at the same meal, it gives us protein just like meat.

We usually rest for a couple of hours after dinner, but today I want to see how the milking is going. We milk cows twice a day, at three in the morning, and at about two in the afternoon. When the cows come from the stable to the milking area, their back legs are tied together so no one gets accidentally kicked. The milking goes twice as fast with a person on each side. You can see it would take some practice for me to get as good at milking as our workers are.

One thing I am getting pretty good at is catching oranges. When Mom wants some fruit, Jose picks some from this tree in our front yard. I'm getting so I can catch most of the oranges he drops down.

While I'm helping pick fruit, Grandma is in the kitchen getting the milk and cream ready to sell. She skims off the cream that floats to the top of the milk and puts it in little plastic bags with our farm's label on them. We also sell some whole milk...that's milk that still has the cream in it.

Dad asks Mariano and I if we want to go with him while he checks on the fields.

Dad says macadamias are unusual because they have nuts and blossoms on the tree at the same time. See, here are nuts that are almost ripe and these are blossoms that will grow into nuts.

Macadamia nuts really have two shells, the soft outside green shell and the hard brown shell inside. Let me show you...first you have to get the green shell off. That's pretty easy. But see how hard the inner shell is? We really have to watch out for our fingers!

On our farm we have a machine that takes off the outer shell. After that we sort the nuts to separate the best ones from the not-so-good ones. Then they're spread out to dry for two or three weeks before we send them to a place that takes off the hard inner shell and sells them. If you buy macadamia nuts in a store this is what they look like...and they're really good!

Mariano and I like to throw stones into the stream that runs through our farm. This stream is important, but not just for water. Some places in Guatemala don't have electricity because they're so far from towns, but we're lucky to have a dam nearby that makes hydroelectric power. So we have electricity that's made from the stream's running water.

We get back to the house just before it starts to rain. That's Newaz in the barn, sorting nuts.

I like to draw when it rains. I won first prize in my class for coloring this picture. Later in the afternoon Mariano plays the marimba with Dad. Our marimba is made out of wood. Each piece of wood makes a different note, or sound, when you hit it with the mallet.

Then we play make believe. We like to pretend we're radio stars. It's fun to hear our voices coming over the loud speakers. Who knows, maybe someday we'll really be on the radio!

Grandma's still in the kitchen, but now she's making ice cream for supper. Mom brought her a custard apple to use in the ice cream. I can't wait until we eat!

While we're waiting for supper, we play on the veranda. It's a great place to play if it's too rainy or dark to be in the yard.

It's about 8 o'clock and time for supper, but before we sit down, my cousin wants to check out our turtle.

We say a prayer to give thanks for our food. Tonight we're having meat patties, and fried plantains, which are a kind of banana and remember, for dessert we have Grandma's famous ice cream!

After supper we kids have a game of cards.  
Well, it's time to get ready for bed.  
Good night!

### Urban Script

It's early morning at our house in San Marcos, Guatemala. My name is Jorge and I have a twin brother, Marcos. We're both 9 years old. We share a room with Carlito. His mom is my sister. That means he's our nephew, but we do everything together, so he's really just like our brother.

Today's Friday and we're getting up for school. We take a shower and brush our teeth., so all we have to do is make our beds and put all our stuffed friends just where we want them.

Marco and I don't look exactly alike because we're not identical twins. We're fraternal twins, we were just born at the same time.

We have juice blended with a little water before we leave for school.

Mom and Dad drop us at school on their way to work. We go to a Catholic school that has 1300 students. Nuns run the school but they don't teach my class. Marco and I are in the same class, but Carlito is in a different class, because he's a year younger.

Our teacher greets each of us as we come into class. We start our school day with a prayer and songs.

Our first class is physical education. Today we're practicing football, which Marco and I love. We play on a football team almost every weekend. We're also learning to play basketball. Some of us like to play ping pong.

Our teacher says that hundreds of years ago our ancestors here in Central America played some of the first games that used a ball.

Back at home Magnolia, our housekeeper, is cleaning up the kitchen. Magnolia does cooking, cleaning, and laundry. She shops for food at the big open market in the center of the city. Farmers in this area grow lots of different kinds of fruits and vegetables all year long. That's because we live in mountains, where it never gets too hot or too cold.

