

iCONN Learning Activity

Culture in Spanish Speaking Countries

Level: High School (Grade 10)

Task: Students in transitional Spanish, Grade 10, research a specific Spanish-speaking country. Each student gives an oral presentation to the class about location, history, population, food, politics, important cities, and places of interest. Students also hand in five questions for a quiz on their country, based upon information from their presentation. Finally, students produce an advertising poster (8 ½ x 11) that would entice someone to visit the country.

Research Question: What are the most significant understandings you have about the culture of the country you selected to research?

Content Area(s): World Languages - Transitional Spanish

State Content Standard(s):

World Languages:

Program Goal: As a result of education in Grades K-12, students will gain knowledge and understandings of other cultures.

Standard 4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, products and perspectives of the cultures studied.

iCONN Database(s):

General Reference Center Gold: This database contains full text articles from encyclopedias, reference books, newspaper references, and periodicals.

iCONN Newspapers: iCONN contains full-text coverage of seven newspapers: [The Boston Globe](#), [The Christian Science Monitor](#), [The Hartford Courant](#), [The Los Angeles Times](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

InfoTrac Student Edition: This database contains full-text magazine articles.

AP Images: AP Images contains millions of images dating back more than 100 years, The collection is updated every minute of the day and includes entertainment, fashion, news and sports coverage from The Associated Press and a diverse selection of content partners. AP Images offers thousands of graphics including diagrams, maps, charts, logos and more. Spanish and German graphics are also available.

Search Strategy:

Start with General Reference Center Gold to find a background article on your country.

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”

3. Open *General Reference Center Gold*
4. Choose *Subject Guide Search*.
5. Limit the search to *documents with full text*
6. In the *Subject guide* search box, enter **YOUR COUNTRY**
7. Look at the results list (The number of words is given so you can judge the length of the article. The results list also contains the type of source: *reference book, encyclopedia, magazine* and so forth)
8. Open and read relevant documents
9. Print related articles

Alternate Search Strategies:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *InfoTrac Student Edition*
4. Choose *Subject Guide Search*.
5. Limit the search to *documents with full text*
6. In the *Subject guide* search box, enter **YOUR COUNTRY**
7. Look at the results list (The number of words is given so you can judge the length of the article. The results list also contains the type of source: *reference book, encyclopedia, magazine* and so forth)
8. Open and read relevant documents
9. Print related articles

See if there is current information in a newspaper about YOUR COUNTRY

1. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
2. Click on *Clear Checkmarks*
3. Click on the category *Newspapers* to search all newspapers simultaneously
4. Type **YOUR COUNTRY** into the Search box, then click *SEARCH* (or hit ENTER)
5. Click on the number of results shown next to a newspaper to get to the results screen
6. Click on the article’s title to view the article

Note: Click on the *Advanced* tab to make your search more precise. In the advanced search, you can link terms with *AND, OR, NOT*. You can also limit your search to *specific dates*

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Student having difficulty are given extra assistance.

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