

Citizens	The air, water, and land in which people, animals, and plants live.
Slaves	A rule, usually made by government to order the way in which a society lives.
Settlers	A person who doesn't have freedom and only follows someone's orders.
Environment	Someone who arrives, especially from another country, in a new place to live there and use the land.
Trading	A person who lives in a particular place and have to follow specific ruler from there.
Laws	The activity of buying and selling goods and services.

**B. Reading task:** Read the text and write your own sentences with the verbs.



#### NATURE:

Thousands of years ago, Colombia was nearly completely covered in jungle. But people have cleared most of the trees to create farmland, and now only a handful of areas have their original forests. The government has set up several national parks to protect habitats, but damage to the **environment** continues.

#### GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY:

Colombia has a long history of democracy. Like the United States, the country is run by a president, who is elected every four years. **Laws** are made by a House of Representatives and a Senate.

Colombia's biggest **trading** partner is the United States, which buys 40 percent of the country's exports. Colombia sends a variety of items overseas, including coffee, bananas, oil, coal, gold, platinum, and emeralds.

## HISTORY

Archaeologists think the first people to arrive in Colombia came about 20,000 years ago. Some 8,000 years after that, settlers in the Magdalena Valley in the western part of the country grew into a civilization called the Chibcha. From the Chibcha arose the Muisca, an advanced culture that became the dominant power in Colombia by A.D. 700.

Spanish explorers arrived in Colombia in 1500 but didn't establish a settlement until 1525. These **settlers** were obsessed with finding gold and other valuables, and by 1538 they had conquered the Muisca and stolen all their gold and jewels. Colombia remained under Spanish rule for nearly 250 years.

By the late 1700s, people in Colombia were **slaves** tired of Spanish rule. In 1811, the city of Cartagena declared independence and Bogotá soon followed. Spanish soldiers tried to reclaim control in 1815, but Colombian forces led by the famed Venezuelan general Simón Bolívar defeated the Spanish in 1819.

After independence, Colombia became part of a large country called New Granada. This country fell apart by 1835, and Colombia became a separate nation. Fights soon broke out between political groups over who would lead the country. Since then, Colombia has had several civil wars and relatively few times of peace.

VERB	YOUR STATEMENT
ELECTED	
GREW	
CONQUERED	
STOLE	
REMAINED	
FOLLOWED	
DEFEATED	
BECAME PART	

