Part A: Antes de leer

Strategy – Using prior knowledge

When you think of Panama, what comes to mind? List three things that you already know about Panama.

1.

2.

3.

Panama is a tropical paradise of national parks, historical sites, and traditional customs. The chain of 300 tiny islands off the coast of Panama is called San Blas. A tribe of people who live in San Blas and in some parts of Colombia has preserved its own race and customs apart from the rest of the world. Like many indigenous people in Latin America, they have their own style of clothing that is really an art form. In this lesson, you will go to a Web site of the San Blas Islands and learn about the land and its people. Then you will learn more about the traditional clothing of this tribe.

**Part B: Go to this site** [**here**](http://www.galenfrysinger.com/san_blas_kuna.htm) **and** [**here**](https://youtu.be/gM36TqVcncI?list=PLC24E979165E6CAD4) **to learn more about *molas.***

1. ¿Cómo reflejan las molas la cultura de los indígenas Kuna? ¿Por qué son importantes a la cultura?

2. ¿Qué materiales usan para hacer las molas?

3. ¿Cómo son los diseños?

**Part C: How to make paper molas**

**You can watch a short video** [**here**](https://youtu.be/1fLgqql0D9c)

**These are written instructions.**

1. *Molas* are often abstract animal or geometric designs. First decide what animal you want as your main figure. Trace your shape onto colored paper and cut it out. Keep it very simple and abstract. You may need to search online for more information about Panama to include in your brochure.
2. Paste it onto another piece of different colored paper and cut it out leaving a narrow border. Glue it onto another piece of paper and repeat the process. Choose your colors carefully so they look good against each other.
3. Then paste the final shape onto another piece of paper. This is your background.
4. Once you are finished with that, add different colored shapes to make a pattern for decorating your figure. Choose a simple shape like a square or triangle. Cut out 20 of them small and glue them onto a different colored scrap of paper. Cut them out a second time, leaving a narrow border of color.
5. Fill in the background with a new pattern or with skinny parallel lines. Maybe a *mola*-style sun or a small animal shape would look good, too. Be sure to cut them out twice.
6. The more patterns you use and the more carefully you cut, the better your *mola* will look.