

# A Nicaraguan Celebration

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# Introduction

My name is Anaheli Stegner, and I am the author of this E-book. I am from a small city located in the Department of Granada in Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, the main language is Spanish. In this E-book, I am including one of my favorite celebrations that occurs every year on December 7 known as *La Gritería*. In this celebration, children and adults join and sing and the whole town is alive with joy.

## What is the Griteria?

La Griteria, roughly translate to “the shout,” is one of the most widespread celebrations in Nicaragua. Every December 7th, Nicaraguans celebrate this festivity. This festivity celebrates a famous religious figure in the Catholic religion. Families decorate their houses with altars. People of all religions roam the streets looking for altars to pray and sing traditional songs.

What are some important celebrations from where you are from?

# Decoration of Altars

Families and churches decorate altars that can be seen from the streets. Branches from Madroño tree are used to adorn altars.

People use Christmas lights and different flowers to decorate the Catholic figure.



# How to Celebrate La Gritería?

Around 6:00 P.M, “the shout” is heard in all the streets, *Quién causa tanta alegría? Who causes so much happiness?* People respond, *La Concepción de María! Mary’s conception!*

Fireworks and firecrackers explode everywhere the entire time.



## The songs

People get in groups and go from one altar to another to sing traditional songs. There are many songs dedicated to this festivity.

This is a famous chorus from the song Tu Gloria, Tu Gloria (Your Glory, Your Glory) that visitors sing on this evening.

Coro:

Tu Gloria, tu Gloria,  
Gozoso este día,  
Oh dulce María!  
Publica mi voz.

Chorus:

Your Glory, Your Glory,  
Joyous this day,  
Oh sweet Mary!  
Spread my voice.

What are some songs that you sing in your celebrations?

# Treats

After the groups of people sang their songs and said “the shout,” house owners give them a treat. The treat consists of **Nacatamal** (tamale stuffed with meat), chopped sugar cane, oranges, bananas, and homemade candies.



Picture of the Nicaraguan candy

How different are these treats from what you get in celebrations you know?

# Granada

Granada is located along the coast of the Lake Nicaragua. This city is home to 123,697 people and was founded in 1524. It was named after the ancient Spanish city of Granada.



Where are you from?

# Things to do in Granada

- Hiking the Volcano Mombacho
- Kayaking the **Islets** of Granada
- Ziplining



What things can you do in your city?

# Traditional food in Granada

The traditional Granada dish is called Vigoron. It consists of a cabbage salad (chopped cabbage, tomatoes, onions, vinegar, and salt), boiled yucca, and chicharrones (pork rinds). Vigoron is served on a banana leaf.



# Glossary

**Altar:** A table used as a center of worship.

**Conception:** the action of conceiving a child.

**Department:** is a geographical and administrative division within a country.

**Islets:** small islands.

**La Concepción de María:** Translates from Spanish to English as Mary's conception.

**Madroño:** The Nicaraguan national tree. These trees can grow 20-meter height.

**Nacatamal:** Similar to the tamale. It is the most produced dish within traditional Nicaraguan cuisine.

**Quién causa tanta alegría:** Translates from Spanish to English as Who causes so much happiness.

**Roam:** is to wander, to move about, especially without a clear idea of what you are going to do.

# Works Referenced

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# Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

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