

My Passport



Viajamos a las Américas

“Reading is a *passport* to
countless *adventures*.”

Mary Pope Osborne

LEARNING OBJECTIVES | This resource incorporates activities aligned to the following [Common Core Standards](#):

1. Reading Standards for Informational Text

- **Key Ideas and Details:** (1) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text; (2) Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details: summarize the text; (3) Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- **Craft and Structure:** (4) Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade level topic or subject area.
- **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:** (7) Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g. in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:** (10) Read and comprehend informational texts, including history / social studies, science, and technical texts, in and above grade level text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Speaking Multiple Languages

San Andrés and Providencia are islands in the Caribbean Sea that are part of the country of Colombia. Because of the archipelago’s blend of cultures, the people of this region speak several languages, sometimes in a single day. Spanish is the main language, but the people of the region also speak Creole, Caribbean English, and a blend of African languages.

Activity #1:

For the first activity, let’s listen to the following songs from the San Andres Islands. As you listen, use the spaces to write down any words you recognize.



Figure 1 El Creole band

Creole Group / Lucelia: Amplificado (San Andres y Providencia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82pi7oz6Fd0>

_____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

Creole Group / Inside: Amplificado.tv (San Andres y Providencia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqGTfaK4vB0>

_____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

Questions

- What did you notice in their language that is different to yours?
- Did you recognize any words that sounded like English? Which ones?
- Can you think in a reason of why these Colombian islands speaks more than just Spanish?

Activity #2

Now we are going to read a blog post titled “*Although the official language of the archipelago is Spanish, Creole is the language that has marked much of the rich root culture in San Andrés.*” from Colombia.co.

The Raizal ethnic community of the archipelago, which has characteristic features inherited from African, European and Caribbean cultures, is an example of the multiculturalism of the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. The Raizales represent between 30 and 35% of the total population and have a distinctive identity reflected in factors such as music, dance, religiosity (Catholics and Baptists) and gastronomy.

The living heritage of the archipelago's culture is reflected in its native language. Even though the official language is Spanish, Caribbean English and English lexical-based Creole are spoken in San Andrés. The latter, especially, has a great history and a legacy of resistance.

Creole, or Creole language, has survived the passage of time. Initially, with the definitive settlement of the Spanish, an attempt was made to transfer the multiple cultural expressions of the inhabitants of the island to the Hispanic traditions of the establishment. The people of San Andrés lived in a similar situation in the 20th century when they began to be 'Colombianized'.

Creole is an oral language — it does not have an alphabetic writing system — based on African Akán. It is characterized by its expressive and linguistic turns that intermingle rhythms and silences, with ostentatious and rapid volume tones in speech. It is used on a daily basis among the inhabitants of the islands.

For the people of San Andrés, conserving the Creole is caring for and feeding its roots. The creole language is spontaneous and makes them free and autonomous. Music and dance are also key elements when preserving their identity features.

In addition, the Creole language is a determining factor in the cultural union that has occurred between San Andrés and places like Jamaica, the Mangle Islands, Bluefields, Puerto Limón, Colón, Belize and the Cayman Islands.

For its part, standard English is used in special contexts such as the church and conversations with older people and tourists.

