

South America

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.

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CATEGORY: ARGENTINA: COLONIAL

CONCEPTS: LEISURE, games, folklore, life style

ACTIVITY: RIDDLES FROM COLONIAL TIMES.

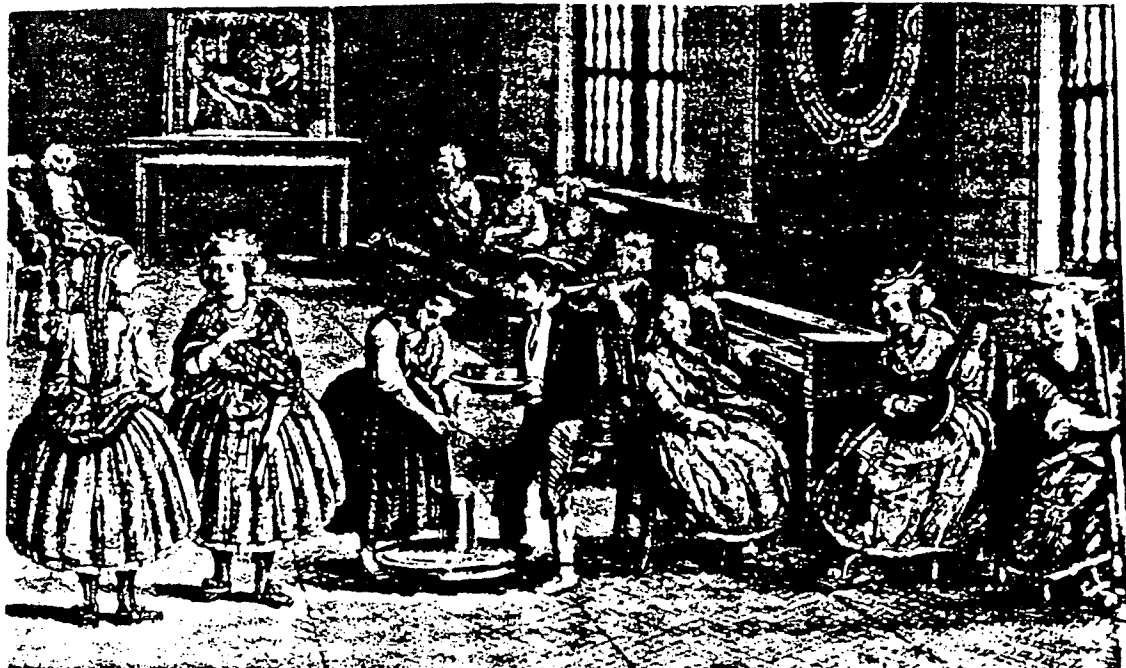
No television, radio, stereo were around to entertain people in colonial times. People had to use ingenuity to entertain themselves. Parlor games of all sorts were brought from Spain, and music filled spare time at all levels of society. This is a collection of riddles of different types that were used to enliven social gatherings.

OBJECTIVES: Students will enjoy playing a colonial guessing game and will become aware of alternatives to the way we currently entertain ourselves.

MATERIALS: None

PROCEDURE: Read the riddles in class after explaining their origin. The class can be divided into teams if you desire. Afterwards students may want to make up their own riddles and stump classmates. You could also post the riddles on a board and give the students a few days to figure them out before revealing the answers. Before or after the exercise discuss ways in which people entertain themselves without television and other modern electronic equipment.

RELATED ACTIVITIES: Ask the students to choose one day to give up television, radio, stereos, etc. Be sure to give them some choice on the day; if you set aside one specific day it will almost certainly be the day of their favorite television program. Have them discuss or write an essay on what they did to pass their time and if they enjoyed it.



Riddles From Colonial Argentina

1. In fifteen days I wake and grow
Another fifteen I slowly go.
And then I am born again
To be of service to all humans.
2. The sun gives me life
And the sun takes it away.
Though born from water
Into thin air I fade.
3. I die the moment I am born
No one sees me coming
And he that follows me
Is not silent but rumbling.
4. Sometimes I give joy,
Other times pain
And though they know I am not real
All love me just the same.
5. I wait throughout the night
With my mouth wide open
And with the early morning light
My mouth is closed again.
6. I go to the orchard and don't eat.
I go to the well and don't drink.
I go to the fire but I don't get burnt.
7. It goes from the living room
Into the kitchen
Wagging its tail
Like a busy chicken.
8. My parents are singers
Though I have no song.
My overcoat is white
And yellow is my heart.
9. Juan climbed a pear tree that had pears
He didn't pick pears, he didn't eat pears
And he didn't leave pears in the tree.
10. A cobbler and his daughter
A tailor and his wife
Together ate nine pears
And each one ate three.
11. Two fathers and two sons have three acres of land.
Each one gets an acre. How can this be?

12. What is twice in a moment, once in a minute and never in an hour?
13. What is in the middle of Salta and doesn't exist in Córdoba? (These are two cities.)
14. Two are three, three are five, one and two are six
And to tell the truth six are three

ANSWERS:

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|--------------|---|
| 1. The moon | 8. An egg |
| 2. A cloud | 9. There were 2 pears and Juan ate one. |
| 3. Lightning | 10. The cobbler's daughter was the tailor's wife. |
| 4. A dream | 11. They are father, son, and grandson. |
| 5. A shoe | 12. The letter "M" |
| 6. A shadow | 13. The letter "L" |
| 7. A broom | 14. The number of letters in each number. |

(From Guillermo Furlong, S.J., Historia social y cultural del Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires: TEA, 1969.)

