

Global Snapshots

Published by Metro International's GLOBAL CLASSROOM for globally minded kids.

ARGENTINA

Country Facts

Official Name: Argentine Republic

Capital: Buenos Aires

Official Language: Spanish

Currency: Argentine Peso

Population: 39,537,943 (estimate)

Largest City: Buenos Aires

Area: 2,766,890 km²

Geography: Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay



Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide



Melina, the Global Classroom Tour Guide for Argentina, is attending Teachers College at Columbia University, studying Science Education. At a Global Classroom presentation, she gave the students a tango lesson and introduced them to the rich culture of Argentina.

Name: Melina Furman

Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina

What was the first thing you learned about the U.S.

when you came here?

That people in America usually have supper at 7

pm, much earlier than in my country! (Generally, in Argentina, we have supper at 9 pm.)

Siblings: 1 sister named Valeria who is currently studying in Israel.

Pets: 1 dog called Negrita (Little Blackie). She lives in my parents' apartment.

Favorite Childhood

Games: When I was a little girl I used to play with Barbies and other types of dolls. I also used to play a game with my friends called "el elastico," using a long, elastic band. Two girls stood up holding the band with their legs and one jumped onto it. It was a lot of fun!

Meet Your Global Classroom
Tour Guide (continued)



What would you like kids in NY to know about Argentina?

I would like everyone to know that the Argentine people are very warm and friendly and you will be very welcome if you come for a visit. And also that the landscape in places like Patagonia is incredible.



Favorite National Food:

Empanadas (Meat pies)

Favorite native saying:

¿Querés un mate?: Do you want a mate? (The national drink of Argentina, a special



mate (pronounced ma-tay).

Favorite thing about living in NY:

I love walking around the city, watching people's faces, because they come from all over the world! I love the museums too, of course.

Favorite Native Holiday/Festival:

I love the New Year's celebration in Buenos Aires.

It is summer in Argentina by December 31st, so we celebrate all night long. We first meet with our family to enjoy an asado (a kind of barbecue, typical in Argentina) and then go to parties with friends, staying up until 7 in the morning.

What made you want to study in another country?

I was interested in learning more about another culture. Also, I thought that living abroad would give me the opportunity to see my own country from a new perspective. And it did!

What advice would you give students from the U.S.

who want to visit or study in Argentina?

You should start learning Spanish before you leave as it will make things easier for you.

However, people will help you learn very fast, so don't worry. And you should plan to take a couple of Tango lessons as well!

What do you want to do when you finish your degree?

I plan to go back to Argentina and start an organization dedicated to teaching kids science.





You Can Learn More About Argentina by Visiting the Following Websites:

Children's Books on Argentina:

<http://www.travelforkids.com/Funtodo/Argentina/argentina.htm>

Science Camps in Argentina (a website created by Melina!):

<http://www.expedicionciencia.com.ar/>

An Introduction to the Six Main Regions of Argentina:

<http://www.geographia.com/argentina/>

A Movie Teaching How to Make a Mate:

<http://www.yerbatea.com/movie.html>

Global Classroom brings trained international speakers into New York City schools to do presentations about their countries/cultures. To learn more about Global Classroom, please contact the Global Classroom staff at info@metrointl.org or 212.431.1195.

Learn to Speak Spanish!

Some key phrases
that you may find
useful if you ever go
to Argentina:

Hola, ¿cómo estás?
Hello, how are you?

¿Querés ser mi amigo?
Do you want to be my
friend?

¿Dónde está el baño?
Where is the restroom?

¿Cuánto cuesta esto?
How much is this?

Chau, ¡nos vemos!
Bye, see you soon.