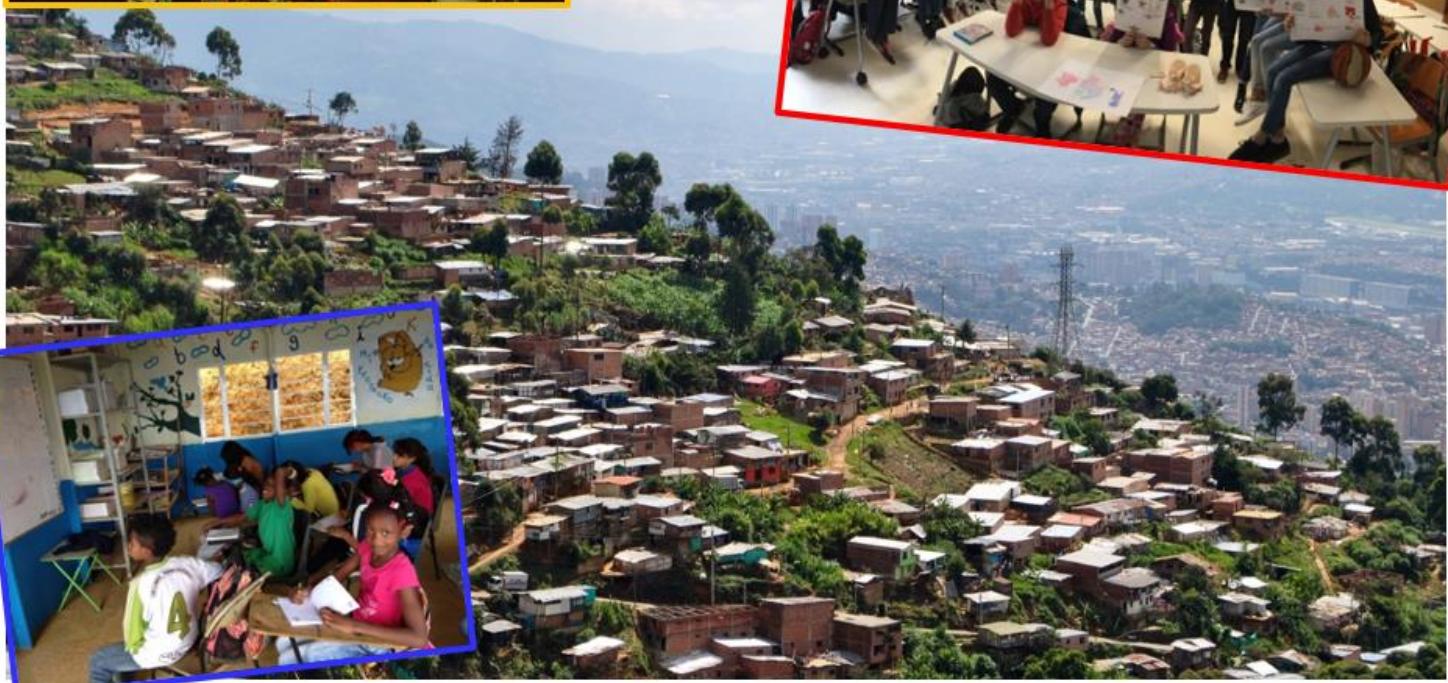


COLOMBIA



***The street develops the violence,
education supports the peace.***

Télécharge la TRADUCTION en français ou anglais ici :

<http://blog.ac-versailles.fr/sevresmedellin/>



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<https://www.onlinequizcreator.com/fr/quizz-colombie/quiz-377786>

Who are we?

Juliette Florence Pascaline

We are different children from different countries, and we speak different languages, like Danish, English, French and some Spanish. We study at the school of Sèvres, France.

Our Spanish class is composed of 2 wonderful groups of children: the 6°7 class and the 6°8 class. We like to work together because we appreciate each other very much. We started studying Spanish this year in September 2017 and we like to speak Spanish because we communicate with Colombian children and discover their way of life. Nevertheless, we are human and we have unique flaws and values that characterize us.

Our project

Maya Lucy

Our project consists in improving the lives of disadvantaged children in the shantytown La Cruz, in Medellín (Colombia) by offering them food and education that could allow them a better future. For that, we collaborate with the association **GROW TOGETHER** in Sèvres.

