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Nivel:
Sexto grado de la
escuela

Los buses de Honduras

Propósito: Enseñar a los alumnos que tipo de buses se usan en Honduras y como es el ambiente en estos buses.

Objetivos didácticos:

Los estudiantes podrán identificar y explicar las características de un bus de Honduras.

Modos de evaluación: Hacerles preguntas a los alumnos: ¿Quién son las personas necesarios en el bus? ¿Qué colores son los buses? ¿Cuál es la diferencia entre un bus de Honduras y un bus de los estados?

INFORMACIÓN BÁSICA:

As few people have cars in Honduras, buses are an important means of transportation, both between towns and within towns as urban transportation. Many of these buses are old school buses brought from the United States down to Central America. However, they have been changed quite a bit!

Many of the buses in Honduras still have signs with the school board's rules of behavior posted in the front of the bus. Of course, the signs are in English so no one follows them. People in Honduras don't throw spitballs too much, anyway. But then there's the rule that says no standing. In Central America when the seats are full, people stand. Lots of people stand. Actually, in every country it's illegal to have standees on the buses, but the rules are rarely enforced.

The fullest bus I've ever been on was between Jocotan (location of Radio Chortis, 3380 kHz) and Chiquimula, Guatemala. I was standing in the aisle, totally unable to move either foot. The bus seated 54 people, but I counted 95 and probably missed a few.

When old school buses get to Central America, they are almost always repainted, in all sorts of colors. Some are green, white, and red and others white, green, and yellow. My favorite was always white, orange, and blue. It's very unusual to see a bus painted only one color. Along the side, the name of the bus company is painted in big letters - something like CORTISBA or Transportes Silva. On the front of the bus, above the windshield, the route is painted, like Santa Barbara - San Pedro Sula or Siquatepeque - Comayagua.

Also, the interior of the bus is often remodeled with many colorful flags, streamers, stickers, religious pictures and old cds. Usually the driver puts on some loud, festive music while driving at high speeds down the winding roads. As you travel on the bus, a young man squeezes his way between the people (both standing and sitting) to collect the money for the bus ride. Most often there is no air conditioning, so all of the windows are open.

When getting on a bus, passengers have to move quickly because the bus doesn't stop for long! Also, passengers are encourage to move as far to the rear of the bus as possible because they want to put as many people on the bus as possible. To get off a bus where a person wants to, the person should whistle or hit the top of the bus with his hand.



Ofentimes people will board the bus attempting to sell things. Some sell food such as quesadillas, burras (tortillas con carne), and frescos. Others stand in front of the bus as salesmen giving speeches about their products or services. Other times blind or other severally disabled persons board the bus and squeeze their way through the people, asking for money.

The bus system is set up so that you can get between any two points in the city taking no more than two buses at a cost of only ten cents per bus. Except for late at night, waits are rarely more than ten minutes and often less than five. Inter-city bus routes are likewise cheap and frequent. The San Pedro Sula - Tegucigalpa route is the most traveled one in the country, and three different companies have about fifty buses a day scheduled to make the run, with at least one leaving every hour around the clock. The 150 mile trip took about 4 1/2 hours and cost \$3.50.

So, they may not be comfortable or sparkling new, but when it comes to the basic purpose of getting from one place to another as cheaply as possible with as little waiting as possible, Central American buses are the tops in public transportation from my point of view!

PRESENTACIÓN EN LA CLASE:

Actividades- Leer juntos la información básica. Hablar del vocabulario y mostrar el postal de un bus.

Después hacer un drama de como es en un bus de Honduras. Asignar papeles a cada alumno. Por ejemplo: chofer, ayudante, vendedores (de comida, de frescos, de periódicos, de medicina), y pasajeros. Arreglar un pequeño "bus" usando sillas. El drama debe demostrar la ruta de un bus. El chofer debe parar el bus y permitir que los pasajeros suban en cada parada. También debe subir vendedores ambulantes. El ayudante debe pasar por cada para cobrar el pasaje usando Lempiras (la moneda de Honduras).

Vocabulario: chofer, ayudante, cobrar, vendedores, Lempiras, pasajeros, bajar y subir.

Expresiones: corranse; subanse; muevanse para atras; pasaje en mano, por favor.

Materiales: sillas, postal de un bus, revistas, baldes y moneras.

<http://www.swl.net/patepluma/central/honduras/hond3.html>

Personal experiences/information