

CATEGORY: CARIBBEAN: COLONIAL

CONCEPTS: GEOGRAPHY, colonization, economics

ACTIVITY: A BUCCANEER BOARD GAME. Buccaneers or pirates were a dangerous reality to Spanish settlers in the New World. By attacking and looting both ships and towns, the pirates not only increased their own fortunes but also destabilized the Spanish Empire, for which they were paid by the English Crown. Sir Francis Drake, perhaps the most famous of these buccaneers, pillaged and burned many towns in all of Latin America. He was considered somewhat of a hero by the British (hence the title "sir"), but Drake has always been synonymous with cruelty and rapacity in the Hispanic world.

OBJECTIVES: Students will become more familiar with Caribbean geography by tracing a theoretical buccaneer route, and by taking "booty" will also become more familiar with the products of colonial America.

MATERIALS: the following game sheet, reproduced for each student  
 dice  
 cardboard for making "booty" and "danger" cards  
 colored pencils  
 paper and pencil for scoring

PROCEDURE: Divide the class into groups of three or four students. This is a simple game in which each student throws one die and advances the number of circles indicated on the die. Certain circles on the game are designated with a) booty (B) or b) danger (D). When a student lands directly on these circles s/he draws a corresponding booty or danger card, which have been prepared ahead of time and distributed in two separate piles to each group. Cards are not to be drawn if students pass through the designated circles. Each student keeps track of points scored or lost, returning cards to the bottom of the pile after each turn. The game should be timed (1/2 to 3/4 hour). If a student reaches homebase s/he may restart the voyage and pick up more points. When time is up the student in each group with the highest total score wins the game.

HELPFUL HINTS: Booty and danger cards should include the following:

Booty Cards

5 silver bars:	5 points
10 silver bars:	10 points
20 silver bars:	20 points
5 gold bars:	10 points
10 gold bars:	20 points
20 gold bars:	40 points
1 large box of pearls:	15 points
10 casks of Spanish wine:	5 points

