



Study Guide for Wild Swan Theater's production of

*Trampas y Pícaros:*

*Tricksters Tales from South America*



## Table of Contents:

About Wild Swan Theater	3
About American Sign Language in Wild Swan Theater Productions	4
American Sign Language Alphabet (Classroom Activities)	5
Spanish Vocabulary	6
Discussion Questions	7
The Andes Mountains	8
Clothing	10
Some Countries in the Stories	11
Some Animals in the Stories	16
A Game to Play	21
Drama Activities for your Classroom	22
South American Childhood Songs	23
Bibliography	24

---

The information in this Study Guide was written and/or compiled by Ramona Brand,  
Director of Education at Wild Swan Theater and Maite Zubia. May 2008

# About Wild Swan Theater

## Mission Statement

*Wild Swan Theater is dedicated to producing professional children's theater of the highest artistic quality and to making that theater accessible to low income, minority and disabled children through low ticket prices and innovative outreach programs.*

## History and Activities

Wild Swan Theater was founded in 1980. Since its inception, the company of professional adult actors, dancers, musicians, visual artists, and American Sign Language interpreters has performed for hundreds of thousands of children. As well as many public performances in its home base of Ann Arbor, the company tours regularly to theaters, museums and public libraries as well as offering residencies and workshops at schools and hospitals serving disabled children statewide. This year the company will give 140 performances for an audience of over 50,000 children and their families.

Wild Swan's performance style, which incorporates storytelling and live action with puppets, masks, music and dance, has received critical acclaim as well as an enthusiastic following. The Detroit News has praised the work as "professional children's theater at its very best," and the Flint Museum of Art has described it as "superb theater that enhances life and its joys." Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village has called Wild Swan "one of the finest theaters for families in the nation."

Wild Swan has pioneered a number of audience accessibility measures for disabled individuals that are models in the state and have earned the praise of educators and health specialists across the country. All productions are performed in American Sign Language as well as spoken English with the signing completely integrated into the productions. Thus deaf children and adults have not only complete access to the productions but hearing children are exposed to this beautiful and poetic language. A program for blind individuals includes pre-performance backstage "touch tours". Participants have the opportunity to feel specially constructed props and masks, explore the set, and meet actors and hear the voices their characters will use. Audio-description, a simultaneous description of staging, lights, and costumes, transmitted electronically to participating audience members during pauses in the dialogue, permits audience members who are blind or visually impaired to have access to all the visual elements of the production. As a leader of disabled access in the state, Wild Swan has been a recipient of the Governor's Service Award in 1998 in the Arts in Service category and a grant recipient of Very Special Arts/ Michigan for seven years.

## About American Sign Language in Wild Swan Theater Productions

*Making Theater Accessible to Everyone  
American Sign Language in the Theater*

Wild Swan Theater wants to create theater productions that all audience members can enjoy. There are many things a theater company can do to make attending a play a good experience for people who have disabilities. For example, Towsley Auditorium, where you are coming to see the play, has two special seating sections for people who use wheel chairs. Not only is there lots of room for wheel chairs or other kinds of mobility devices, but there is room for friends and family members to sit together. Wild Swan also offers backstage "touch tours" and "audio-description" for people who are blind.

Wild Swan Theater includes American Sign Language in all its performances that are part of its season of productions at Washtenaw Community College. American Sign Language (ASL) is the language that children and adults who are deaf use to communicate. Wild Swan uses ASL so that people who are deaf will be able to understand and enjoy live theater.

When you see a Wild Swan production, you will notice several things about the signing. You will notice that the people who do the signing, the interpreters, are part of the production and wear costumes just like the rest of the actors. You will also notice that the interpreters are very good actors as well as experts at ASL. Finally, you will notice that the signing is an important part of what you see on the stage.

Sometimes when other theater companies include sign language, the interpreters are placed off to the side of the stage, and they are not part of the production. When people who are deaf come to the play, they have to look one place to see the signers and another place to see the play itself. That usually means that they miss some important parts of the play or of the sign language. Wild Swan decided that it wanted to make sure the people who are deaf never miss anything.

