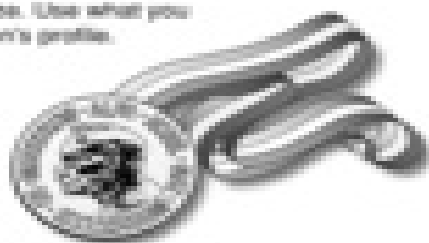


Name _____ Date _____

Protectors of Peace

The paragraphs below provide information about two Central Americans who share a rare honor. Both have won the Nobel Peace Prize. Use what you learn about each laureate, or winner, to complete each person's profile.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Country _____</p> <p>Date of Birth _____</p> <p>Known for _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Year of Award _____</p>



<p>Name _____</p> <p>Country _____</p> <p>Date of Birth _____</p> <p>Known for _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Year of Award _____</p>

The Nobel Peace Prize is a great honor. Each year the Norwegian Nobel Committee chooses to give the prize to a person or persons who have worked to make the world a better place.

Central America is home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners. Oscar Arias Sánchez was awarded the prize in 1987. Five years later, Rigoberta Menchú won. The pair worked for different causes, and each is from a different country. Both worked hard to bring peace to the region.

Sánchez was born in 1941. He came from a wealthy family. He studied in the United States and Costa Rica. Sánchez earned his doctorate in England. He has written several books and articles about politics. Sánchez became president of Costa Rica in 1986. Many Central American countries were dangerous places at that time. Fighting between the governments and rebels was widespread. Sánchez worked to change things. He created a plan for peace to help stop the fighting. He then got several Central American countries to agree to its terms. The plan was signed in 1987, and Sánchez earned the Nobel Peace Prize for his important work. He remained president until 1990.

Rigoberta Menchú was born in 1959. Her family lived in Guatemala and was of Mayan ancestry. As a young girl, she knew well the danger of life in Central America. Guatemala saw much violence in the 1970s and 1980s. The native Mayan population and descendants of European immigrants fought over many issues. Menchú's parents and younger brother were killed during the fighting. Like Menchú, they stood up for human rights. Menchú fled Guatemala and went to Mexico in 1981. In Mexico, and later back in her Guatemalan home, she fought for peace. She worked tirelessly for the rights of indigenous, or native, Guatemalan people. Menchú's honor celebrated the work she did to bring people of all backgrounds together.

