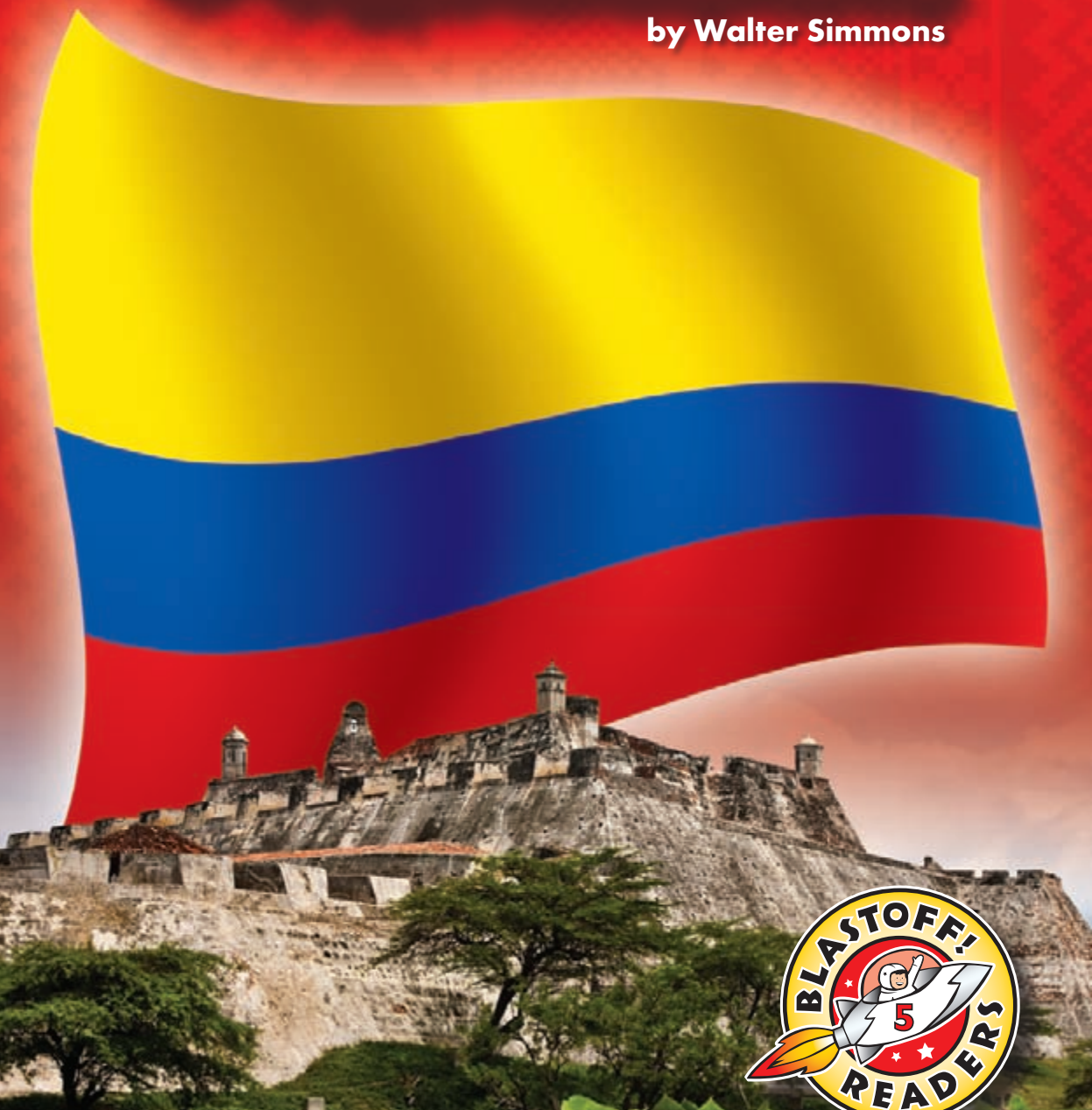


EXPLORING COUNTRIES

# Colombia

by Walter Simmons





Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

**Blastoff! Readers** are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

**Level 1** provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

**Level 2** offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

**Level 3** advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

**Level 4** builds reading stamina by providing more text per page, increased use of punctuation, greater variation in sentence patterns, and increasingly challenging vocabulary.

**Level 5** encourages children to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by providing even more text, varied writing styles, and less familiar topics.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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# Where Is Colombia?



Caribbean Sea

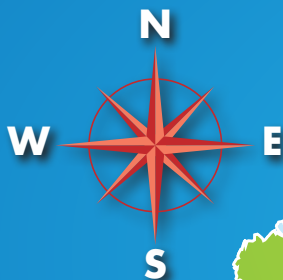
Panama

Venezuela

Colombia

★ Bogotá

Pacific Ocean



## Did you know?

Colombia was named after explorer Christopher Columbus. During his travels, he visited the northern coasts of South America.

Ecuador

Peru



Colombia is a country in the northwestern corner of South America. It covers 439,736 square miles (1,138,910 square kilometers). Bogotá is its capital and largest city, with more than 8 million people.

Colombia borders Venezuela to the east and Brazil to the southeast. Peru lies to the south, and Ecuador to the southwest. Colombia's western seacoast meets the Pacific Ocean. The Caribbean Sea touches Colombia in the north, where Colombia also shares a short border with Panama.



### **fun fact**

Bogotá is one of the highest capital cities in the world. It sits at 8,660 feet (2,640 meters) above sea level. Only the capitals of Bolivia and Ecuador are higher.

**Brazil**



### Andes Mountains

Mountains, plains, and rain forests cover the Colombian landscape. The Magdalena and Cauca rivers flow north through the Andes Mountains. They divide the Andes into the Cordilleras Occidental, Central, and Oriental. Colombia reaches its highest point at the twin peaks of Christopher Columbus and Simón Bolívar. These snowcapped mountains rise to a height of 18,947 feet (5,775 meters) in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta range.

In eastern Colombia is the Llanos. A grassy **savannah** covers the flat plains of this region. The Orinoco and other rivers run east, and several **tributaries** flow south to the Amazon River. The Amazon Rain Forest, the largest tropical forest in the world, fills the southeast.



## Orinoco River

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