You can consult examples, works, photos, audios, and a description of our activities in our blog: <http://blog.ac-versailles.fr/sevresmedellin/>

If you want to support our educational project you can visit the website:

<https://www.grandir-ensemble.info/>

Correspondence with Colombia **Pascaline Florence Juliette**

We can communicate by sending letters and posters all over the world... all the way to Colombia. The letters travel by mail, on paper, or with volunteers, and so arrive fairly quickly

So far we have sent several letters, describing who we are, another describing what we like and do not like, or explaining our daily routine. We also sent videos and audios, for example on meteorology in France or Colombian poetry. We started to correspond with our correspondents in October. These letters, posters, photos and videos have taught us a lot, although it was very early in our language learning experience for us, and at the beginning we only knew how to introduce ourselves.

Sending letters is a fun and interesting way to learn Spanish and to get to know somebody.

Here's what some students think about sending cards:

"I feel like it's like therapy. You talk to someone you do not even know. you tell them what you like and what you do not like". "I think letters are really a good idea because we communicate with other students and we learn at the same time."



A little bit of geography

Devon Victor Valentin

Most of Colombia is in the northern hemisphere, northwest of South America. It has borders with: Panama, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador.

The country is divided into five regions:



The **Caribbean** region is southeast of the Caribbean Sea.

The **Pacific** region is on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, to the west.

The **Orinoquía** region is to the northeast, where the Orinoquia River passes.

In the **Andean** region passes the Andes mountain range.

In the **Amazon** region, to the southeast, the Amazon River passes.

The city of Medellín is in the Andean region, in the department of Antioquia. Its center is modern and innovative, although there are many slums around it, such as La Cruz.

A little bit of history

Isabella Nora

The history of Colombia is divided into three periods: Indigenous, Hispanic and Republican.

-In the **Indigenous period**, the first men appeared in the Caribbean region. The population was nomadic (traveled constantly) and then converted to a sedentary lifestyle. Later, they emigrated and occupied the whole country.

-The **Hispanic period** began with the **discovery** of America by Christopher Columbus, in 1492, and the first encounter between Spaniards and Colombian Indians in 1500.

The period of **conquest** lasted until around 1550, when the Spaniards deprived the Indians of their territories rich in minerals and forest resources, subjecting them to slavery. This is when the first cities were founded.

During the period when Colombia was a **colony**, the Spaniards continued to colonize the country and all of Latin America. Later, they brought blacks from Africa and used them as slaves because they were very strong. There was miscegenation among blacks, Indians and Spaniards.

-At last, the **Republican period** arrived.

Thanks to Simón Bolívar, Colombia became independent in 1821. Gran Colombia was formed with Colombia, Venezuela and Panama (the latter was separated from Gran Colombia in 1831 by pressure from the United States, who were interested in the Panama Canal). At the same time, the "law of the belly" was approved, which consisted in granting the freedom to the children of the slaves. In the 20th century, from the 1940s, Colombians also experienced moments of great tension and violence, with the guerrillas.

The situation has been improving since 2016, with the **PEACE process**.



Daily life in La Cruz

Ima Anita Laoise

The neighborhood of La Cruz is a neighborhood with few resources, located at the top of the mountain range, far from the modern center of Medellin, "the capital of the mountain, city of flowers and eternal spring."

Many of its 20,000 inhabitants have abandoned everything while fleeing their village, land or native country due to violence.

Families have very little access to basic services such as education, hospitals or commerce. The employment opportunities there are very limited, and parents struggle daily to get casual jobs like car mechanics, cleaning jobs, or recycling garbage. 80% of families do not have any regular income. They build their houses with re-used materials: bricks, plastic, wood, metal, cloth, iron ...

La Cruz is currently the shantytown which is farthest up on the slopes of the mountain, compared to other neighborhoods around. Unfortunately, it is also one of the poorest and most violent in Medellín!

The inhabitants learn to live together, and little by little they realize that there are alternatives to crime. Drug problems and confrontations between groups are decreasing thanks to the initiatives of local associations. Every day, the neighborhood becomes less dangerous: daily life and conditions are improving little by little.

Educational Institution in La Cruz Noah L Noah G Tristan

At the present time, there is only one primary school, which was built in 2009. There is no secondary school despite its 20 000 inhabitants. But construction began on one in 2017.

The Educational Institution the Cruz has a unusual organization. In the new canteen, 400 children eat two to three healthy and free meals every day.

