

The Journey of Water: From Colombia's Páramo to the Kitchen Sink

Virtual Field Trip Discussion Questions

1. What is the páramo and in what country is it located?
2. Colombia makes up only 0.003% of Earth's land area but has what percent of Earth's plant and animal species?
3. Alejandro talked about how a box of science experiments got him excited about science when he was a child. What kinds of things or activities interest you or get you excited about science?
4. Chingaza is a national park in Colombia. Can you name 2 or 3 national parks in the United States?
5. Where does the city of Bogota get most of its drinking water?
6. Alejandro described visiting Chingaza National Park when he was eight years old. Describe a natural place that you have enjoyed visiting (it doesn't have to be a national park). What is it like there? What do you like about it?
7. How do the plants in the páramo help people in Bogotá to have safe drinking water?
8. Provide some examples from the virtual field trip that show how "keeping nature healthy helps to keep people healthy."

9. What are some of the things that can lower the quality of the water as it travels from Chingaza to Bogotá?

Take it further:

Is the water where you live affected by any of these things? Why or why not?

10. Think about your day. What are some things that you depend on water for and that would be more difficult if you did not have access to enough clean water?

11. Tyler describes the water used to make a simple cheeseburger. Describe one of your favorite meals and how water might be used in each part of it. You do not need to include the number of gallons of water, only how the water might be part of the process, as with the grass the cows need to eat.

Take It further:

See if you can do some online research to find out how much water, in gallons, your meal really does use!

12. What kind of plant can absorb 40 times its weight in water?

13. Why are the hairy leaves of the frailejones important to people and animals?

14. Name two of the animals you might see in the páramo.

15. What is a camera trap?

16. What animal does Colombia have the largest number of species in the world?

17. What are some of the threats facing the páramo ecosystem in Colombia?

Take it further:

Does the ecosystem in which you live or from which you get your water face any of these threats? Explain.

18. What is a water fund?

19. What are some ways you can help protect water where you live?

Take It further:

Why is it important to protect water at its source?