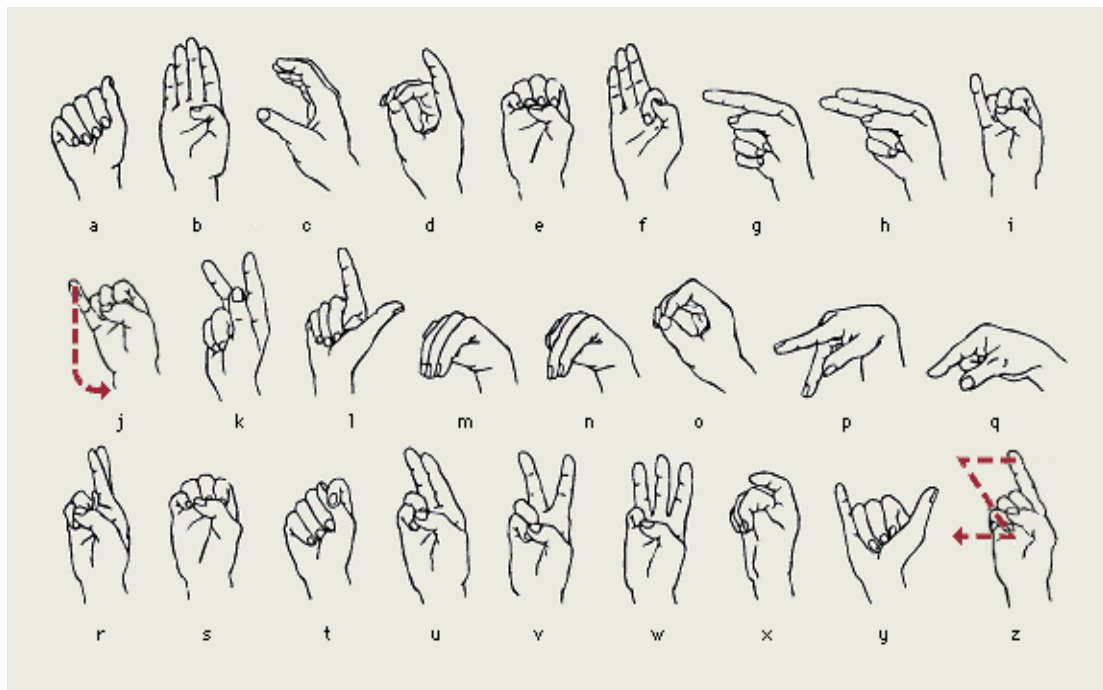
That is why when you come to a Wild Swan production, you will see the signing completely woven into the performance. That way people who are deaf can see what the speaking actors are doing and what the signing actors are doing at the same time. You might even notice that the speaking actors and the signing actors work together. Sometimes a speaking character gets an idea from a signing actor or the signing actors helps the speaking actor to make a decision. When you watch a Wild Swan production see if you can pick out some examples of times when the speaking and signing actors work together.

Many hearing people know some sign language. When you attend a Wild Swan production, perhaps you will learn some new signs. That is another reason that Wild Swan uses sign language in its plays. We hope that hearing people will learn a little more about sign language and find out what a beautiful and interesting language it is.

## American Sign Language Alphabet

When you come to see *Trampas y Pícaros, Tricksters Tales from South America* you will notice that American Sign Language Interpreters are part of the play. They are signing the dialogue of the show for audience members who may have difficulty hearing. American Sign Language is a language used by the deaf and hearing-impaired community. Using sign language in Wild Swan Theater shows enables more people to enjoy a theatrical production.

Below is the basic sign language alphabet. Can you make the letters of the alphabet using the chart below?



### Classroom Activities:

- Try spelling your name using sign language or try spelling words and phrases.
- Use the ASL alphabet to spell character names and words that are used in the play such as Conejito, Cuy, Zorro, Condor, Don Jose, Tia Monica
- Learn the ASL symbols for the animals in the story such as, guinea pig, rabbit, fox, farmer, aunt and uncle.

## Some Spanish Vocabulary

In the three stories, you will hear many words and sentences in Spanish. Some of the words used frequently in the performance that you can practice with your students are:

### Animals:

Conejillo de Indias	->	<i>Guinea Pig</i>
Conejo	->	<i>Rabbit</i>
Conejito	->	<i>Little Rabbit</i>
Zorro	->	<i>Fox</i>
Pollo	->	<i>Chicken</i>
Cóndor	->	<i>Condor</i>
Puma	->	<i>Puma</i>
Caballo	->	<i>Horse</i>

### Expressions:

¡Muchas gracias!	->	<i>Thanks a lot</i>
Hola ¿cómo estás?	->	<i>Hi, how are you?</i>
¿Me ayuda por favor?	->	<i>Would you help me, please?</i>
Necesito ir al baño	->	<i>I need to go to the bathroom</i>
Vuelvo enseguida	->	<i>I will be right back</i>
¡Te atraparé!	->	<i>I will get you!</i>
¡Muy mal educado!	->	<i>Very rude!</i>
¡Lo sentimos tanto!	->	<i>We are so sorry!</i>

### **\*\*\* Ask your students if they know:**

- Someone from a Spanish speaking country
- In which countries people speak in Spanish
- How to say "Happy Birthday", "Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukkah", "Have a good trip"

### Food:

Hierva	->	<i>Grass</i>
Agua Fresca	->	<i>Fresh Water</i>
Pollo asado	->	<i>Roasted Chicken</i>
Pasteles	->	<i>Cakes</i>
Galletas	->	<i>Cookies</i>
Frutas y Vegetales	->	<i>Fruits and Vegetables</i>
Salchichas	->	<i>Sausages</i>
Locro	->	<i>Beans</i>

### **\*\*\* Make a South American Recipe Book**

Ask your students to find a recipe for a typical meal/dish from Mexico, Argentina and Peru. Make a class recipe book. Host a South American Pot Luck dinner.

