

CATEGORY: ARGENTINA: DISCOVERY TO PRESENT

CONCEPTS: GENERAL HISTORY

ACTIVITY: COMPARATIVE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINE TIME LINES.

History, particularly that of other countries, is often very abstract, especially for students. One way to visualize the passage of events is through a time line. Time lines help to stress that while certain events were occurring in one area, other, sometimes similar events were occurring at different points on the globe. Time lines of Latin American nations also help to dispel the idea students often have that Latin America has no real history.

OBJECTIVES: Students will learn how to read and make time lines. They will be better able to visualize Argentine history.

MATERIALS: Large sheets of white paper
rulers
magic markers and pens

PROCEDURE: Give students copies of the summary of Argentine history. Have them use rulers, markers, etc. to draw two time lines, one for Argentina, one for the United States. Follow the sample to have them fill in important historic events for both countries.

The time lines may also be done as a mural, with students filling in events that they research and report on.

We have included history summaries of some of the other countries represented in this volume. Time lines can be made for these nations, too. Students can discuss how different events in Argentina, other countries and the United States happened at similar times. They are often surprised to see that some things happened first in Latin America, or that they may have some connection with events in the United States.

RESOURCES: Allan Carpenter, Argentina, Chicago: Children's Press, 1969
(an introduction to Argentina, including its history, for children).
H.S. Ferns, Argentina, New York: Praeger, 1969.

LEVEL: MIDDLE GRADES
Source: Gibbs, Virginia G. *Latin America: Curriculum Materials for the Middle Grades*. Center for Latin America, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. 1985/1989.

ARGENTINA: An Historical Summary

Pre-Conquest Argentine region inhabited by indigenous peoples.

- 1516 Juan de Solís discovered Argentina.
- 1536 Pedro Mendoza established the settlement of Buenos Aires on the shore of the Río de la Plata. The settlement was abandoned after five years because of Indian attacks.
- 1580 Buenos Aires was resettled 1580. Until 1800 Argentina remained a relative backwater of the Spanish colonial system. Only small towns on the coast (military outposts) protect the territory. Little economic development.
- 1777 Carlos III of Spain established the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata which included present day Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay with Buenos Aires as its capital.
- 1810 "May Revolution:" an autonomous government was established in Buenos Aires to administer the Viceroyalty of La Plata.
- 1816 Independence from Spain under the name of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata.
- 1826-27 President Rivadavia attempted to impose a centralized constitution on all the provinces.
- 1832 The United Kingdom (UK) seized the Islas Malvinas/Falkland Islands.
- 1835-52 Era of "Bloody Rosas": was a period of chaos between Unitarians, who wanted one centralized government and Federalists, who wanted a system of semi-independent provinces like the U.S. Federal System. Time of dictatorship of General Juan Manuel Rosas, a Federalist, who ruled with absolute authority and without a constitution.
- 1844-1914 Great Immigration (6 million Europeans)
- 1852 A constitutional convention was held in Santa Fé and in 1853 a representative constitution modeled on that of the United States was adopted.
- 1880 Buenos Aires was made the federal district and became the capital.
- 1914 The first subway in Latin America opened in Buenos Aires.
- 1933 The Roca-Runcimán Agreement with the United Kingdom: guaranteed Argentina a fixed share in the British Market for meat, and ruled out tariffs on British cereal imports.
- 1946 Juan Perón, a charismatic military leader, was elected president with control in both houses of congress and all provincial governorships.

- 1952 Juan Perón was re-elected for the 1952-58 term -- Eva Perón died.
- 1955 Juan Perón was overthrown by the military. General Aramburu became president and a military dictatorship governed the country.
- 1969 The Cordobazo - student and labor disturbances, and riots occurred in the major cities.
- 1973 Juan Perón was elected president with his wife Isabel as vice president.
- 1974 Juan Perón died and his wife Isabel became the first female president in Latin America.
- 1976 - Military officers deposed Mrs. Perón, placed her under house arrest, and
1982 took over the government. A period of repression followed with political parties forbidden, and the "dirty war" against opposition resulted in thousands of deaths.
- 1978 Argentina won the World Soccer Cup (Mundial).
- 1982 War with England over the Islas Malvinas/Falkland Islands.
- 1983 An open democratic presidential election was held for the first time in seven years of military rule and Raúl Alfonsín, a moderate democrat, was elected president.
- President Alfonsín appointed members to the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (CONADEP).
- Alfonsín issued executive orders for the court martial of nine military junta leaders who held power between 1976 - 1982.
- 1984 50,000 pages of evidence were turned over to the President in the CONADEP Report.
The Report outlined:
--disappearance of 8,691 persons
--340 clandestine prisons operated by military and police were identified
--names of 1,300 military and police personnel who were directly tied to the violence were identified.
- 1984 - Beagle Channel dispute was settled with Chile. The islands were
1985 awarded to Chile, but limited Chilean access to the Atlantic. This settlement separated the two countries' claims to Antarctica from the status of the Beagle Channel Islands.
- 1985 Public trial of former military leaders began in Buenos Aires. The charges included: homicide, illegal detention, torture, robbery and use of false IDs to conduct illegal searches.
- 1986 In June President Alfonsín announced an "economy of war" (Austral Plan) to bring the high inflation rate down. The program combined the creation of a new currency - the austral, to replace the peso, wage and price controls and a halt to the government's deficit spending.

