

LATIN AMERICA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE BOX

- ED.1987.3.84 This is a small sample of hand loomed cotton fabric made in ikat technique from the town of Quetzaltenango in Guatemala. In this piece, the weft or cross-wise weaving threads are measured out and tie-dyed before being woven. The Maya Indians make shawls and wrapped skirts of this fabric for the women to wear or to sell to tourists. Note the small, stylized human figures that have been “tied” into the black warp stripes to reserve the pattern in undyed white.
- ED.1991.12.57 a-c Three small mola-style patches made by Cuna Indians of Panama.
- ED.1992.1.24a This is a handwoven hair tie of the type used in Totonicapan, Guatemala by the native Indian women. Each little village has their own unique style of weaving and wearing these. When women from several villages meet at a large market town, they can tell which village each is from by the designs and ways of tying them.
- ED.1993.1.4 Small mola (square made of reverse appliqué, embroidery and regular appliqué on cotton fabric) made by the Cuna Indians who live on the San Blas Islands off the Caribbean coast of Panama. The women traditionally wear blouses using 2 of these molas for the lower front and back, using commercially printed cotton or polyester fabric for the yoke and small, gathered cap sleeves. The making of these molas has become almost an industry in the area with several co-ops and other non-governmental organizations in the area working to market them internationally. (See also #2005.39.1)
- ED.1993.5.39 a-s Woven rush figures from Mexico: 2 birds, 2 horses, 3 airplanes, 6 fish, 2 men in serapes and hats, 4 generic humans.
- ED.1993.5.41 Woven wheat straw figurine of a four-legged animal. The straw was soaked in water to soften, bent into shape, and tied with string to form the figure. From Mexico.
- ED.1993.5.51 Woven rush frame from Mexico made in a technique similar to that of “gum wrapper chains” made here in the U.S. This is also the technique that was often used to make straw “boater” style hats in the early 20th century in the U.S.
- ED.1995.21.5 “Chamula” doll of unfired clay wrapped in roughly woven fabric from Mexico.
- ED.2000.23.5 This small piece of cotton fabric was woven on a backstrap loom by a Maya Indian woman in the highlands of Guatemala. Note that there are no raw edges—it is woven to shape. The stylized animal designs are woven into the design by a technique called brocading. From the size of this piece, it was probably made for sale to a tourist, but the width (if not the length) would be right for a man’s sash.
- ED.2001.1.1 Coat of Arms of Surinam (formerly Dutch Guyana)
- ED.2001.24.74 Cloth body doll, probably from Mexico, of a woman with long braids and wearing mestizo (acculturated Indian) dress.
- ED.2001.24.100 Male doll from Guatemala wearing traditional Maya Indian dress. The body is made of coiled brown paper and the head of stuffed and embroidered cloth.
- ED.2003.27.47 Copper plaque of alcalde or village headman with staff of office wearing typical clothing of Cuzco area of Peru, Quechua (Inca) Indian.

- ED.2004.3.117 Wood plaque with brass model of pre-Columbian ceremonial knife from the ancient Tairona culture of Colombia.
- ED.2004.6.7 Woven straw doll's hat from the border area of Panama and Colombia.
- ED.2005.1.51 a-h Ceramic impressions of ancient Maya hieroglyphs. These modern reproductions can be used for crayon rubbings in the classroom.
- ED.2005.1.121 Dancing couple hand-molded of low fire clay and painted with tempera Paint. Typical Mexican ceramic folk art.
- ED.2005.1.135 Wooden "batea". This is a typical household utensil made in all sizes for everyday use for chores ranging from mixing bread dough to doing the laundry and bathing babies. They are used throughout Mexico and Central America down to Panama.
- ED.2005.1.174 Model of tortora reed boat of the kind traditionally used on Lake Titicaca on the border of Peru and Bolivia—the world's highest navigable lake.
- ED.2005.1.198 a,b Pair of Guatemalan women dolls in Maya Indian dress. The bodies are made of rolled brown paper and the heads of stuffed cloth with embroidered faces. Figure (a) has an acorn cap "basket" on her head- Indian women typically carry burdens on their head, often wrapped in cloths such as the tzute (see below #ED. 2005.1.323).
- ED.2005.1.200 a,b Hand woven cotton belts made and used by the Indians of Mexico and Guatemala.
- ED.2005.1.323 Handwoven cotton tzute (carrying cloth) from Guatemala. This was made by Maya Indian woman in Guatemala using a traditional backstrap or body tension loom. The warp or foundation yarns were tie-dyed before weaving to produce the "fuzzy" looking stripes. This one is from the early 20th century.
- ED.2005.1.335 Poster map of traditional dress styles and their locations in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico.
- ED.2005.1.395 Woman's short sleeved blouse from Mexico of white cotton manta cloth with bright-colored yarn embroidery in counted thread work in geometric designs..
- ED.2005.3.12 a-h UNICEF cardstock figures of children in traditional dress:
- (a) boy dressed as "gaucho" (cowboy) from Argentina
 - (b) boy musician from Venezuela
 - (c) girl in festive dress from Puerto Rico
 - (d) girl in "China Poblana" outfit from Mexico
 - (e) Maya boy from highland Guatemala market town of Chichicastenango
 - (f) girl from Jamaica
 - (g) girl from Haiti
 - (h) boy from Cuzco area of Peru in Inca dress
- ED.2005.20.2 Clay bead necklace of hand-formed terra cotta beads. This type of folk art jewelry is sold to tourists all over Latin America from Mexico to Peru and Chile.
- ED.2005.25.4 A-F Set of 6 low-fire painted clay children's dishes of a type also used for making miniature scenes in boxes. From Mexico- fragile
- ED.2005.25.21 Wood "egg cup" incised with a beach scene and the words "Havana". A typical mass-produced tourist item of a sort rarely encountered now that Cuba is closed to American travelers by order of the U.S. state department.
- ED.2005.39.1 Bag of a type sold to tourists by the Kuna (alternatively spelled Cuna)