## Discussion Questions

### Love and Roast Chicken:

1. Where does this story take place? (*The Andes Mountains*)
2. What is Cuy? (*A Guinea Pig*)
3. Who does Cuy trick first and how? (*He tricks Zorro the Fox, by making him think that the sky is falling, making him hold up the rock*)
4. Why does Cuy, the Guinea Pig, want to stay at the Farmer's Farm forever? (*So he can eat the alfalfa forever!*)
5. How does the Farmer discover that the supposed farm worker is in fact a Guinea Pig? (*Cuy was stuck to the sticky clay person*)
6. What does the Guinea Pig tell to the Fox in order to get him tie to the tree? (*That the fox can marry the farmer's daughter and eat chicken everyday*)

### Conejito

7. Who is Conejito? (*A little bunny*)
8. Where does Conejito want to go? (*to Tia Monica's house on the mountain to eat cakes and cookies*)
9. Who does Conejito meet on his way to Tia Monica's house? (*the Fox, the Condor, the Puma*)
10. How does Conejito get away? (*He tells them he is too skinny to for them to eat and to wait until he get fat from Tia Monica's cakes and cookies*)
11. What are the Spanish words for skinny and fat? (*Flaquito and Gordito*)
12. How does Conejito get back home? (*rolling in a barrel*)

### Pedro Urdemales

13. In which country does Pedro Urdemale's story take place? (*Argentina*)
14. Who do Pedro Urdemale and his wife Theresa trick? (*their rich neighbor Don Jose*)
15. How do they trick him? (*they tell him they have a talking bunny that can deliver messages*) What do they trick him out of? (*Gold/oro*)



## The Andes Mountains

The Andes Mountains form the world's longest exposed mountain range. They run in a continuous chain along the western coast of South America, crossing through seven countries. These countries are: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. It is over 7,000 km (4,400 miles) long, 500 km (300 miles) wide in some parts (widest between 18° to 20°S latitude), and of an average height of about 4,000 m (13,000 ft).

There are two main ranges of mountains in the Andes. One is known as the Cordillera Oriental and the other is the Cordillera Occidental and are separated by a deep depression in which smaller chains run.

The Andes mountain range is the highest mountain range outside Asia. The highest peak, Aconcagua, rises to 6,962 m (22,841 ft) above sea level. The summit of Mount Chimborazo in the Ecuadorean Andes is the point on the Earth's surface most distant from its center, because of the equatorial bulge. The Andes cannot match the Himalayas in height but do so in width and are more than twice as long.

**Animals of the Andes:** Several hardy animals can live and thrive in the atmosphere of the Andes Mountain. The following three animals are all members of the camel family. They have cleft feet with separate toes that make them excellent climbers. Their thick wool keeps them warm in the cold regions. Their teeth and multi-chambered stomach enable them to graze and digest the tough grasses and plants that grow on the mountains.

The ***Llama*** is the largest of the three, reaching up to four feet at shoulder height and can weigh up to 400 pounds. Llamas are well adapted to life in the high altitudes of the Andes. It can live at altitudes of 7,400 – 12,800 feet where the oxygen level is very thin. Because llamas are such sturdy creatures, they have been used as pack animals for thousands of years. Prized by Incas and then by the Spanish for both their wool, meat and travel llamas have been an important for farmers and travellers. Now domesticated, llamas live in herds and are not endangered.

The ***Alpaca*** is the medium in size, reaching up to three and half to four feet at shoulder height and weigh up to 120 pounds. They are prized for their very thick warm fur, which has over 20 colors. They are gentle animals easily domesticated and have been bred for many years. Alpaca can live in terrain with elevations up to 14,000 – 16,000 feet. Over a thousand years ago, Inca nobles showed their wealth by the number of Alpacas they owned and the Alpaca fur clothing they wore.

The *Vicuna* is the smallest of the six species of camel, and is thought to be the wild ancestor of the alpaca. They stand two to three and a half feet at the shoulder and weigh between 70 – 140 pounds. They are distinguished by shaggy fur on their chests. Hunted almost to extinction for their meat and fur, Vicunas are now a protected species.

The *Andean Condor* is the largest vulture in South America. It has a wing span of up to 10 feet and more. The Condor is a scavenger bird and eats the remains of other Andes mountain animals. Condors live and nest directly on the face of the cliffs. They even lay their eggs directly on bare rock and the mother and father bird take turns incubating the egg. The numbers of Condors are currently in danger, due factors, including hunting, pesticides and breeding disturbances.