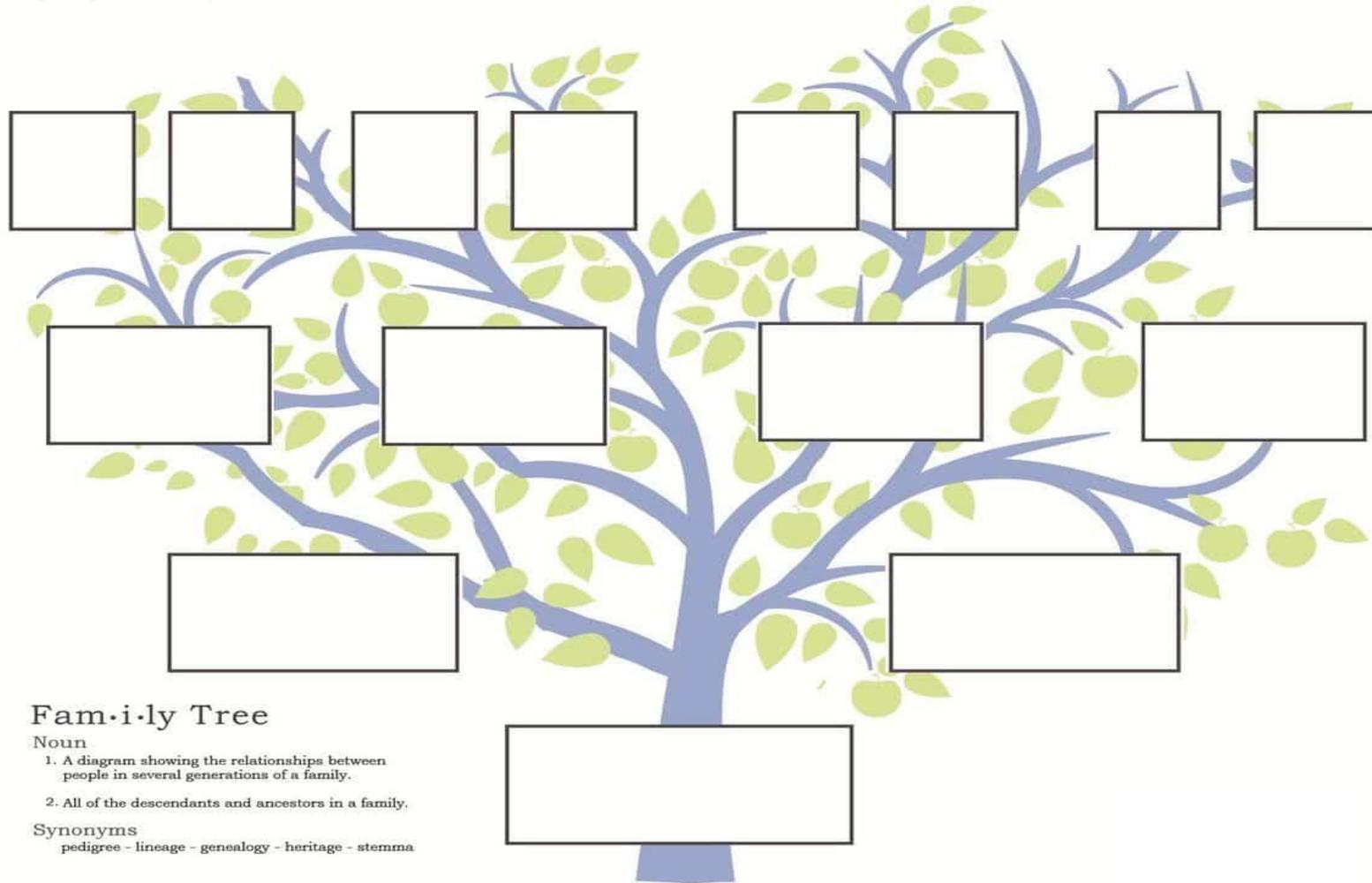
Questions:

- Do you think the language of the archipelago is a result of different conquest intents (Spanish and English conquest)?
- What makes language part of the cultural practice for the San Andres communities?
- How is the Creole language different than the Spanish and English language?

Activity #3

Ask your family where your ancestors came from, what languages they spoke, and what were the common or most interesting words they used. Use the template below to create a language family tree.

Language Family Tree



Fam·i·ly Tree

Noun

1. A diagram showing the relationships between people in several generations of a family.
2. All of the descendants and ancestors in a family.

Synonyms

pedigree - lineage - genealogy - heritage - stemma

Figure 2 Medieval Emporium