Fruits like bananas and pineapples only grow along the coast where it's always hot. Maize, or corn, can grow everywhere. Tortillas and tamales are made with maize.

While I'm at school Mom and Dad are at work. Dad's a doctor, and he and Mom own a clinic with a pharmacy.

Dad uses all kinds of instruments to find out what's wrong with his patients. This man has a kidney stone that Dad can see with this scanner that uses sound waves. If someone needs medicine, Dad writes a prescription and the patient can get the medicine at the pharmacy Mom runs in the same building.

Back at school our teacher is going over a lesson about the kinds of things that live in different environments. Like the bacteria that live in the soil or green plants called algae that live in the water.

When we have recess I go to the snack shop for something to eat. But it's not so easy to get to the counter if you're in one of the lower grades, like me.

After recess our class pushes back the chairs in our classroom so we can practice dancing. We're getting ready for a school festival to celebrate Family Day, and our class will be dancing at the festival. Most people here like to dance or sing or play an instrument.

After dance practice we each give a short talk to the class. I'm telling a story I read about a boy whose mother yells at him for eating too much.

Our classes are finished at 1 o'clock. Then another group of students will come in for their classes and stay until 5 o'clock.

After school a van picks us up and takes us to Mom and Dad's clinic. It's time for dinner, and Mom and Dad like the family to eat together. So the whole family comes to the clinic to eat with us.

After dinner everyone goes back to work, but Carlito, Marcos and I stay at the clinic until Mom and Dad are ready to go home. We read and do our homework or play around while they work.

Sometimes Dad lets me watch when he tries to figure out why a patient doesn't feel well.

Dad says our ancestors hundreds of years ago already knew a lot about how to heal people. They used all kinds of plants for medicines. He says [Mayans](#) used human hair to sew up cuts and knew how to make casts for broken bones. They could even repair teeth!

After work we go to our friends' house for a visit. We kids spend most of our time outside playing football. Dad takes a turn playing with us, too. See? He's trying to block a goal. When it gets dark we come inside to sing and have a snack.

Tomorrow is Saturday and we have a busy day. See you then.

It's Saturday morning and I'm having my guitar lesson. Marco's learning to play the drums with the same teacher. Carlito's taking keyboard lessons from a different teacher. We're all learning how to read music. Pretty soon we can have a band!

When we get home we practice a dance routine we made up to reggaeton music. Carlito has a cold, so today he takes care of the music instead of dancing. Anita says reggaeton is a mixture of Jamaican and Latin American music. We love it!

After we practice for awhile, Anita gives us suggestions on how we can improve.

Well, it's Saturday and it's game time. Can you find us? I'm number 11 and Marco's number 4. Carlito still can't play today because of his cold. Dad coaches our team. Hurrah! We won 11 to 5.

After dinner some friends come for a visit. Everyone likes to hear Dad and my Grandpa play the marimba together. Grandpa is 83 and he's still a great player! He's teaching us to play, too. I guess you can tell that Guatemalans really like music, especially the marimba! It's our national instrument.

Tomorrow is Sunday and our school's having a festival to celebrate Family Day. See you then!

It's Sunday and it's time to go to the Family Day festival. My class is going to do the dances we practiced in school, only this time we'll wear our best clothes. All of our parents and friends will be coming.

You've already seen us dance, but some of the other classes are doing different dances, and some are doing plays, or singing and playing music. The show is four hours long, and if we get hungry, we can go outside and get something to eat at the food table.

After the festival we go to a restaurant for dinner to celebrate Family Day. Our whole family is here.

When we get home it's time to get ready for bed, because we have school tomorrow.

But first we get to watch a movie about the Lochness Monster. Anita turns off the TV and lights when it's time to go to sleep.

Good Night!