The *Chinchilla* is a small densely furred nocturnal animal that lives in the Andes Alpine regions. Small animals half the size of rabbits, chinchillas are herbivores that eat the plants, roots, grasses of the area. Their soft and beautiful fur was prized for coats and excessive hunting nearly wiped out the species. They are now a protected animal.

For more information on these animals follow this link:

[http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/andes\\_animal\\_page.htm](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/andes_animal_page.htm)

### **Plants of the Andes**

The *Polylepis Forest* is high altitude woodland of the Andes that varies in its composition from dense humid vegetation (i.e. lichens and mistletoes of a rich soil) to scattered shrub of barren desert soil. The tree that gives the forest its name comes from the rose family (Rosaceae) and has 20 known species, all of which occur at altitudes above tree line ranging from 4000-5000 meters (13,000-16,000 feet). In the *Polylepis* forest there are 20 evergreen tree species that are characterized by gnarled shapes. The trees have a thick and dense laminated bark with small green and gray leaves. Living in such a harsh environment requires adaptations to intense radiation, drought, wind, and severe frost. To combat such conditions, the tree has several layers of reddish, paper like bark that serves as an insulation barrier.

Most of the original forest is in the cold Western Cordillera of Bolivia. There is only ten percent left of the original forest. Deforestation has been affected by human misuse. The Andean people use the *Polylepis* forest for many reasons. Fifty-six percent of the forest is used for medicines. Twelve percent is used for human food. And nine percent is used for construction and ritual purposes. Overall about thirty-five percent of the most useful plant species are only found inside the forest. The animals, like the birds use the forest for food.

<http://www.andeanrain.com/bird-habitats.htm>

[http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/andes\\_plant\\_page.htm](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/andes_plant_page.htm)

[http://encarta.msn.com/map\\_701510113/andes.html](http://encarta.msn.com/map_701510113/andes.html)

## About the Clothing



Traditional Andean clothing reflects Spanish influences. In 1572, the Spanish prohibited the Quechua from wearing native Inca tunics and wrap-around dresses. Andean peoples then adopted the clothing still in use today. Quechua women wear skirts and blouses, with colorful woven shawls around their shoulders. Men wear trousers, shirts, and woven ponchos (capas). Sandals are the preferred footwear for both men and women.

The style and color of clothing worn by Quechua Indians varies dramatically from region to region. The Otavalo of Ecuador, an important subgroup of the Quechua, have a very distinctive dress. They wear white trousers and shirts, covered by a solid black poncho. Otavalo men are also famed for their long black braids.

### Typical clothing:

- *Polleras* - colorful skirts made from handwoven wool cloth called *bayeta*. Women may wear 3 or 4 skirts in a graduated layer effect. On special occasions such as festivals women may wear up to 15 polleras tied around the waist. Often the trim of each skirt is lined with a colorful *puyto* which is usually handmade. In some areas polleras are also referred to as *melkkhay* (Quechua)
- *Monteras* - hats vary tremendously throughout the communities in the Andes. Often it is possible to identify the village from which a woman comes from just by the type of hat she wears. Hats are secured with delicately woven *sanq'apa* straps adorned with white beads.
- **Ajotas** - sandals made from recycled truck tires
- **Chullos** are frequently worn. These are knitted hats with earflaps. The first chullo that a child receives is traditionally knitted by his father. In the Ausangate region chullos are often ornately adorned with white beads and large tassels called **t'ikas**. Men sometimes wear a felt hat called a *sombrero* over the top of the **chullo** decorated with **centillo**, finely decorated hat bands.
- The most distinctive part of men's clothing is the handwoven **poncho**. Nearly every Quechua man and boy has a poncho, generally red in color decorated with intricate designs. Each district has a distinctive pattern. In some communities such as Huilloc, Patacancha, and many villages in the Lares Valley ponchos are worn as daily attire. However most men use their ponchos on special occasions such as festivals, village meetings, weddings etc.
- As with the women, **ajotas**, sandals made from recycled tires, are the standard footwear. They are inexpensive and durable.

## Some Countries in the Stories

### Argentina:



Argentina is a South American country. It is second in size on the South American continent to Brazil and eighth in the world. Argentina occupies a big continental surface area between the Andes mountain range in the west and the southern Atlantic Ocean in the east and south. It is bordered by Paraguay and Bolivia in the north, Brazil and Uruguay in the northeast, and Chile in the west and south.

***Argentinean Animals:*** some of the typical animals that you can find in Argentina are jaguars, cougars, ocelots, primates, crocodiles, caimans, turtles and tortoises, hummingbirds, flamingos, toucans, parrots, hawks, falcons, herons, partridges, deer, foxes, llamas, guanacos, the Andean Condors, huemuls, pudús (the world's smallest deer), elephant seals, fur seals, sea lions, and species of penguins.

