

# ECUADOR

Ecuador's name means "Republic of the Equator" because the equator runs right through the country. It is very hot there! So hot that the mice really need some hats to protect their heads from the sun. Luckily, the famous Panama hats are made Ecuador. (They are shipped through Panama to the rest of the world, but they don't come from that country.) These hats are woven from light straw and have brims to shade your eyes. Perfect for a tropical country! Other hats are useful for other places. Can your team design some different hats for different climates?

**Challenge:** Make a unique and useful hat for each of your team members.

**Time:** Part One: You will have 4 minutes to invent and construct a hat for each of your team members. Every hat should be different and also be designed to be useful in a particular place. Prepare a presentation to explain your hats.

Part Two: You will have 2 minutes to wear your hats and describe their purposes to the appraisers.

**Materials:** lots of newspapers  
one roll of masking tape  
colored markers and scissors (may not be included in the solution)

**Scoring:** up to 30 points for the creativity of the hats  
up to 30 points for the variety of their uses  
up to 15 points for the effectiveness of the presentation  
up to 25 points for positive team work