



A Selection of Popular LARC Resources about Cuba and Literacy

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Resources about Literacy

A Woman's Place: Footprints of Sorrow

This program focuses on war widows in Guatemala. Today there are 45,000, mostly uneducated, women who lost their husbands as a result of decades of political violence, and who have been marginalized in Guatemalan society. But a group of them formed Conavigua (The Committee of Guatemalan Widows), which is fighting back, holding literacy classes and encouraging political participation. They are demanding that their rights as indigenous women be recognized and that human rights violations are brought to an end. 1995. Spanish with English subtitles, 10 minutes

Dawn of the People: Nicaragua's Literacy Crusade

The United Nations called the 1980 Nicaraguan Literacy Crusade the most important social movement of its generation. *Dawn of the People* illustrates the methods and politics of the literacy project, with comments from the crusade's famous coordinator, Father Fernando Cardenal. It takes viewers into factories and homes, classrooms and coffee plantations, introducing both the brigadistas (young teachers) and the people they taught to read. 1985. English with Spanish subtitles, 30 minutes.

Resources about Cuba and the Cuban Revolution

Castro: The Uncompromising Revolution

Made with the complete cooperation and active participation of Fidel Castro, this documentary juxtaposes segments of an interview with the Cuban leader with scenes of contemporary Cuban life and the comments of ordinary citizens about the revolution and its results. 1989. English, 78 minutes.



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Cuba: In the Shadow of Doubt

This documentary begins with a historical overview of U.S.-Cuban relations, then goes on to paint a picture of everyday Cuban life. It contrasts the successes of Cuba - health care, education, and housing - with the often repressive political measures implemented by the Castro government. Includes interviews with people from all bands of the political spectrum and tours of government institutions such as hospitals, prisons, and libraries, some of which were filmed surreptitiously. 1986. English, 58 minutes.

Cuba: The Accidental Revolution, Part 1: Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture examines Cuba's response to the food crisis created by the collapse of the Soviet Bloc in 1989. At one time Cuba's agrarian culture was as conventional as the rest of the world. It experienced its first "Green Revolution" when Russia was supplying Cuba with chemical and mechanical "inputs." However, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 ended all of that, and almost overnight threw Cuba's whole economic system into crisis. Factories closed, food supplies plummeted. Within a year the country had lost over 80% of its foreign trade. With the loss of their export markets and the foreign exchange to pay for imports, Cuba was unable to feed its population and the country was thrown into a crisis. The average daily caloric intake of Cubans dropped by a third. Without fertilizer and pesticides, Cubans turned to organic methods. Without fuel and machinery parts, Cubans turned to oxen. Without fuel to transport food, Cubans started to grow food in the cities where it is consumed. Urban gardens were established in vacant lots, school playgrounds, patios and back yards. As a result Cuba created the largest program in sustainable agriculture ever undertaken. By 1999 Cuba's agricultural production had recovered and in some cases reached historic levels. 2006. English, 45 minutes.

Cuba: The Accidental Revolution, Part 2: Health Care System

In *Health Care System* we learn that Cuba has been blockaded since 1961, but today Cuba has the highest quality of life in the region, the highest life expectancy, and one of the highest literacy rates in all of Latin America. With the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, Cuba lost the foreign exchange needed to pay for expensive drugs and medicines. As a result, much of Cuba's medicine today is based on medicinal plants. These are grown on farms, processed in small labs and made available to patients through an extensive network of medical clinics. Today Cuba's advances in alternative medicine could have important consequences for other countries around the world. Cuba boasts other firsts as well: The Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Havana is regarded as the flagship biosciences lab in the developing world. Cuban scientists are working on an HIV vaccine, a meningitis vaccine, a Hepatitis C vaccine, and other pharmaceuticals. Cuba has also embarked on a program of medical internationalism. There are 25,000 Cuba doctors serving in 68 poor countries around the world. The Latin American School of Medical Science has 10,000 students from developing countries primarily in Latin



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America and the Caribbean. They are educated for free with the understanding they will return to their home countries to practice. 2006. English, 45 minutes.