***Food and Drinks:*** Pasta, sausages, and desserts are common in the nation's diet. Argentina has a wide variety of staple foods, which include empanadas, a stuffed pastry; locro, a mixture of corn, beans, meat, bacon, onion, and gourd; and chorizo, a spicy sausage. Other popular items include Dulce de Leche and mate, Argentina's national beverage. The Argentine barbecue, asado, is one of the most famous in the world and includes various types of meats, among them chorizo, sweetbread, chitterlings, and morcilla (blood sausage). Thin sandwiches, sandwiches de miga, are also popular. Argentines have the highest consumption of red meat in the world.



Argentine Barbeque

## Chile:



Chile, officially the Republic of Chile, is a country in South America occupying a long and narrow coastal strip wedged between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. It borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage at the country's southernmost tip. It is one of only two countries in South America that does not have a border with Brazil. The Pacific forms the country's entire western border; Chilean territory extends to the Pacific Ocean which includes the overseas territories of Juan Fernández Islands, the Sala y Gómez islands, the Desventuradas Islands and Easter Island located in Polynesia. Chile claims 482,628 sq mi of territory in Antarctica.

***Chilean Animals:*** The fauna of the country is as varied as its flora, though less abundant. Of the mammalian group, the species which especially stand out are the puma, the guanaco (related to camels), the huemul (pertaining to the family of ciervos and native to the country), the vizcacha (a rodent with a taste for the rocky places of the mountains or antiplano), and another ciervos relative and the smallest of the family, the pudu, which is very difficult to observe in the wild. But the Chilean fauna isn't limited to the rugged geography of the mountain range, the aridity of the desert or the richness of the southern forests and Patagonia. The long coastline that flanks the west of the country also presents a great variety of species ranging from sea lions, seals, dolphins and otters, to colossal whales in the icy southern waters.

***Food and Drinks:*** Being such a long country stretched over a variety of landscapes, Chile has a vast range of food and drink. One of the highlights of Chilean Cuisine is its diversity of Seafood dues to its 2,647 miles of coastline. Chilean food should not be confused with the spicy dishes common in Mexico. Unlike Mexican meals, the hot chili is not too frequent in Chile.

### Typical Chilean Dishes:

- *Empanada de Pino* - typical turnover filled with diced meat, onions, olive, raisins and a piece of hard-boiled egg, baked in earthen or plain oven.
- *Pastel de Choclo* - a typical chilean summer dish. Ground corn and meat, chopped onions small pieces of chicken, pieces of hard boiled egg, olive raisins - baked in clay or regular oven. Similar to a shepherd pie.
- *Ensalada Chilena* - sliced tomatoes and onions with an oil dressing.
- *Humitas* - boiled corn leaf rolls filled with seasoned ground corn.
- *Asado*- different kinds of meat, sausages and sometimes entrails grilled over charcoal and served with potato salad or rice.
- *Pebre* - seasoning of tomatoes with chopped onion, chili, coriander, and chives. Usually served in a little clay dish.
- *Sopaipilla* - a flat circular deep fried 'bread' made of pumpkin and flour.

## Peru:



**Peru**, officially the Republic of Peru, is a country in western South America. It is bordered on the north by Ecuador and Colombia, on the east by Brazil, on the southeast by Bolivia, on the south by Chile, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Peruvian territory was home to the Norte Chico civilization, one of the oldest in the world, and to the Inca Empire, the largest state in Pre-Columbian America. The Spanish Empire conquered the region in the 16th century and established a Viceroyalty, which included most of its South American colonies. Its geography varies from the arid plains of the Pacific coast to the peaks of the Andes Mountains and the tropical forests of the

Amazon Basin. It is a developing country with a medium Human Development Index score and a poverty level around 45%. Its main economic activities include agriculture, fishing, mining, and manufacturing of products such as textiles. The Peruvian population, estimated at 28 million, is multiethnic, including Amerindians, Europeans, Africans and Asians. The main spoken language is Spanish, although a significant number of Peruvians speak Quechua or other native languages. This mixture of cultural traditions has resulted in a wide diversity of expressions in fields such as art, cuisine, literature, and music.

***Peruvian Animals:*** Peru's several climates and contrasting surface features have produced a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

The rich marine plant life off the Peruvian coast attracts a wealth of marine fauna, the most important of which are anchoveta, tuna, whale, swordfish, and marlin. Characteristic of the Andes are the great condor, ducks, and other wild fowl. The vizcacha, a mountain rodent, and the chinchilla are well known, as is the puma, or mountain lion. Peru is famous for its American members of the camel family—the llama, alpaca, huarizo, and guanaco—all typical grazing animals of the highlands. The humid forests and savannas of eastern Peru contain almost half the country's species of fauna, including parrots, monkeys, sloths, alligators, paiche fish, piranhas, and boa constrictors, all common to the Amazon Basin.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Peru-FLORA-AND-FAUNA.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Fauna\\_of\\_Peru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Fauna_of_Peru)

**Food and Drinks:** Peru is famous throughout South America for its food. As a major fishing nation, fish is abundant, and prepared with imagination.