## Glossary

**archeologist:** people who study how humans lived by examining the marks they have left on the environment and the environment itself

**Catholic:** Christians who believe the Pope is the head of the church

**hydroelectric power:** using the energy of running water to make electricity

**manure:** animal droppings used to fertilize the land

**pharmacy:** a store that sells medicine

**reggae:** a music originally from Jamaica

**ruins:** abandoned buildings and structures from the past

**tamale:** a dish made of chopped meat and crushed pepper in a corn dough

**tortilla:** a round thin flat bread made from corn

## **Discussion and Activities After Viewing**

1. Ask what things in the video indicate that the climate in Guatemala is subtropical.
2. Have students name or draw several fruits and vegetables commonly found in Guatemala that are familiar to them.
3. Discuss why Spanish is the national language of Guatemala. (patio, bronco, ranch, tornado)
4. Ask the students to find out more about the Maya, their history and their culture
5. Go online and view pictures of Guatemala
6. Invite someone from Guatemala to talk with the class about their life in Guatemala, play a traditional instrument, or tell a Guatemalan story.
7. Ask students to draw a picture, make a list or write a paragraph on how their life and school are different and similar from those they saw in the video.
8. Ask students to see how much their parents pay for a cup of coffee and then see how much the growers are paid for the same coffee.

## Questions

- 1 What are Catholics?
- 2 Why is there only a rainy season and a dry season?
- 3 Did corn and peanut only grow in the Americas?
- 4 Why do kids in Guatemala start studying English in kindergarten?
- 5 Why is it good to have free public schools?
- 6 When did the Spanish come to Guatemala?
- 7 Who are the Guatemalan?
- 8 Who are the Mayans?

## **Answers to Questions**

### **1 What are Catholics?**

Roman Catholicism is one of the largest religions in the world, with over a billion members distributed all over the world. It has a large amount of literature and a large organization. Catholicism's history began when some people, initially all Jews, accepted Jesus Christ as not just a prophet, but as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Roman Catholicism traces its beginning to the Apostle Peter, one of the disciples of Jesus Christ. Catholicism, which means *universal*, received the adjective "Roman" due to the Church's adoption of the same governing organization as that of the Roman empire. The adjective was also used because of the tradition that Peter had founded the Church in Rome and that he and Paul were buried there.

Roman Catholics are found throughout the world, with high concentrations in southern Europe, South America and the Philippines.

### **2 Why is there only a rainy season and a dry season ?**

In the tropics, which is where Guatemala is, the temperature is warm all year around, and there is no winter, spring or fall. The seasons are the rainy season from June through November and the dry season for the rest of the year.

### **3 Did corn and peanut only grow in the Americas?**

The Amerindians domesticated chilies, corn, potatoes, cocoa, tomatoes, peanuts to use as food crops. The Spanish took these crops in to Europe and the rest of the Old World. Before that there were no Irish potatoes, spicy Korean kimchi, Malaysian ketchup or Dutch chocolates.

### **4 Why do kids in Guatemala start studying English in kindergarten?**

Guatemala has had a long association with the United States because the United States has long been its largest trading partner. During the Guatemalan civil war as many as 250,000 Guatemalans fled to the US.

## **5 Why is it good to have free public schools?**

A country needs people who can read and write. People need to be able to read and write in order to take advantage of all the information that has been written down.

## **6 When did the Spanish come to Guatemala?**

The Spanish came to Guatemala in 1501.

## **7. Who are the Guatemalans?**

Sixty percent of Guatemalans are mestizos including a small percentage of whites. Mestizos are the descendants of the Spanish men who came to Guatemala and Native American women. The rest are mostly Native American Mayans

## **9. Who are the Mayans?**

The Mayans are the people who have lived in northern Central American and southern Mexico for thousands of years. At the peak of their civilization over a thousand years ago, they build great cities with pyramids, used calendars and wrote down their language in a syllabic script.

Find out about Mayan architecture, language, history, script and religion.

## Quiz on Things We've Learned About Guatemala

(Circle the correct answer).

1. T F There are Native Americans in Guatemala.
2. T F Guatemala City is the capital of Guatemala
3. T F Guatemala is in South America.
4. T F Guatemala has many parks and wild life refuges.
5. T F The people of Guatemala live much as Americans do.
6. T F Most young people in Guatemala are learning English.
- 7.
8. T F There is a big canal in Guatemala.
9. T F Guatemala borders both the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is the national language of Guatemala.
11. Draw pictures about the different parts of Mariaelena and Jorge's story. Try to include as many details as you can remember about each part.

## Quiz Answers on Things We've Learned About Guatemala

(Circle the correct answer).

1. T There are Native Americans in Guatemala.
2. T Guatemala City is the capital of Guatemala
3. F Guatemala is in South America.
4. T Guatemala has many parks and wild life refuges.
5. F The people of Guatemala live much as Americans do.
6. F Most young people in Guatemala are learning English.
7. F There is a big canal in Guatemala.
8. T Guatemala borders both the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.
9. Spanish is the national language of Guatemala.

