

## **Student Worksheet: Coffee in Costa Rica and Colombia**

Coffee is one of the most important agricultural products in Latin America and has played a key role in shaping the history, economy, and culture of several countries. In Costa Rica, coffee production developed during the 19th century and helped transform rural communities while strengthening national economies.

In Colombia, coffee has received official recognition as a symbol of national identity. The country's Coffee Cultural Landscape has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and coffee was recently declared the national beverage by law.

By analyzing articles and cultural sources, you should explore the historical, cultural, and economic importance of coffee in Costa Rica and Colombia and evaluate whether Costa Rican coffee could also be considered part of the nation's cultural heritage.

### **Instructions**

For this activity, you will work with a partner. One student will research coffee in Costa Rica and the other will research coffee in Colombia.

**Student A (Costa Rica):** Research the history, culture, and economic importance of coffee in Costa Rica.

**Student B (Colombia):** Research the history, culture, and economic importance of coffee in Colombia.

You will then:

- 1) **Read and analyze** the articles assigned to your country (Costa Rica or Colombia).
- 2) **Identify 2–3 key ideas** related to the following topics:
  - historical development of coffee
  - the role of coffee in rural communities and agricultural traditions

- the cultural significance of coffee
- the economic importance of coffee

Add your notes and examples to your country's section of the comparison chart (see pages 3 and 4).

3) **Work with your partner and share your findings.**

You and your partner share your findings in Spanish and explain what you learned from the articles. While listening to your partner, take notes and complete the **other country's section** of the comparison chart.

- 4) After both sections of the chart are complete, participate in a class discussion comparing the role of coffee in Costa Rica and Colombia. Finally, discuss whether Costa Rican coffee should receive official national heritage recognition similar to Colombia's **UNESCO-recognized coffee heritage region**.

**Resource List:**

- 1) Alvarez, S. (2024). *La Importancia del Café en Colombia: Un Viaje Histórico*. Cafes de Colombia.  
<https://cafesdecolombia.co/la-importancia-del-cafe-en-colombia/>
- 2) El Marinillo. (2025). *El café ya es oficialmente nuestra bebida nacional: una declaratoria que honra a quienes lo cultivan y lo comparten con el mundo*.  
<https://elmarinillo.co/marinilla/el-cafe-ya-es-oficialmente-nuestra-bebida-nacional-una-declaratoria-que-honra-a-quienes-lo-cultivan-y-lo-comparten-con-el-mundo.html>
- 3) Instituto del Café de Costa Rica (ICAFE). (n.d.). Historia del café en Costa Rica.  
<https://www.icafe.cr/nuestro-cafe/historia/>
- 4) Mora, J. E. (2025). *El café como un diálogo incesante en la cultura costarricense*. Semanario Universidad.  
<https://semanariouniversidad.com/cultura/el-cafe-como-un-dialogo-incesante-en-la-cultura-costarricense/>

**Comparison Chart:**

	<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>Colombia</b>
Historical development of coffee	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>
Role of coffee in rural communities and agricultural traditions	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>

Cultural significance of coffee	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>
Economic importance of coffee	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>	<u>Arguments and Examples</u>