The primary ingredients found in nearly every Peruvian dish are rice, potatoes, chicken, pork, lamb, and fish. Most of these meals include one of the different kinds of "aji", or Peruvian hot pepper, which mainly are: yellow aji pepper, red aji pepper, red rocoto pepper

Chicken, pork and lamb were introduced to Peru 500 years ago, when Spaniards came to America. Other ingredients, like potatoes, were already being grown in the Peruvian Andes and were taken by the Spaniards back to Europe.

Today more than 200 varieties of potato can be found in the Lake Titicaca area. They range in color from purple to blue, and from yellow to brown. Sizes and textures vary as well. Some are small as nuts; others can be as large as oranges. Following are some of the dishes and foods that can be found in Peru.

- *Ceviche* is the most famous. Peruvians "cook" fine white cod in lemon juice, serve it chunky with onions and spices. In the mountains, you can find "trucha," the local fresh Andean trout, generally farm raised.
- *Chifa* – This is the term for Chinese restaurants in Peru. From very elegant to simple, all seem to serve excellent food in and around Lima. Peruvians love to celebrate events at the Chifas.
- *Inca Cola* – The color of this soft drink is bright yellow and it smells like bubble gum.
- *Aji de Gallina*: shredded chicken in a spiced milk sauce.
- *Arroz con Pollo*: Boiled chicken seasoned with a green sauce. Served always with green rice (rice cooked with albahaca)
- *CauCau*: Consists of tripe and diced potatoes
- *Papa la Huancaína*: Potatoes served with a special spicy sauce, olives, lettuce and egg.
- *Papa Rellena*: meat-stuffed potato patties.

[http://www.questconnect.org/peru\\_food.htm](http://www.questconnect.org/peru_food.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peruvian\\_cuisine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peruvian_cuisine)

[http://www.dosmanosperu.com/dosmanos/english/latin-culture/food\\_and\\_drink.php](http://www.dosmanosperu.com/dosmanos/english/latin-culture/food_and_drink.php)

## Animals in the Stories

### Conejillo de Indias (Guinea Pig):



Guinea pigs (also called cavies after their scientific name) are rodents belonging to the family Caviidae and the genus *Cavia*. Despite their common name, the animals are not pigs, nor do they come from Guinea. Male guinea pigs are called boars, females sows and babies are called pups. They are originally native to the Andes, and while they are no longer extant in the wild, they are closely related to several species which are commonly found in the grassy

plains and plateaus of this region. The guinea pig plays an important role in the folk culture of indigenous South Americans, especially as a food source, but also in folk medicine and in community religious ceremonies. Since the 1960s, the guinea pig has become increasingly important as a staple food in the Andes, and efforts have been made to increase consumption of the animal outside South America.

In Western societies, the guinea pig has enjoyed widespread popularity as a household pet since its introduction by European traders in the sixteenth century. Because of its docile nature, the relative ease of caretaking, and its responsiveness to handling and feeding, the guinea pig remains a popular pet choice. Organizations devoted to competitive breeding of guinea pigs have been formed worldwide, and a large number of specialized breeds of guinea pig, with varying coat colors and compositions, are cultivated by breeders.

A guinea pig's diet should be comprised of three basic groups; grass hay, pellets, and fresh treats. Most importantly, a guinea pig cannot make their Vitamin C (just like people) and will need it either in vitamin supplements (not droplets, these don't work as the C dissolves too rapidly in water) or in plenty of the right fruits and veggies. Of course, every guinea pig needs a water bottle (they tend to poop in water bowls, and it could get very unhealthy).

[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Animal\\_Care/Guinea\\_pig](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Animal_Care/Guinea_pig)

## Conejo (Rabbit)



Name: Rabbit, Family Leporidae

Description: Long-eared, short-tailed, burrowing mammals.

Location: Every continent except Asia and Antarctica

### Special Features:

- Large ears
- Tufted tail
- Large feet
- Highly specialized runners
- 50 established breeds of domestic rabbits
- Life span about 9 years
- Newborn rabbits are called kittens

Diet: Vegetation, including grasses, growing trees, tree bark, small herbs.

Neat Fact: The biggest difference between a rabbit and a hare is that the young of a hare are born open-eyed and furred. The rabbit's young are born naked and with closed eyes.

<http://www.kidsturncentral.com/animals/rabbit.htm>

## Zorro (Fox)



Fox (animal), smallest member of the dog family, which also includes wolves, coyotes, jackals, and dogs. Foxes are characterized by short legs, an elongated narrow muzzle, erect triangular ears, thick fur, and a long bushy tail. Foxes are found throughout the Americas, Eurasia, and Africa, inhabiting mostly forest, chaparral, and desert regions. Most of the ten species of the genus to which the red

fox belongs can adapt to diverse climates and habitats.

