

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.

CATEGORY: VENEZUELA: WARS OF INDEPENDENCE

CONCEPTS: COLONIALISM, revolution

ACTIVITY: A CLASS PROJECT BOOKLET ON SIMÓN BOLÍVAR

Simón Bolívar was one of the major figures in Spanish America's independence from Spain. He is also perhaps Latin America's most renowned military hero and intellectual. The somewhat complex story of his life and ideas can be handled by students if they are able to each investigate a specific period or activity and then share it with the class before incorporating the short reports into a booklet.

OBJECTIVES: By studying and sharing information on Simón Bolívar, students will learn of Latin America's struggle for independence from Spain and become acquainted with this great figure in Latin American history.

MATERIALS: Access to school and/or public libraries.
1 Loose-leaf notebook

PROCEDURE: Assign each student in the class (or each small group of students) one of the following topics to research. They should have some library time or help in localizing books or encyclopedia entries. After an appropriate time have each student read in class the short (1-2 pages) report in the order you have assigned them. Then all the reports will be gathered and placed in a loose-leaf notebook or between covers made by the students. If desired, all the reports can be photocopied so that each student has a completed book on Bolívar. Students can also illustrate with maps and drawings.



The following topics are suggested and will become "chapters" in the "book":

1. Bolívar as a child and young man in Europe
2. Bolívar and his friend Miranda
3. How Bolívar came to be called "The Liberator"
4. Why Bolívar was against Spanish rule of Latin America
5. Bolívar in Bolivia
6. Bolívar in Colombia
7. Bolívar in Ecuador
8. Bolívar in Perú
9. The Battle of Ayacucho
10. The Panama Congress
11. Bolívar's idea of an Andean Confederation
12. What was Creolism?
13. What is the Jamaica Letter and why is it important?
14. Bolívar after Independence
15. Bolívar's last years and death
16. What does Bolívar mean to Latin Americans now?

Students will be more successful if they look in a combination of sources including encyclopedia entries, biographies of Bolívar, and history books of the countries involved.

RESOURCES: John J. Johnson, Simón Bolívar and Spanish American Independence, Princeton, New Jersey: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1972. Salvador de Madariaga, Bolívar, London, 1952.