Cuba: The People (Parts I and II)

Part I focuses on average people and their lives, state farms, factories, bars, stores. Also deals with the issues of human rights, freedom of the press and religion. Part II shows return visits to Cuba over an eight-year period. Shows the Cuban people in prisons, courtrooms, a Communist Party Congress, Marriage Palaces, funeral parlors, cane fields, and homes. Includes the Mariel Bay boat lift, free market experiments, feelings on Grenada invasion, and role of Soviet advisors. 1989. English, Part I 60 minutes; Part II 25 minutes.

Cuba Va: The Challenge of the Next Generation

This film is a controversial look at Cuba's future from the dynamic perspective of Cuban youth. Young men and women born after the Cuban Revolution in 1959 face the challenge of finding solutions to Cuba's economic crisis in the 90's. Scenes illustrate both the severity of the economic crisis and the long-term benefits of the Revolution. 1993. Spanish with English subtitles, 60 minutes.

Elpidio Valdes

The adventures of a youngster during the fight for Cuban independence at the end of the last century. Animated. Directed by Juan Padron. 1970. Spanish, 70 minutes.

Mujeres de America Latina Part D: Cuba

D. Cuba: Las Hijas de Fidel. This series looks at Latin America through its women. Each film tells the stories of Latin American women in different countries who take on the burden of living and enabling their children to survive. Spanish, 58 minutes.

Los sobrevivientes

Depicts the story of an upper-class Cuban family that isolates itself from the Cuban Revolution after 1959, not expecting it to last long. The family refuses to change, and moves from stagnation to eventual self-destruction and cannibalism. Based on a fictional text by Benitez Rojo. 1979. Spanish with English subtitles, 125 minutes.

Memories of Overdevelopment

A Cuban film written and directed by Miguel Coyula and based on a novel by Edmundo Desnoes. Sergio Garcet is an intellectual who abandons the Cuban Revolution and 'underdevelopment' behind only to find himself at odds with the ambiguities of his new life in the 'developed' world. A portrait of an alienated man, an outsider with no clear-cut politics or ideology: A stranger in a strange land struggling with old age, sexual desire and ultimately, the impossibility for the individual to belong in any society. Highly



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episodic, the film's narrative is a collage of flashbacks, daydreams, and hallucinations comprising live-action, animation, and newsreel footage assembled to suggest the way personal memory works, subjectively and emotionally. 2010. Spanish with English subtitles, 112 minutes.

Memorias del subdesarrollo (Memories of Underdevelopment)

Set in the early 1960's, the film centers on a Europeanized Cuban intellectual, too idealistic (or lazy) to leave for Miami, but too decadent to fit into the new Cuban society. Directed by Humberto Solas. 1968. Spanish with English subtitles, 97 minutes.

Mi hermano Fidel

Based on "The Diary of Jose Marti" by Jose Massio. An old man is interviewed about the Cuban revolution. At the end of the interview the old man discovers the interviewer is Fidel Castro. Spanish with English subtitles, 15 minutes.

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

When Cuba lost access to Soviet oil in the early 1990s, the country faced an immediate crisis-feeding the population-and an ongoing challenge: how to create a low-energy society. Cuba transitioned from large, fossil fuel intensive farming to small, less energy-intensive organic farms and urban gardens, and from a highly industrial society to a more sustainable one. This film tells the story of the Cuban people's hardship, ingenuity and triumph over sudden adversity-through cooperation, conservation and community, told in their own words. As the world approaches Peak Oil, Cuba provides a valuable example of how to successfully address the challenge of reducing our energy use. English, 53 minutes.

Yo soy Cuba (I Am Cuba)

This Soviet-Cuban co-production is structured like a social realist mural with five panels, each of which illustrates a different aspect of the revolution. After surveying tourist Havana, it moves into the sugar cane fields, then returns to the city to follow the leftist student movement. From there it journeys to the country to show the bombing of the innocent peasants' hillside dwellings. It ends in the mountains marching with Fidel Castro's ragtag army. Directed by Mikhail Kalatozov. 1964. Black and White. Spanish with English subtitles. 141 minutes.