

# GUATEMALA

The mice have arrived in Central America. Guatemala is famous for its biological diversity. There are 14 unique ecosystems with over 1200 species of real animals! But the mice really like an imaginary creature from this region. In ancient Guatemala, the Aztecs painted a very interesting animal called Quetzalcoatl. It was a combination of a real bird with bright feathers called the Resplendent Quetzal and a Coatl, a snake. The bird stood for liberty and the snake for the fertility of the earth. This symbol is still perfect for modern Guatemala! Your team is special, too. Can you create an imaginary animal that combines traits to show the qualities of your team?

**Challenge:** Invent an imaginary animal that will stand for the special qualities of your team. Include lots of traits because your team has lots of distinctive features!

**Time:** Part One: You will have 4 minutes to decide on the important aspects of your team and develop a new creature to represent them. Then sketch this animal and prepare a presentation to explain your choices to the appraisers.

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to present your solution to the appraisers.

**Materials:** three sheets of paper  
colored markers

**Scoring:** up to 40 points for the creativity of your new animal's qualities  
up to 20 points for the creativity of your picture  
up to 15 points for the effectiveness of your presentation  
up to 25 points for positive team work