- Food is offered in exchange for **presence in class**. Unfortunately, many of the children do not come to class because they are obliged by their parents to work (for example to recycle garbage).
- Thanks to **environmental education**, they learn to grow plants and rear animals and have a way to produce their own food when they get older.
- They can be happy and occupied, enjoying the fact they can play in **total security** far from the violence and beatings on the streets.
- They develop **cooperation**, a fundamental concept in the shantytown. They all need help from each other. For example, the parents and neighbors volunteer to help the school.

COMIC STRIP

Martin



"I am hungry! My father is dead, and my mother, like most in the neighborhood, does not have a job. Myself, I eat what I can find in the garbage. I recycle and when I can find things that I can sell, I earn a couple of pesos..."

Actions of the Sèvres association in the neighborhood

Maya Lucy

1. The first action was to install **drinking water** (2016), in the neighborhood and in the primary school, because before there wasn't any and everyone got sick.
2. Then, in February 2017, a **retaining wall** was built to protect the students from the dramatic landslides during the rainy season.
3. The third action was to renovate the **cafeteria** (August 2017), since it was in very bad condition and neither sanitary nor safety norms were being met. Constructed for 350 students, today 400 children eat there every day as new refugees are arriving constantly.
4. Fourth action was the beginning of the **construction of the first middle school** (October 2017), so that the students can continue studying, obtain a qualification and begin a decent profession. Until now, at age 12, children have returned to the streets, to violence and poverty. The school will be completed in 2018.
5. Fifth: a **barbershop salon** was built for the students (May 2018): it allows them to earn a little money, and study without being forced to work elsewhere.
6. The project for 2019 is to create a small **supermarket**. Until now, families bought expensive food in the neighborhood (from the black market), or they had to go to the center od Medellin to buy food cheaply, but this is much too far away to be realistic. The supermarket will allow them to buy cheap products locally.

COMIC STRIP

Owen



French volunteers

Malia Roxane

Sometimes the volunteers give lessons (English, French, or when teachers are absent), but they can also do workshops of "**Living together**" (such as civic education), or cultural themes: music, physical education, drawing classes...

They can also organize activities to entertain children, as in 2016 when two volunteers used a clown to give a show (his first) and they prepared "hot dogs" for all the children. Current volunteers (2018) helped build the new middle school and first shops.



Nicolas is a 23-year-old volunteer who helped La Cruz for two months in 2018 while on vacation from university. When he came back to France, we had the luck to be able to interview him. He answered all our questions.

Questions for a volunteer from La Cruz

Is this the first time you've traveled to Colombia?

- Yes, it's the first time. Moreover, this was my first time in Latin America!

Why did you choose to help in this slum and not in another?

- I chose this district because it is the one that the CRECER JUNTOS association helps. It is a very poor slum that is at the top of the mountains around Medellin.

Were you scared when you went to La Cruz for the first time?

- Yes of course! The neighborhood is controlled by the drug traffickers and then I had to integrate into this microcosm when I spoke with them.

How did the children react to the reception of our letters?

- The children were delighted to receive your letters. They liked the fact that they received letters from France. In addition, they asked me how your names were pronounced. It made them laugh!

How are students during class, are they good and attentive?

- It can not be compared to France. The education system is totally different and it is true that the academic level is lower than in France. However, they love to learn new things. The boys in my classes were between 13 and 16 years old, so sometimes they preferred to talk to each other than to listen! Like you, no?

What is the biggest problem for neighborhood kids?

- Children do not have a lot of money and they do not have very good living conditions. They live in huts and some of them are "recyclers", that is, digging in bins to find food or anything else they can sell.

What do neighborhood families eat?

- They eat what they grow. In addition, they usually eat rice-based foods or "arepas" (corn).

Where do children get their clothes and school supplies?

- Some manage to buy basic school supplies (such as school bag, ruler, notebooks, colour pencils or pens). Others rely on donations.

Have you personally witnessed the trafficking of arms, drugs, aggression and violence?

- No. I saw drugs, but I did not witness any aggression. Fortunately!

Were there any problems between the volunteers and CRECER JUNTOS and the bands?

- No. The first day, the volunteers introduce themselves to the combos so that they know them. In the end, they protect us because we help their children, little brothers / sisters or neighbors.

Is the historic center of Medellín very different from La Cruz?

- Of course. The city is modern, while La Cruz is very poor, full of favelas, on the mountain slopes.

