



LARC Resources about Cultural Connections

The LARC Lending Library has an extensive collection of educational materials for teacher and classroom use such as videos, slides, units, books, games, curriculum units, and maps. They are available for free short term loan to any instructor in the United States.

These materials can be found on the online searchable catalog:

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/48/Lending-Library>

The resources listed below focus on cultural connections, both modern and historic, between Latin America and the Caribbean and other world areas. A plethora of resources could be used to address this topic, but a few have been selected as of particular interest to teachers. For other possible resources please see the Lending Library on-line catalog.



Latin American Resource Center Resources about Cultural Connections

Films

Americas Series Part J: The Latin American and Caribbean: Presence in the US. *The Latin American and Caribbean Presence in the US* examines the impact and influence of Hispanics in Southern California, Miami, and New York City. This ten-part series narrated by Raul Julia explores Latin America via current issues and polemics. Each program explores one issue, using actual newsreel footage and interviews with key individuals from different socio-economic strata within one or more Latin American nation and can be used independently from the others. English, 50 minutes.

Bahia: Africa in the Americas. A documentary of the impact on Brazil of African culture and the Candomble religion. Includes excellent, understandable explanations of the origins and practice of Candomble and other Afro-Brazilian religions. One scene of "spiritual surgery" at the end of the film may make squeamish viewers uncomfortable but easily can be edited. English, 58 minutes.

Black Atlantic: On the Orixas Route. This Brazilian made film takes us to Africa and Brazil to show how spiritual life, dance, and song took root in the new soil. Among the many traditions were the language and gods of Yoruba and Jejes from the Republic of Benin. It also follows a group of freed slaves who returned to Africa and brought with them Portuguese culture. The documentary is a testimony to some of the ironies of the diaspora. English, 55 minutes.

Black in Latin America. *Black in Latin America*, a four-part series about the African influence on Latin America was produced by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The Series examines how Africa and Europe came together to create the rich cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin America is often associated with music, monuments, and the sun, but each of the six countries featured in *Black in Latin America*---Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru---has a secret history. On his journey, Professor Gates discovers, behind a shared legacy of colonialism and slavery, vivid stories and people marked by African roots. Latin America and the Caribbean have the largest concentration of people with African ancestry outside of Africa---up to 70 percent of the population in some countries. The region imported more than ten times as many slaves as the United States. As Professor Gates travels to these countries, he celebrates the massive influence millions of people of African descent had on the history and culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, and considers how their contribution is often forgotten or ignored. Each part is approximately an hour long. Spanish and English with English subtitles, 240 minutes total.

Chutney in Yuh Soca: A Multicultural Mix. These three shorts show the vitality of ethnic identity which blends with the prevailing culture, yet keeps its own spirit. "Chutney in Yuh Soca." The film shows the interaction of the East Indian and African populations of Trinidad and



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Tobago through the latest form of popular music – “Chutney” – Indian folk tunes with the tempo and spice of the Caribbean. Soca/Calyпсо, the popular brew of Trinidad’s mixed cultural heritage, is adapting to this new wave of music (20 minutes.) “The Gospel Truth!.” A family’s faith and cohesiveness is reaffirmed through the singing of gospel music. A gem of a film! (6 minutes). “Songs for Our Daughters.” West Indian women living in Britain discuss the way they pass their heritage and culture on to their mixed race daughters. Using traditional rhythms and stories from the Caribbean, the film portrays the intimate mother-daughter relationship in this beautifully crafted film (9 minutes). English.

Dancing Part E: New Worlds New Forms The brutal journey of enslaved Africans brought to the shores of North and South America is revealed in the daring and wise ways in which they kept the soul of their tradition through dance. From the Samba in Rio to the Lindy-hop in Harlem, cultural collisions have shaped the popular dances of the Americas, where dance has become a medium for cultural fusion among Africans and Europeans. English, 58 minutes.

Displaced in the New South. This documentary explores the cultural collision between Asian and Hispanic immigrants and the suburban communities near Atlanta, Georgia, in which they have settled. This film is insightful, sensitive, and informative. English, 57 minutes.

Jump over the Atlantic. This film explores the cultures similarities between the small town of Barlovento on the coast of Venezuela, and the Belgian Congo in Africa. Scenes of celebration, food preparation, musical instrument making, and hair braiding from both Barlovento and the Congo are compared visually and described by community members. Spanish/French with English subtitles.

Pierre Verger - Messenger between Two Worlds (Pierre Verger - Mensageiro entre Dois Mundos). This sumptuously-filmed documentary retraces the adventurous life of photographer Pierre Verger, a French ethnographer who devoted his life to the study of the reciprocal cultural influences between Bahia, Brazil and the Benin regions of Africa. The originality of his work lies in his demonstration that not only were cultural traditions brought from Africa to Brazil by slaves, but former slaves who returned to their native continent brought back Brazilian influences as well. The film is narrated by renowned musician Gilberto Gil. Portuguese with English subtitles, 90 minutes.

Portrait of the Caribbean Part B: Out of Africa. Looks at the African cultural legacy of slavery in the British Caribbean. English, 60 minutes.

Portrait of the Caribbean Part E: Worlds Apart. This film looks at the largest single population group in Guyana and Trinidad, the East Indians. English, 60 minutes.



