OBJECTIVES:

To raise awareness of the physical and cultural geographic diversity of a target country, its regions and peoples.

Students will:
- Use vocabulary relating to geographic land forms: nouns, adjectives
- Describe physical environments in the present and past tenses
- Make statements about things they want to explore in an unfamiliar environment

HOW TO DO IT?

Have students seated around a tall box so that each can see only 1-2 sides of the box. On each side, you have clipped a closed file folder containing 4-5 photographs, each large enough to see from a distance of 5-6 feet. When students are in place and you are ready to start, open the folder to expose what's inside. Keep it secret and no talking!

** Alternative set up: Folders can be distributed on walls around the room.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Each folder should tell a distinct PART of the "story." Example: to show national diversity, Side One shows traditional farming; Side Two shows urban scenes; Side Three shows people from a single ethnic (indigenous, perhaps) group; Side Four shows a second ethnic group, distinct in appearance from Side Three.

Once the pictures are exposed, ask questions that each student answers in writing, basing answers strictly on the information that can be inferred from her/his view of the box. These questions may draw on assumptions people may have about life in certain climates, life in open and closed societies, and activities that are available to people in other parts of the world.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR A GEOGRAPHY-FOCUSED PERSPECTIVES BOX

- What kinds of geographic features do you see in the pictures (e.g., rivers, mountains, plains,
urban landscapes, etc.)?
- What kind of climate do you think this place has?
- What kinds of resources are available?
- Is this a developed or developing nation?
- How have people altered the landscape?
- What forms of transportation do people use?
- How do people make their living there

Questions will depend upon the geographic sophistication of students, their proficiency in Spanish, and the nature of the pictures you choose for your Perspectives Box, and the specific concepts or terms you want to emphasize.

**SPEAKING AND WRITING PRACTICE IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM**

1) Select and organize pictures in their folders in such a way as to emphasize the geographic and cultural diversity of a single country.

2) Organize participants into small groups to focus on just one set of photos as before. Working individually and silently, participants should take notes on their Individual Worksheet in response to the prompts. Allow about 10 minutes for data gathering.

3) Close the folders. Working only from their notes, groups should complete the following assignment:

   You are a first time visitor to (name of country). Compose an entry for your travel journal (5 sentence minimum) about your impressions of the society you visited today. Conclude your journal entry with 1 or 2 sentences about what you hope to find out tomorrow.

   Allow groups about 15 minutes to complete the assignment.

4) Have each group read aloud its travel journal entry and show their set of pictures.

Con base en lo que observas en las fotos, contesta las siguientes preguntas.

1) ¿Cómo es la geografía del lugar? ¿Hay montañas, ríos, o? ¿Está cerca del mar?

2) ¿Cómo es el clima del lugar? ¿Está más cerca del ecuador o del Polo Norte o Polo Sur?

3) ¿Cómo son las construcciones – las casas, los edificios – que se ven en las fotos?

4) Las personas en las fotos: ¿Dónde están? ¿Qué hacen? ¿Cómo son? ¿Cómo se visten?

5) ¿Cuáles formas de transporte usa la gente?

6) ¿Es una sociedad moderna o tradicional? ¿Por qué?

7) ¿Dónde es este lugar? ¿En cuál país se encuentra? ¿Cómo se llama el lugar?
TEARA EN EQUIPO

En colaboración con tus compañeros de equipo, escriban una pequeña composición que toca los siguientes puntos:

“Estás de viaje y visitas el lugar que se ve en las fotos. Después de pasar todo el día explorando el lugar, ya estás descansando en tu hotel. En la libreta que siempre llevas contigo cuando sales de viaje, apunta tus observaciones sobre lo que viste el día de hoy: ¿Qué fueron las cosas que más te gustaron? Descríbelas. ¿Qué fue lo que más te llamó la atención? Para terminar, menciona un par de cosas que quieres investigar el día de mañana.”