Most foxes feed on mice, voles, rabbits, birds' eggs, fruit, large insects, and carrion. Because their prey is small, foxes are solitary rather than pack hunters. They generally work territories of less than 8 sq km (less than 3 sq mi), which they defend from other foxes. They are swift, agile runners; the red fox can reach a speed of 48 km/h (30 mph).

Foxes stalk their prey just like cats. Also like cats, they often play with their catch before they kill it. If they aren't hungry, they may even catch mice just to play with, then let them go when they are done.

A fox's hearing is so sharp they can hear a watch ticking 40 yards away.

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761565627/Fox\\_\(animal\).html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761565627/Fox_(animal).html)

<http://www.visitthefarm.com/animalfacts/redfox.php>

## Puma



The Name "Puma": "Puma" is the Quechua word for the animal. "Cougar" is a derivative of the Tupi word "suasuarana," which means "deer-like" (in color). "Panther" is the Greek word for the animal. "Lion" comes from the Greek word "leon," for the animal.

Location: Western North America and South America.

Habitat: Terrestrial. All types.

Description: The size of the puma varies considerably over its large geographic range. The basic coloration is yellowish-brown on top and pale underneath. The young are born with a speckled coat and a ringed tail, but the markings disappear as the young grow. In the adult, the only traces remaining are black markings on the head. The puma grows over five feet long, with almost three more feet for its tail. It can weigh up to 225 pounds, but the female is generally smaller.

Behavior: This is a solitary and territorial animal. The male spends a lot of time marking his large territory, but rarely defends it convincingly. The female has a smaller territory, which may overlap slightly with that of a male. The puma preys on most species of mammals but seems to prefer deer. It is a powerful and expert hunter and can jump up to 20 feet upwards in a single bound! By nature active both day and night, it has become strictly nocturnal in areas inhabited by man, its only enemy apart from wolves.

Reproduction: After a gestation period of 90 days, usually two or three (but sometimes as many as six) young are born in protected dens in caves or under ledges or roots. The young pumas are independent after two years.

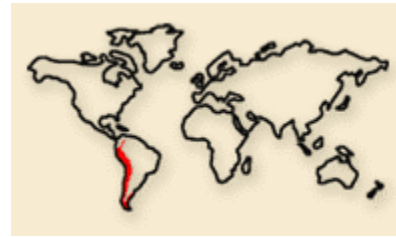
<http://www.americazoo.com/goto/index/mammals/310.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>

## Condor



MEASUREMENTS: The Andean Condor has a body length of 43 - 51 inches and an 11-foot



wingspan. The smaller female weighs 17 1/2 - 24 pounds while the larger male weighs 24 - 33 pounds. HABITAT: Andean Condors prefer open grasslands and alpine areas in high mountain regions of western South America. These condors will go to lowland deserts and coastlines to forage, but will rarely visit forested areas. DIET: Their diet mainly consists of carrion from large and medium-sized mammals. Condors cover great distances while soaring in search of food. REPRODUCTION: These condors nest in caves or on ledges on a cliff face. They lay a single egg that is incubated for about 59 days. The young birds learn to fly around 6 months of age, but stay with the parents for several more months. Condors may only breed every other year because of the extended breeding season. Young birds become sexually mature at 6 or more years of age. NAME DERIVATION: The scientific name comes from the Latin words vultur and vello, meaning to pluck or tear and refers to its feeding habits and gryphus means a griffon and refers to the hooked bill. The common name refers to the bird's range in the Andes Mountains.

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- The male Andean Condor is one of the largest flying birds.
- Andean Condors may kill some living prey, whereas the California Condor never kills living prey.
- The Andean Condor is the only New World vulture to show differences between males and females. The male has a large comb and wattle that is absent in the females.

[http://www.peregrinefund.org/explore\\_raptors/vultures/andcondr.html](http://www.peregrinefund.org/explore_raptors/vultures/andcondr.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andean\\_Condor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andean_Condor)

## Game

### Tirar Frijoles (*Throwing beans*)

Activity:	Tirar Frijoles (South America, Bolivia)
Audience:	4th – 6th Grade (15 to 20)
Lesson Time:	15 – 20 minutes
Objective:	To learn a South American game
Materials:	Chalk Dried beans or marbles (9 per player)
Preparation:	With chalk, draw a straight line about 5 feet long on the ground
Explain:	This game is played in Bolivia. Bolivia is located in South America and is bordered by Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. Many Bolivian children are Indian. Their culture goes back thousands of years. These children speak two languages: their own Indian language and Spanish. A popular Bolivian game is “tirar frijoles” (pronounced TEE-rahr-FREE-holes) which means throw beans. If no beans are available, use marbles instead. There are many ways to play tirar frijoles. Here is one way to play it:

