



LATIN AMERICAN
& IBERIAN INSTITUTE



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Let's Explore Puerto Rico!

This lesson plan aims to introduce learners to Afro-Latinidad in Puerto Rico through authentic and engaging resources in English.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This resource incorporates activities aligned to the following Common Core Standards.

Key Ideas and Details:

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

- Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Reading Activity: “La Guinea (The Stowaway Hen)”, *The Song of El Coquí* and *Other Tales of Puerto Rico* by Nicholasa Mohr and Antonio Martorell

Before Reading:

1. Where is Puerto Rico?
2. What language(s) are spoken in Puerto Rico?
3. What do you know about the culture and traditions of Puerto Rico?

Comprehension Check:

After reading the text, answer the following questions. Be sure to mark in the text where you find your answers.

1. Where is La Guinea from?
2. What happened after La Guinea fell asleep?



3. What did La Guinea see once she woke up?

4. How did people respond when they saw La Guinea? How did she react?

5. Who is Don Elías? What is his trade? Why did he help La Guinea?

6. What became of La Guinea and her relationship with Don Elías?



Name: _____ Date: _____

Observational Activity: Teodoro Vidal Collection of Puerto Rican History

Instructions: Visit the virtual exhibit, Teodoro Vidal Collection of Puerto Rican History <https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/teodoro-vidal-collection-of-puerto-rican-history/about-the-collection>

Break into groups to observe one of the four masks in the Teodoro Vidal Collection.

Answer the following questions:

Observations:

Describe the artifact. What do you think it is made of? What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

When, where or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user?



View the background information about the mask provided on the Smithsonian website

After reading and considering the background information, compose a response to the following:

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

In your opinion, what does this mask resemble? Why?

Do you know any other regions or ethnic groups that celebrate Carnival? What are their celebrations like in comparison?

What was the most interesting thing you learned about this mask after reading the background information?

