



# Kid's Kaleidoscope

Country of the Month

## Costa Rica

Mesoamerica



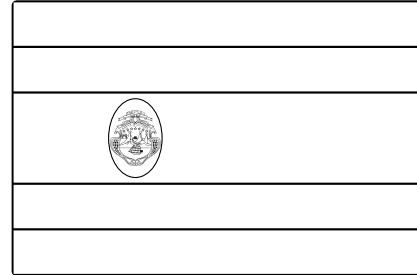
### CONVERSATION CENTRAL

Do you have a community center in your neighborhood? Maybe you have a playground or a library; places in your community where you can learn new things. What do you like about these places?

In San José, Costa Rica, there is a great need for a place like this. Thanks to Alabaster offerings and other generous giving, they now have land where they can build a community center and a church. Did your church receive an Alabaster offering?

What are some of the programs that will be held on this property that will also be connected to a church? Why do you think these programs are important? Which ones would interest you the most?

### COLOR THE FLAG



The Costa Rica flag has five horizontal stripes in three colors: blue represents the sky; white represents peace, happiness and freedom; and red symbolizes the warmth and generosity of the Costa Rican people (also known as "ticos"). The coat of arms is on the middle left of the flag. It shows three volcanoes. Each one representing a different mountain range in the country.

### TRUE OR FALSE

Below you will read some fun facts about Costa Rica, but are they all true? Use Kids Kaleidoscope, NMI Central and the two websites below to decide what is true and what is false! You can also use these resources to create more True and False questions and learn more about Costa Rica.

<https://ecobnb.com/blog/2020/03/amazing-costa-rica-animals/>

<https://thewanderingafro.com/fun-facts-about-costa-rica/>



1. Pura Vida is a phrase you will never hear in Costa Rica.
2. This bird is called a Pretzel bird, it can only be found in Costa Rica.
3. Costa Rica has over 50 volcanos.
4. Costa Rica is the best place in the world to see sloths.
5. A School of Soccer and English classes are two programs that will be held at the community center in San José when it is completed.

# KALEIDOSCOPE PAGE

If you were to travel to Costa Rica you might hear or see this phrase: "Pura Vida" in Spanish, the main language spoken in Costa Rica. "Pura Vida" can be a greeting, a farewell, describe something good, describe a person as nice or friendly, or be a simple way of giving thanks. The meaning of this phrase is pure life or simple life. But really it is so much more. To Costa Ricans, it is a mindset that encourages appreciation of life and the simple gifts of slowing down and expressing gratitude. What are some things you are grateful for today?

When we read the story about the new church being built in San José, do you think the people in that community are saying, Pura Vida? Do you think they are thankful for this new place where people will be able to learn English, play soccer, and worship Jesus? What about the Pastor and people who already attend the church? Do you think they are saying Pura Vida? Maybe they say that for the Alabaster funds that people around the world gave so that their community can worship, heal, and learn together. Maybe they are excited about new ways to connect and get to know their neighbors.

Look at the kaleidoscope page; what figures do you see? What does each one represent? Check out the craft on the next page to understand what the circle represents. If you were to make a kaleidoscope for your church, what are some figures you would use to represent how your church is connecting with your community and neighbors?

How are you sharing Jesus outside the church walls? As you color the kaleidoscope, pray for Costa Rica and for your local church. Thank God for all He is doing, and ask Him to help you to share Jesus' love with those around you.



"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 5:20 NIV



# Friendship Bracelets

A very common souvenir of Costa Rica is a bracelet made of natural materials such as wood, seeds, and shells.

Each one is unique. In some places they are called Pura Vida bracelets. Our craft for today is something similar; friendship bracelets. There are many different types of friendship bracelets, and in this Kids Kaleidoscope, you will learn how to make a woven bracelet. With the help of an adult you can look for more types of friendship bracelets online. The best part of making a friendship bracelet is that once you learn how to make them, you can share them with your friends, and while you are making them, pray for your friends.

You can even ask God to show you someone who might need a good friend.

Why not give them a bracelet and pray for them.

## MATERIALS:

- Embroidery thread, thin yarn, or thin ribbon in many different colors.
- A medium piece of cardboard
- A small 5 inch or 12.7cm bowl
- Scissors, ruler, pen



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Trace a circle onto the cardboard using the teacup or bowl, cut out the circle, then use a ruler to draw 4 lines, dividing the circle evenly into 8 sections.
2. Cut a slit from the outside edge about half way toward the middle on each line, then make a hole in the middle of the circle where all the lines intersect. (it should be large enough for your bracelet to fit through the hole).
3. Cut 7 strands of embroidery floss (any color you like), about 36 inches or 90cm long, and tie them together with a slip knot.
4. Pull your thread bundle through the hole in your cardboard, with the knot right up next to the hole, use a little piece of tape to hold it in place while you start.
5. Arrange each of your 7 strands, tucking them into the slits you made in the cardboard. There should be one slit left open.
6. \*Hold your loom (cardboard) so the open slit is in front of you, and count one, two, three strings clockwise. Take that third string out of its slit, and place it in the empty slit.\*
7. \*Turn the loom so that the empty slit is in front of you once again, and repeat the \*starred\* steps until your bracelet is long enough to wear.\*
8. Once your bracelet gets going, you can remove the tape, or move the bracelet down and retape, keeping the bracelet against the loom so the weave is tight.
9. Finish bracelet with another slip knot, then tie ends together around your wrist or the wrist of a friend.