Are there plans in the future to build more and better streets between La Cruz and downtown Medellín, to facilitate the public transport situation?

- There are infrastructure projects to improve roads between La Cruz, which is currently isolated, and the center of Medellin. It is very important to integrate the poor so that they can work more easily in the city (at the moment it is more than one hour away!).

Besides, the trip can be dangerous. When it rains a lot, it causes landslides and the roads are closed for months.



In your opinion, is the neighborhood progressing?

- With the support of several humanitarian associations, the neighborhood is growing. Shops have opened, which makes daily life easier. and a hair salon will be built this year! This integration will help fight drug trafficking.

Are there children who go to the center of Medellín to continue studying or living?

- Unfortunately, children who succeed in attending college are a minority. Although there are scholarships, boys do not have a sufficient level to pass the entrance examination so far.

But, it is true that things are changing thanks to the teachers who support the children and inform them of the opportunities available. In general, boys do not want to imitate their parents and want to leave the neighborhood and to live in the center of Medellin.

Has the vision of children's lives changed since they lived in La Cruz?

- They do not have the same points of reference as us. They live in a climate of daily violence. For them, the most important thing is to get out of poverty and pacify the neighborhood in a general way. **Yes, to coexistence, no to violence!**

What do kids do on their summer holidays?

The richest can visit their families on the beach of the Caribbean Ocean in the north, or of the Pacific Ocean, in the west. The rest stay in the neighborhood.

Cinema: "The colors of the mountain"

The film "***The Colors of the Mountain***" (***Carlos Ceasar Arbeláez, 2011***) tells the daily life of some kids from the countryside, passionate about football, and their families who only expect to live in peace ... In parallel, reality of the guerilla impacts, by its violence, adults, and children.

The favorite scene

Publié avec l'aimable autorisation de J.P.Tamayo Giraldo (El Bus Producciones)

Our favorite scene in the film is when the class paints the school wall and then erases messages from guerrilla bands. This is a very touching scene because it represents the solidarity and fraternity between the kids of the countryside, in



spite of the difficulty of their daily lives. In this scene, we see signs of bravery for the class and the teacher, who are working to bring PEACE and RESPECT to their school.

Symbols

The title represents how beautiful, pretty and amazing the country is. The painting represents the innocence of the children of the countryside are, the landscape represents the beauty and diversity of the country.

Film critic of the students

This film is very interesting because it explains what the life is like for people living in the countryside, and why they are forced to flee to the city, to the shantytown. It is very good because it denounces the sad reality of the guerrilla for civilians. It is very difficult to be neutral. It makes us think a lot. It is important to show the reality of Colombian families and their loyalty.

In conclusion, we recommend everyone go to see this exciting movie!

The final

Quiz...

Just play with us:



Louis Luke

1. Who are we? We are:

Secondary-school pupil Teachers Students Volunteers

2. How is the life in La Cruz? It is:

Calm and happy Violent but happy Violent and calm Violent and sad

3. What is the association name that helps La Cruz?

Build together Dream together Grow together Learn together

4. What is the region in Colombia which is the most to the north called?

The Amazon region. The Andean region. The Caribbean region. The Orinoquia region.

5. How many periods are there in the history of Colombia?

2 periods 3 periods 4 periods 5 periods

6. What is the role of the law of the belly?

It frees all slaves. It frees the kids of the slaves
It frees the slaves' boys It frees the slaves' girls

7. Who was Simon Bolivar?

He was a dictator He was a liberator
He was a president He was a slave

8. How much time does it take to go from La Cruz to Medellin?

1h 1h 45 45 min 30min

9. What are the consequences when it rains in La Cruz?

There are landslides plus some deaths or injuries The roads are wet

10. What is the first action that the association constructed in La Cruz?

Canteen Hairdresser Middle school Water potable

11. What is the second action that the association constructed in La Cruz?

Canteen Middle school Protection wall Water potable

12. What is the third action that the association constructed in La Cruz?

Canteen Hairdresser Protection wall Water potable

13. What is the fourth action that the association constructed in La Cruz?

Hairdresser Middle school Protection wall Water potable

14. What is the fifth action that the association constructed in La Cruz?

Canteen Hairdresser Middle school Protection wall

15. What city does the poet mention in the poem "A mi ciudad nativa"?

Bogotá Cali Cartagena of Indians Medellin

