

LATIN AMERICA: A FIESTA IN CULTURAL RICHNESS

I. Essential Questions

1. How does tradition play an important role in the family unit for the main character in Like Water For chocolate?
2. What societal influences are present in Mexico that allow for a sense of tradition in its culture that may not be present in other cultures?
3. What purpose does vocabulary serve in the development of the story?
4. What makes Mexico City the dominant population center in Mexico?
5. Why is there such great disparity in the distribution of wealth throughout Latin America?
6. What historical events have influenced United States/ Mexican relation?
7. Why is there little trade among the nations of the region while very strong competition for United States and European trade?
8. What impact has the slave trade of the sixteenth century had on the populations of the present day nation states of Latin America?
9. Why has Brazil repeatedly failed to meet its IMF obligations?
10. To what extent does the Amazon influence culture, literature, and economic development?

II. Objectives

Students will demonstrate the ability to :

1. Develop an understanding of and appreciation for the role of traditions in the Latin American family.
2. Compare/contrast cultural influences in Latin America vs. other cultures.
3. Analyze the use of the author=s craft through the use of vocabulary to create vivid imagery.
4. Gain an appreciation for cross-cultural vocabulary.
5. Evaluate the influence of the physical geography of Mexico upon its demographics and economic resources.
6. Chronicle the less than harmonious relationship between the United States and Mexico.
7. Gain insight into the relationship of place and location on the culture and economy of Central America.
8. Develop an understanding for the place and location on the culture and economy of the Caribbean Nations.
9. Differentiate among the three regions of South America as they relate to their physical geography.
10. Analyze the legacy of colonialism and slavery on Latin America.
11. Compare the actual development of Brazil to its predicted potential in terms of its role in the world.
12. Evaluate the Amazon in terms of: length, water displacement, influence on culture.

III Resources/Materials

- < Textbook
- < Like Water For Chocolate(Esquivel)
- < Internet
- < Maps
- < Trade Books
- < Selection of short stories and poems
- < Family recipes
- < Art
- < Music
- < Guest Speaker

IV. **Multiple Intelligence Activities**

1. Cultural Pavilions showcasing the culture, heritage, and customs in a colorful, visual, musical format.
2. Configure an exhibit of Latin America including artifacts, photos, clothing, musical instruments.
3. Conduct research on the diversity of religions in the region.
4. Prepare a family recipe to be shared with the class. Provide an anecdotal commentary about your choice.
5. Guest Speaker on the Rain Forest: slide show, Jeopardy game using the library for research.
6. Participate in the Internet - based Eco- Challenge.
7. Field Trip to a restaurant to experience the cultural flavor of a particular region.
8. In a cooperative learning format, create a real food product which will express one of the emotions in Like Water For Chocolate .
9. Possible relief project - depending on student support and present status: student will organize and carry out a relief effort of the earmarked natural disaster in a region (collect money, canned goods, health supplies, clothing, write letters) within the scope of the community.

V. **Categories for Assessment**

- < Writing Pieces
- < Performance based
- < Technology presentations
- < Teacher designed tests/quizzes

VI. **Assessment**

- < Day of the Dead display
- < Caribbean travel Brochures
- < Vertical trade models
- < Pinatas
- < Prepare a class cookbook of recipes. One side of page will provide the recipe and the other side will be a poem expressing the emotion it evokes.
- < Slide presentation on the natural wonders of South America
- < Create a commercial designed for an audience such as: relief efforts, travel advertisement for a specific region.

- < Position paper on NAFTA.
- < Model depicting the physical geography of South America.