#### Procedure:

- Divide into pairs
- Each player of a pair stands about 5 feet from the line and attempts to flick a bean toward the line. The player whose bean lands closest to the line becomes the standing player. The other player becomes the kneeling player, who kneels across the line from his/her partner facing him or her
- The standing player stands by the line with heels together, toes apart, and a bean in his/her hand
- The other player kneels across the line from his/her partner about 5 feet from the line, and attempts to flick a bean between the standing player’s feet
- The kneeling player gets three attempts to land a bean
- If the kneeling player does not land a bean, the standing player keeps the unlanded beans, and takes a turn at being the kneeling player
- If the kneeling player lands a bean, the standing player drops one of the beans his/her is holding
- The kneeling player tries to hit the opponent’s bean. If it’s hit, the bean belongs to the kneeling player. If not, the standing player keeps the bean as well as the bean used for the hit
- The game ends when one player owns all the beans or marbles

#### \*\*Discussion

Do you know any other games which are similar to this?

What might be some variations of this game?

[http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/centersandcamping/resources/international/Education%20-%20Tirar%20Frijoles%20\(Games\).pdf](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/centersandcamping/resources/international/Education%20-%20Tirar%20Frijoles%20(Games).pdf)

## Drama Activities for your Classroom

### 1. Animal Transformation

- Tell your students that in this activity they will first move like different animals. You can talk about the various characteristics of animals and how they move i.e. kangaroos, hopping; elephants, large and slow, big movement; rabbits, quick and nervous; eagles, smooth gliding movements etc.
- Then explain that they will transform from themselves, into the animal and then back into a person acting with that animal trait
- Begin by having your students walk around your classroom
- Call out the name of an animal, let the students move as the animal with animal characteristics – you can call out suggestions.
- When all students are moving, tell them to gradually become a “person” again but to keep traits of the animal movement
- Call freeze: now each “actor” in turn will say something in their animal character.

### Make up your own trickster tales

- Divide your students into groups of 3 or 4
- Have each student choose an animal they would like to portray for their trickster tale (see above activity)
- Each scene should have two parts. Part A: One or two of the animals wants something from the remaining characters (i.e. – to eat them, to get their food, money or house, to do their work for them, to marry them etc.) Part B: The other animals must think of a trick to avoid the fate in part A
- Give your students 10-15 minutes to brainstorm and rehearse.
- Take turns performing the skits



## South American Childhood Songs

Just as children in the United States enjoy singing games, so do children in South America. You may be familiar with the counting song/game One Elephant.

**One elephant went out to play, Out on a Spider's Web one day  
She had such enormous fun, She called on another elephant to come  
Two elephants.....**

This song originates from a Spanish Folk tune: try it in Spanish

### Los Elefantes

#### Spanish

Un elefante se columpiaba  
Sobre la tela de una araña.  
Y como veiron que resistía  
Fueron a llamar otro elefante.

Dos elefantes se columpiaba  
Sobre la tela de una araña.  
Y como veiron que resistía  
Fueron a llamar otro elefante.

Tres elefantes...  
Cuatro elefantes...  
Cinco elefantes...

#### English

One elephant swung  
On the web of a spider.  
And when he saw that it held him,  
He called another elephant.

Two elephants swung  
On the web of a spider.  
And when they the saw that it held them,  
They called another elephant.

Three elephants...  
Four elephants..  
Five elephants...

**For more Spanish folk songs follow this link**

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/ninos/songsrhymes.html#chocolate>



**Argentine school children sing along during a musical concert.**

## **Trampas Bibliography**

### **South American Folklore:**

Knutson, Barbara: *Love and Roast Chicken: a trickster tale from the Andes Mountains*, Minneapolis, CarolRhoda Books, c. 2004

Brusca, Maria Cristina, Tonia Wilson: *The Cook and the King*, New York Holt, 1993

Weiss, Jaqueline Shachter, *Young Brer Rabbit, and other trickster tales from the Americas, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed.*, Owing Mills Md., Stemmer House Publishers, 1995

Ardagh, Phillip, illustrated by Syrah Arnold: *South American myths & legends*, Chicago: World Book, 2002.

### **Spanish/English Bi Lingual Stories**

Hayes, Joe: *Pajaro Verde = The Green Bird*, El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press, 2002

### **Argentina**

Brusca, Maria Christina: *On the Pampas*, New York, Holt, 1991

### **Chile**

McNair, Sylvia: *Chile*, New York, Children's Press, 2000

### **Peru**

Sheilds, Charles: *Peru*, Philedelphia: Mason Crest Publishers, 2004

### **Andes Mountains**

Muller, Birte translated by Marianne Martens: *Felipe and the Day of the Dead*: New York, North South Book, 2004

Manns, Elizabeth, illustrations by Amy Crehore: *Macchu Piccu*, New York, Mikaya Press, 2000