- Indians of Panama. On one side is a mola or reverse appliqué picture of multi-colored curved stripes. Traditionally these molas are used to form the back or front of a woman's blouse, but new uses have been found for them to appeal to the tourist market. The Cuna live on the San Blas Islands in the Caribbean Sea, on the east coast of Panama.
- ED.2005.39.2 Crocheted cotton shoulder bag from Guatemalan highlands in a multi-colored geometric striped pattern on a black background. Men often crochet these bags to use for carrying items while hiking to their fields in the mountains.
- Ed.2005.51.135 Stuffed cloth body doll with button eyes and mouth carrying basket on head- a typical way to carry burdens in many parts of the world which leaves the hands free for other activities. Though ink writing on her inner leg states she is from Honduras, other donor info stated Brazil and this type of doll is typical of some in the museum collection from Guatemala!
- ED.2005.56.1 Tapestry woven pillow cover from Ecuador with a stylized bird design in wool weft on a cotton warp. The native Indians in the highlands of Ecuador are well known for their weavings and make many things to sell, including ponchos, at the weekly markets in the mountain towns.
- ED.2006.1.21 Poster "Map of the Folk Arts of Mexico" showing a painting of Mexico with figures in traditional dress making various types of folk art by Miguel Covarrubias. He has also written descriptive text on the back.
- ED.2006.1.259 a,b Cardboard game boards for "Juego de la Oca" (The Goose Game) with a checkerboard printed on back. Attached to these is an English translation of the instructions for playing the game. This game is played in Mexico and the boards were purchased in Olvera St. in Los Angeles. The game requires 2 dice and a marker/playing piece for each player. Two or more players can play at a time.
- ED.2006.1.260 a,b Cardboard game boards for "Serpientes y Escaleras" (Serpents and Ladders—also known as Chutes and Ladders) with an additional game, "Corre Que Te Alcanzo" (Tag) on back side. Attached to these is an English translation of the instructions for playing the game. This game is played in Mexico and the boards were purchased in Olvera St. in Los Angeles.
- ED.2006.1.302 A statuette of a man in Classic Era (around 500-800 A.D.) Maya costume and headdress. Though the headdress is large, it probably did not weigh a lot as they were usually made of cane basketry covered with feathers and other light weight materials. The Maya Indians of southern Mexico and Guatemala had a highly organized and stratified civilization in Central America long before Columbus made his first voyage. While this is a figurine made for the tourist trade (thousands of people a year go to see the ruins of their large cities), many museums in the Los Angeles area own artworks from the Classic Maya civilization and have them on display.
- ED.2006.1.324 Model of a backstrap or body tension loom with a partially completed piece of cloth woven on it. Larger versions of this loom are still used today by many tribal women, especially in southern Mexico and Guatemala, to weave traditional blouses called huipiles and carrying cloths called tzutes.
- ED.2006.1.366 a,b A gourd "bomba" for drinking mate, the national drink of Argentina accompanied by the traditional perforated metal straw. Maté is an herbal drink

- that is said to contain more caffeine than coffee. Though this is a simple one, some bomb are quite elaborate with etched & carved designs and silver trim.
- ED.2006.9.41 A laminated map of “Central America: Past and Present” from the National Geographic Society.
- ED.2006.9.43 A laminated map of “South America” from the National Geographic Society.
- ED.2006.9.44 A laminated map of the “Indians of South America” from the National Geographic Society.
- ED.2007.1.68 a,b Two travel posters from Colombia. (A) from San Agustin shows a large pre-historic stone sculpture and (B) from Bogota with a pre-historic gold pectoral (breast pendant). Colombia is famous for its prehistoric gold work, many pieces of which are in the historic “Museo de Oro” (Gold Museum) in Bogota.
- ED.2007.1.69 Travel poster from Mexico City showing a ceramic figurine of a pre-Columbian warrior (Aztec?) seated on a bright pink brocade fabric woven on a back-strap loom by contemporary Indians in Mexico.
- ED.2007.1.128 a-j Amazonian Indian fire starting kit, probably from Brazil. A hollow bamboo or cane piece holds 8 small sticks with cotton fibers wrapped around one end (these are the fibers that will help start the fire) and keeps them dry. A hollow round gourd is attached to this by wire and may have once been plugged to hold accessories such as flint and steel to make sparks.