

Contest: My nationality has a story

I am a Cachigu

I was born in Canada, the second biggest country in the world where it always snows in winter. What I liked most about Canada was to have friends from all over the world, to go sledging with them and to eat maple syrup. At home I lived together with my mother who is Chilean, my father who is Guatemalan and my sister who, like me, was born in Canada. During the weekends we ate Guatemalan tortillas (which my father prepared) with Chilean *pebre* (which my mother prepared). Since I was little my parents taught me Spanish but in Quebec I had to learn how to speak French. That is why they enrolled me in classes to learn French. There I met children of different races and cultures. Once I learned the language, I changed to a French-speaking school. One day at school they told us to bring a typical and traditional dish from home. Without thinking too much about it I brought tortillas, *pebre* and beans. Besides, my mother prepared delicious "*empanadas de pino*", yummy. All of the kids brought different dishes but they had something in common: all of the recipes were delicious and unique just the way the kids brought them.

One day my parents told me that we had to move to Chile because we had to take care of my grandmother who was sick. I was really scared because I did not know what my surroundings, my school and my new friends would be like. The summer holidays passed really quickly... and the first day in school arrived. It was really different from what I had studied before... and although at the beginning my friends looked at me as if I was a weirdo, at the end they have been considerate and friendly. They taught me to play spin a top, catch and hopscotch. As time passed by I got to know new dishes like *sopaipilla*, *chilenitos*, *churrasca* and many more. I also got to know some traditions of the village where I live. In my village lives Mr. Gagaga who voluntarily teaches *Cueca* (Chilean traditional dance) to the children. Mr. Gagaga kindly invited me to his classes and from the very first day I danced *Cueca*, I loved it! Besides I participated in a championship in another village where I won fourth place at regional level. Since that day I call myself a "CACHIGU" (Canadian, Chilean and Guatemalan) and that is why my heart is

divided into three parts. During all of these years I learned that it is really important to have a nationality and identity (I am lucky to have three), because it identifies us and it makes us feel proud of our cultures, habits and traditions: AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE.

ANAHÍ CIFUENTES

Sixth grade

FIRST PLACE