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Quest of the Carib Canoe. This film tells the story of a group of contemporary Carib Indians who undertake a sea voyage in their hand-built canoe, leaving their Caribbean island home to return to their ancestral homeland in South America. Centuries before Columbus came to the islands of the Caribbean, Jacob's ancestors had come as settlers themselves, migrating northward from the Orinoco Delta in great ocean-going canoes. Five centuries of European colonization followed, all but erasing the Carib people and their culture. Their journey would reconnect Dominica's Caribs with their mainland ancestry. English, 50 minutes.

Rain Forest Connections. In this Emmy-winning documentary, New Orleans television anchor Garland Robinette travels to Central and South America to show forest destruction, discuss causes and possible solutions, and show consequences for Louisiana and the rest of the United States. English, 50 minutes.

Routes of Rhythm Part A: From Spain and Africa. This award-winning documentary traces the history of Latin music from Africa and Spain to its current place in the United States and is hosted by Harry Belafonte. English, 60 minutes.

Books and Curricula

The Brazil Reader. Bordering all but two of South America's other nations and by far Latin America's largest country, Brazil differs linguistically, historically, and culturally from Spanish America. Its indigenous peoples share the country with descendants of Portuguese conquerors and the Africans they imported to work as slaves, along with more recent immigrants from southern Europe, Japan, the Middle East. Capturing the scope of this country's rich diversity and distinction as no other book as done - with over a hundred entries from a wealth of perspectives. English, 527 pages.

Caribbean Connections: Moving North. Migration from the Caribbean is reshaping the cultural landscape of many American communities. This book explores this process through fiction, poetry, personal narratives and interviews by women and men of Caribbean background (Puerto Rico, English-speaking West Indies, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Haiti) living in the U.S. English, 237 pages.

Exploration of the African Diaspora in the Americas. A K-12 curriculum developed from a Latin American Resource Center K-12 Teacher Institute. This packet includes nine lesson plans surrounding the geography of Latin America, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, dance and movement, music, and language. These curricula address aspects of the National Curriculum Standards in Social Studies, Foreign Language, and the Arts.



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<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/698/Exploration-of-the-African-Diaspora-in-the-Americas>

Geography and Identity in the Brazilian Amazon. A K-12 curriculum developed from a Latin American Resource Center K-12 Teacher Institute. This curriculum revolves around the film *Iauaretê: Waterfall of the Jaguars*, directed by Vincent Carelli. This film was the 2007 Grand Jury Award winner of the Latin American Environmental Media Festival.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/815/Geography-and-Identity-in-the-Brazilian-Amazon-a-K-12-Curriculum-Unit-based-on-the-film-Iauaret-Waterfall-of-the-Jaguars>

Latin America and Japan: Crossing Borders and Making Connections. A collection of units on various comparisons between Latin America and Japan compiled by the Social Science Education Consortium and Education for Global Involvement, Inc. The activities and lessons are written for a middle and upper grade audience. English, 159 pages.

The Louisiana Purchase. The Louisiana Purchase was a defining moment in the development of the United States as a nation, doubling the size of the young country. It was a turning point, changing not just Louisiana and American history, but altering the shape of the modern world. Our story begins in the 1780s and ends in the 1820s, by which time a mythic transformation in U.S. geography, in collective identity, and in the political landscape, both continental and global, occurred. This multimedia CD-ROM brought together leading scholars from the U.S., Europe, and Canada to interpret more than 100 digital images from numerous archives to tell the story of the Louisiana Purchase. The images illuminate the human history of the time and situate the Purchase itself in the Atlantic world of commerce and culture including, in addition to the United States, developments in Europe, the Caribbean, and the larger Atlantic world.

Resistance in Paradise: Rethinking 100 Years of U.S. Involvement in the Caribbean and the Pacific. This guide begins by examining the events of 1898 and their aftermath, explores general themes regarding the role of interpretation in history, and then proceeds to examine each country which came under U.S. rule since then. The country-specific chapters include a brief historical description followed by lessons, suggested activities, term definitions, and handouts for students. English, 183 pages.

Rethinking Globalization. Globalization speaks to our growing interconnectedness. American teenagers wearing sneakers made in China. South Americans watching U.S. television shows. Internet messages flashing across continents. But this is only a partial view. We are connected, but in very unequal ways that pose dire threats to the health of the planet. *Rethinking Globalization* alerts readers to the challenges we face and also spotlights the enormous courage and creativity of people working to set things right. This essential resource includes role plays, interviews, poetry, stories, background readings, hands-on teaching tools, and much more. English 393 pages.



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La Tierra Mágica: Una exploración cultural de la América Latina. A resource guide on Latin American culture, designed to be used in Spanish classes at the advanced high school or intermediate to advanced college level. The curriculum was developed to introduce students to aspects of the history which influences life in contemporary Latin America, help students develop a global perspective, and promote Spanish communication skills.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/312/La-Tierra-Mgica-Una-exploracin-cultural-de-la-Amrica-Latina>

Podcasts

Managing Cultural Identity. A podcast. Navigating multiple cultural identities in America is a challenge for second generation immigrants. Within the last ten years the Hispanic population in the greater New Orleans area has grown by 57%. For some, one difficulty is finding a balance between their heritage and their Americanism. For the Gutierrez family participation on the Jefferson Parish Seahorses Swim Team helps.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/1317/Managing-Cultural-Identity>

New Orleans and Latin America: Feeling Right at Home. A podcast. Long-standing cultural parallels between New Orleans and Latin America have new residents feeling right at home and many are deciding to alter their plans and stay in the Big Easy.

<http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/articles/detail/998/New-Orleans-and-Latin-America-Feeling-Right-at-Home>