

LA PASTORELA AND EL MASCARERO

Introduction

In this lesson students will learn more about Felipe Horta and the art of maskmaking, as well as how La Pastorela has changed and become what it is today. Students will watch a video of Horta (in Spanish with English translation) discussing how he makes his masks and the cultural significance of La Pastorela in different parts of Mexico. There is another video of Felipe Horta available in Spanish on You Tube (at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-YaLYpZjxU>). Even if your students don't speak Spanish, this can still be useful as it shows Horta in his workshop discussing the masks he makes. There are also two videos of La Pastorela available on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNOF5GUMldQ> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaS964m0Cz0>. Here students see how the performers dance in the middle of crowds wearing masks and costumes.

Materials

Video of Felipe Horta

Visual Media to show power point presentation and video

Procedure

1. Review the material covered with your students in the previous lesson.
2. Introduce the video of Felipe Horta and show it to your students.
3. Discuss what students learned in the video. How has La Pastorela changed over the years? Are there parts of La Pastorela that have remained the same? What is the significance of the masks according to Horta? How has popular culture come to be part of this Christmas story tradition?