## **Introduction**

Guatemala is the home of the ancient Mayan civilization and the famous Tikal ruins. It is also home to the Maya Forest which is the second largest contiguous forest in the Americas after the Amazon.

## **The Land and the Climate**

Guatemala is bordered on the north by Mexico and Belize and in south by Honduras and El Salvador. It faces both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Guatemala is mountainous with two mountain chains dividing the country into three major regions: the highlands, where the mountains are located; the Pacific coast, south of the mountains; and the sparsely populated Petén region, north of the mountains. All major cities are located in the highlands and Pacific coast regions. Volcán Tajumulco, at 4,220 meters, is the highest point in the Central American states.

The rivers are short and shallow in the Pacific drainage basin, larger and deeper in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico drainage basins. The climate is tropical in the lowlands plains and temperate in the highlands. A rainy season runs from April to December. It is much wetter on the Caribbean side of the country than the Pacific.

## **Plant and animal life**

The diverse environment includes mangrove swamps, coniferous forests, deciduous forest, tropical rain forests and grasslands. This supports a dense and diverse population of flora and fauna. 36% of the country is still wooded. In some places as many as 90 different species of trees may co-exist in one acre. About 30% of the country has been set aside as protected areas.

## **The People**

There are approximately 12.3 million Guatemalans. About half of Guatemalans are descendants of the Spanish and the Amerindians, called

mestizos. As few Spanish women came to Guatemala during the colonial period, most Spanish men married Amerindian women. The remaining half are mostly the indigenous Mayans. The population is young, is growing rapidly, and is still primarily rural. In all of Latin America, Guatemala has one of the highest infant mortality rates and one of the lowest life expectancies at birth. Major causes of death in Guatemala still include treatable and communicable diseases, such as diarrhea, pneumonia, cholera, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. A significant share of Guatemalans lack access to health care services.

### **Cultural Life**

Life in the villages revolves around the family and the church. 60% of the people are Roman Catholics and most of the rest Protestant. The country has a 91% literacy rate.

In the cities, where about 40% of the population lives, people have many more choices and a modern urban cosmopolitan culture exists. People love dancing and soccer is the largest participatory sport.

### **Daily Life**

More than 75 percent of the national population lives below the poverty line, and the extent of poverty is even more severe among the rural and indigenous populations. In 1989, about 93 percent of the indigenous population in Guatemala were living in poverty and 91 percent in extreme poverty, whereas only 66 percent and 45 percent of the non-indigenous population were living in those respective conditions. Guatemala's income distribution is among the most unequal in the world,

### **History**

Human artifacts dating to 14000 BCE have been found in Guatemala. It is believed these people were hunter gatherers. Starting in 10000 BCE there is evidence of familiarity with agriculture. Evidence of the domestication of corn are found from 5500 BCE. By 4000 BCE Guatemala was part of the heartland of the Mayan civilization that stretched from southern Mexico to

Honduras and El Salvador. By 3000 BCE there are already monumental architecture in the form of altars and ceremonial sites. At its height between 250 and 900 AD hundreds of towns and cities were built in the area. Among them was the complex of Mirador which comprised of 26 cities linked to each other by kilometer long roads. For unknown reasons the Classical Age of the Maya ended in collapse. Thereafter smaller cities and less dense networks existed but never matched those of the Classical Age.

The Spanish explorers in the early sixteenth century first arrived in Guatemala in 1518. Most of the original inhabitants died when exposed to the diseases brought by the Spanish but many fought on, the last Mayan city fell in 1697. The region was mostly mountainous with limestone plateaus and narrow coastal plains. It was not conducive to either the plantation farming or large scale ranching. Nor was there much mineral resources. Even in 1900 the population of Guatemala was under 1 million.

In 1821 Guatemala declared independence from Spain. In 1823 it was part of the Federal Republic of Central America which included El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. It broke apart two years later and many other attempts at union also faltered. Guatemala was ruled by a series of strongmen whose base was the landowning white and mestizo population. The other half of the population the indigenous people were oppressed and lack many rights.

