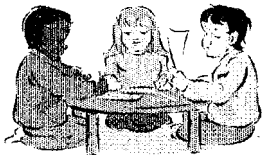


True story!

Gonzalo was 12 years old when he heard an evangelist in his hometown in Uruguay, speaking about Jesus, and he decided to follow the Lord. He wanted to learn all about God, Jesus and the Bible and so he went to a young people's club for the next two years. But Gonzalo's father belonged to a group, which practiced a type of witchcraft called Macumbas. One day he got angry with Gonzalo and told him he could never again go to church. Gonzalo didn't want to stop going to the church, but he had already learned from the Bible that he should obey his parents. He decided he should obey his father, but asked the boys in the club to pray for him. Three weeks later, his father changed his mind and Gonzalo was able to go back to the club. It showed all the boys how God answers our prayers when we obey the Bible (and our parents) even when we don't want to.

Many of you are coming up to long school holidays, when you will have plenty of free time. We want to invite you to set aside a little of that time, maybe once each week, to read over again what we have shared about life in other countries around the world, through the World Kids PAL Pages.



If there is a country or story that particularly touches you, maybe you could learn more about it from a library book, the Internet or some of the fascinating materials available from Voice of the

Martyrs. Maybe you would like to plan a special project with some friends to help raise funds to help send the Gospel to children in another part of the world. Maybe you would like to write letters to the prisoners in Egypt we told you about last time. We encourage you to check out our updated website and contact us to see how YOU can get involved! www.imofinc.org 'Til next time, love Shirley.

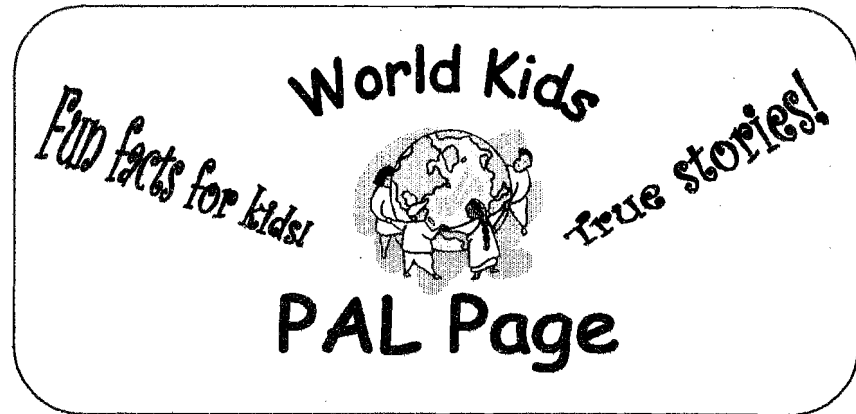
World Kids PAL Page is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX.

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Facts and testimonies used with permission from *Window on the World* by Daphne Spraggett and Jill Johnstone - available from Voice of the Martyrs Inc.

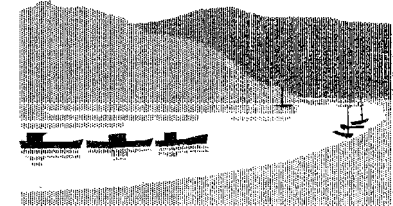
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Answer to food puzzle: onions, sausage, eggs!

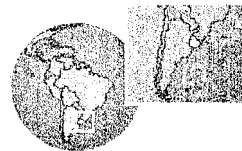


Issue no. 10 May 2004

Do you know which is the **WIDEST** river in the world?



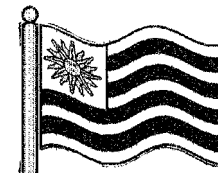
It's the Río de la Plata (Silver River) and forms part of the border of our country this month. Let's see if you can guess which country we're talking about - it's the **SMALLEST** country in South America (~72,000 sq miles) and is about the same size and population as the state of Oklahoma (about 3.33 million people). Have you guessed it? It's **URUGUAY!**

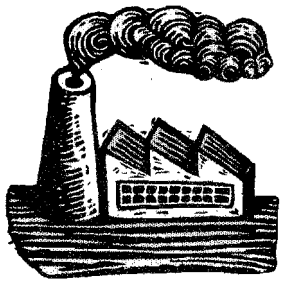


Uruguay is situated between the much larger countries of Brazil (to the north and east) and Argentina (to the west). The very wide River Uruguay separates Uruguay from Argentina, and as it flows south towards the South Atlantic, it joins the River Paraná to form the Río de la Plata, which is more than 50 miles wide in places!!



Almost half the inhabitants of Uruguay live in the capital, Montevideo





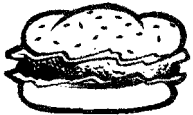
Although Uruguay is so small, it is well known around the world, as about 75 years ago, a huge meat processing and canning factory was built by some Europeans in the small town of Fray Bentos. Cattle were brought to the factory and millions of cans of corned beef were then shipped down the river and all around the world. During World War II when in many places, everyday life was

drastically changed for years, millions of people ate this corned beef when fresh meat was unavailable. The rolling hills of Uruguay are perfect for raising cattle and sheep, and even today, meat products, wool and leather, are still exported around the world. The big ranches are called "estancias" and the name for cowboys in Uruguay is "gauchos".

There is still a great deal of English and European influence throughout Uruguay, yet the food is not always as you might expect! Probably the most common drink is called "mate" (pronounced MA-tay) and people everywhere in Uruguay can be seen holding a thermos of hot water and drinking mate from a small gourd pot, through a metal straw. Mate is a type of herb tea mixed with sugar and drunk hot.

FOOD PUZZLE

Underline the food item from the list that is NOT usually found in each of the following meals in Uruguay:



meat patty, ham, cheese, fried egg, lettuce, onions, hot peppers, green olives

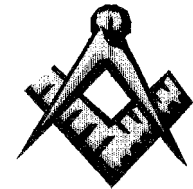


ham, sausage, cheese, pineapple tomato sauce, green olives, hearts of baby palm trees



breakfast - coffee, eggs, crackers, jam

But although life in Uruguay seems similar to life in many other parts of the world, especially other parts of South America, there is one big difference. Its neighbors, Brazil and Argentina, have experienced great Christian revival in recent years, but so far, Uruguay has never experienced revival. In fact, only 2% of its population is Christian, and in the town of Fray Bentos, for example, which has about 20,000 inhabitants, there are only FIVE churches! About 100 years ago, many people in Uruguay turned their backs on Roman Catholicism, and even Christmas Day became known as Family Day! A lot of people thought God didn't matter and focused on education and jobs; many became members of Masonic lodges - these are a type of club (mostly for men) which have special rules and the members pledge to help each other out, but they do not follow the Bible's teachings and prefer to be secretive instead of reaching out to help and love others.



Read what Jesus says about this in Luke 6:32-36



But about 3 years ago, the greatest crisis in the history of Uruguay happened - it was an economic crisis, which means that all the money suddenly was worth much less. It was as if everyone's wages were cut to ONE-THIRD, or you could say that the cost of everything one day became THREE TIMES AS MUCH, yet everyone still only had the same amount of money! Imagine if when you went to the store with your week's allowance of, say, \$2.00, you had to pay more than that just for ONE candy bar! People are losing their jobs; they have to buy less food; no one in the family can have new clothes; if the car or the TV breaks down the parents can't afford to get it fixed; if the parents can't pay the bills, they could have the electricity cut off or maybe even lose their home! Everyone in the country was affected like this, and it has caused many people to panic, become depressed, and seek answers. We must pray that they will hear the Gospel and turn to Jesus for help.