**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.

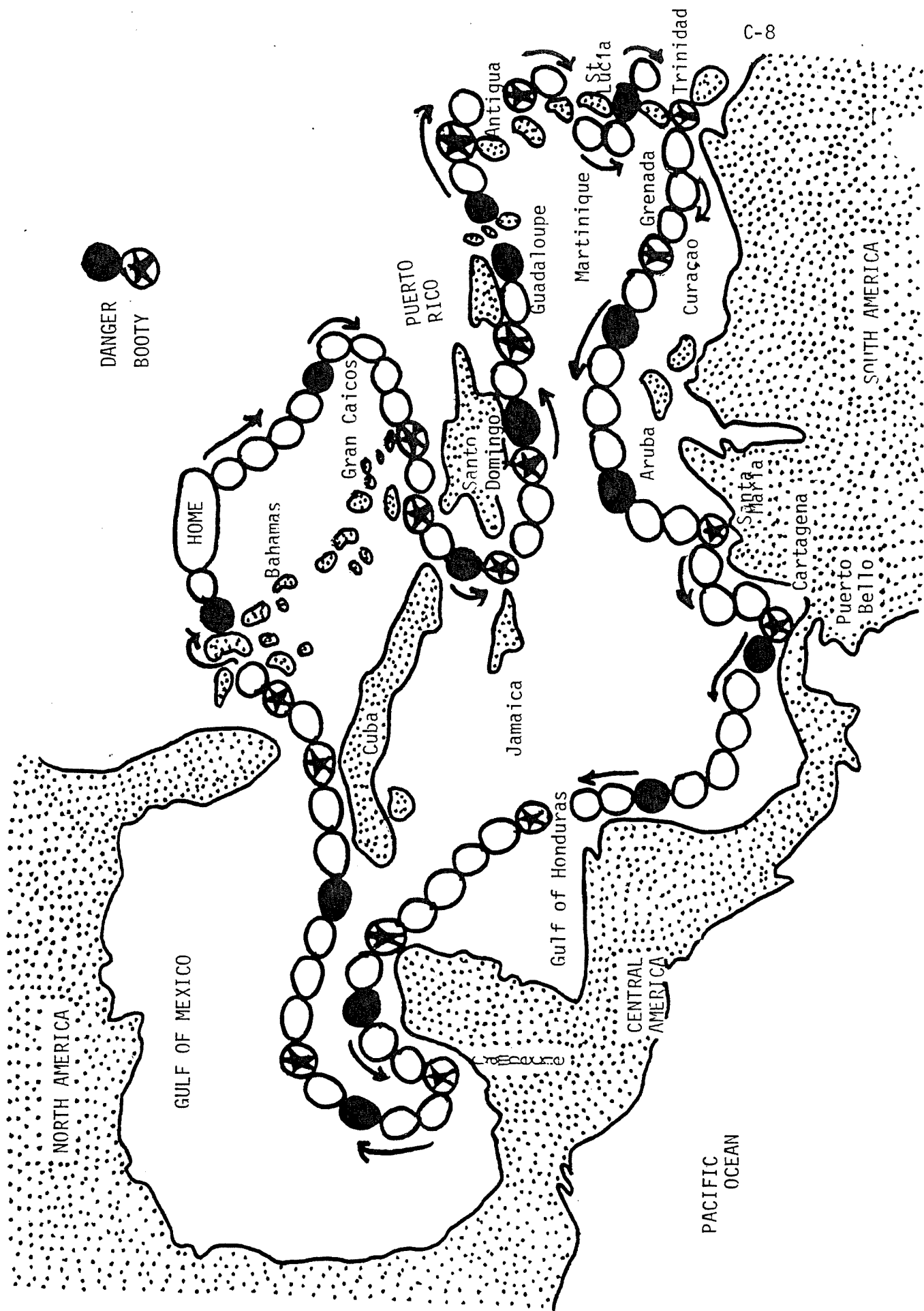
shipment of chickens:	5 points
load of fresh fruit:	5 points
10 head of cattle:	5 points
20 head of cattle:	10 points
shipment of hides:	15 points
20 bales of silk:	15 points
shipment of sugar:	20 points
10 fine Spanish tapestries:	5 points
shipment of vicuña wool:	15 points
governor taken hostage:	40 points
chest full of pieces of eight:	20 points
2 chests full of pieces of eight:	40 points
emeralds from Brazil:	50 points
collection of fine jewelry:	30 points
10 jars of ambergris:	10 points
fine tin and pewter ware:	10 points
pistols, swords, lances:	25 points
shipment of nutmeg from Grenada:	15 points
vanilla from Mexico:	15 points
chocolate from Mexico:	20 points
Spanish furniture:	15 points
10 horses:	10 points

#### Danger Cards

hurricane:	-20 points
mutiny:	-10 points
ship damaged on reefs:	-10 points
captain injured during raid:	-15 points
"sea monster" (octopus) frightens crew:	- 5 points
ship trapped in bay by Spanish ship:	-25 points
attacked by Spanish navy:	-30 points
storm brewing:	- 5 points
ship damaged during battle:	-10 points
no wind, slow travel:	- 5 points
fire aboard ship:	-15 points
illness attacks crew:	-10 points

VOCABULARY: buccaneer, booty, vicuña, ambergris, pewter, nutmeg.

RESOURCES: John Masefield, On the Spanish Main, London: Methuen and Co., 1906.



DANGER  
 BOOTY

NORTH AMERICA

GULF OF MEXICO

CENTRAL AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA

PACIFIC OCEAN

HOME

Bahamas

Gran Caicos

Cuba

PUERTO RICO

Santo Domingo

Jamaica

Guadalupe

Martinique

Aruba

Grenada

Curacao

Santa Lucia

Trinidad

Santa Marta

Cartagena

Puerto Bello

C-8