After 1944 there was an attempt to liberalize the politics and give more rights to labor and the indigenous people. However the Cold War led the US to intervene and oust the democratically elected government. Subsequently, full scale civil war broke out between the right which were mostly mestizo and the left which were mostly indigenous. A 36 year civil war left thousands dead, and made refugees of hundreds of thousands more. In 1996, peace negotiations were made and civilian rule finally prevailed. There were in 2002 reports of increased political violence. In 2006 the Central America Free Trade Agreement was signed, ushering the prospect of greater growth.

# Guatemala



Flag of Guatemala

Three equal vertical bands of light blue (hoist side), white and light blue with the coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms includes a green and red quetzal (the national bird) and a scroll bearing the inscription LIBERTAD 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1821 ( the original date of independence from Spain) all superimposed on a pair of crossed rifles and a pair of crossed swords framed by a wreath.

# Map of Guatemala



# Recipes

## **Guacamole Dip**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 teaspoon chicken bouillon (or 1 cube chicken bouillon)
- 1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Tomatoes and onions, chopped, to taste (optional)

### **Procedure**

1. Peel, remove the pit, and thoroughly mash the avocado.
2. Add the bouillon and the minced garlic. Mix well.
3. Add chopped tomatoes and onions, if desired.

Serve with tortilla chips.

## **Activities – Guatemala Friendship Bracelet**

Have several 6 inch length of colored woolen yarn

Braid them together to form one 6 inch pattern

Tie together to form a bracelet.

According to Central American native tradition one should wear this until it falls off by itself as a token of respect for the work one's friend has put into to it.

## Appendix

### Interesting Facts about Guatemala

Location: Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Mexico, and bordering the Gulf of Honduras (Caribbean Sea) between Honduras and Belize

Geographic coordinates: 15 30 N, 90 15 W

Map references: North America

Area:

*total*: 108,890 sq km

*land*: 108,430 sq km

*water*: 460 sq km

Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Tennessee

Coastline: 400 km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau

Elevation extremes:

*lowest point*: Pacific Ocean -0 m Pacific Ocean 0 m

*highest point*: Volcan Tajumulco 4,211 m

Natural resources: petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower

Land use:

*arable land*: 13%

*permanent crops*: 6%

*other*: 81% (2005 est.)

### People

Population: 13,000,766 (July 2008 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.11% (2000 est.)

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: 69 years

Total fertility rate: 3.57 children born/woman (2008 est.)

Ethnic groups: mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 40%, white 10%, Amerindian 50% %

Religions: nominally Roman Catholic 60%, Protestant 40%,

Languages: Spanish, Mayan

Literacy: *definition*: age 15 and over can read and write *total population*: 91%

### Government

Country name:

*conventional long form*: Republic of Guatemala

*conventional short form*: Guatemala

*local long form:* Republica de Guatemala  
*local short form:* Guatemala  
Government type: constitutional democratic republic  
Capital: Guatemala City  
Administrative divisions: 22 departments  
Independence: September 15, 1821, their independence from Spain  
Independence Day, 15 September (1821)  
Constitution: 31 May 1985  
Legal system: based on civil law  
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Diplomatic representation in the US:

*chancery:* 2220 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20008  
*telephone:* [1] (202) 745-4952  
*FAX:* [1] (202) 745-1908  
*consulate(s) general:* Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Providence, San Francisco

Diplomatic representation of the US

*embassy:* 7-01 Avenida Reforma, Zone 10, Guatemala City  
*mailing address:* APO AA 34024  
*telephone:* [502] 2326-4000  
*FAX:* [502] 2326-4654

**Economy**

GDP - real growth rate: 5.7% (2007 est.)  
GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$5,100 (2007 est.)  
GDP - composition by sector:  
    *agriculture:* 12.6%  
    *industry:* 26.4%  
    *services:* 61% (2006 est)  
Inflation rate (consumer prices): 6.8% (2007 est.)  
Labor force - by occupation: agriculture 50%, industry 15%, services 35% (1999)  
Unemployment rate: 6.4% urban (2007)  
Poverty rate: 75% (2000)  
Industries: sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism  
Agriculture - sugarcane, corn, bananas, coffee, beans, cardamom; cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens  
Currency: 1 quetzal  
Exchange rates: quetzales (GTQ) per US dollar - 7.6833 (2007), 7.6026 (2006), 7.6339 (2005), 7.9465 (2004), 7.9409 (2003)