

CATEGORY: BRAZIL: NOW

CONCEPTS: LANGUAGE

ACTIVITY: EXPLORING PORTUGUESE. We almost always think of Spanish as the language of Latin America. In fact, almost half of the population of Latin America lives in Brazil and speaks Portuguese. This exercise will familiarize students with a few basic Portuguese sentences and will help them see how Portuguese, Spanish and English often interrelate.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to say some basic phrases in Portuguese and will learn several ways in which English, Spanish and Portuguese relate.

MATERIALS: None.

PROCEDURE: Reproduce and distribute the following hand-out.

Discuss in class. Answers to the blanks are:

1. informação, estrito, biografia, fraternidade.
2. celebration, information, photography, petroleum, simplicity, scandal, mask, diet, difference, union.
3. Portugal, Angola, Mozambique

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE: Portuguese has some of the same sounds as Spanish, but there are also some big differences. The guide below might help you with the phrases on the handout:

Alô	(a-LO)	
Bom dia	(bon JI-a)	j= "judge"
Como vai?	(CO-mu vai)	ai= "tie"
Obrigado	(o-bri-GA-du)	g= "go"
Até logo	(a-TE LAW-gu)	aw= "law"
Eu te amo	(eu chi A-mu)	ch= "cheese"

vowels in column 2 are pronounced approximately as follows:

a= ah e= day i= see o= low u= sue

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.

EXPLORING PORTUGUESE

I. Important Portuguese phrases:

Alô	Hello!
Bom dia	Good morning.
Como vai?	How are you?
Obrigado	Thank you.
Até logo	See you later.
Eu te amo	I love you.

Practice these phrases in class. Do you know anyone who speaks Portuguese? If you do, have them help you pronounce the words. Are they difficult? Why? Do you know what an accent is? Do you have one when you say these words?

II. Comparing Portuguese, Spanish and English

Some words are very different in these three languages. For example:

<u>English</u>	<u>Portuguese</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
pineapple	abacaxi	piña
bowl	tigela	recipiente

But since Portuguese, Spanish and English all have at least some words that came originally from Latin, many words are similar:

fruit	fruta	fruta
dictionary	dicionario	diccionario

Some words are similar because they originated in the native languages of Latin America and spread around the world:

potato	batata	patata
jaguar	jaguar	jaguar
chocolate	chocolate	chocolate

When the English word is very different from both the Spanish and Portuguese words for the same thing, it is usually because the English word comes from the old Germanic language that was the beginning of English while Spanish and Portuguese come from the Latin word. This usually happens with words for everyday objects or feelings and not "fancy" words:

bread	pão	pan
head	cabeça	cabeza
cold	frio	frío

Look at this list of similar words. Remember that they all started with the same word in Latin. As time passed each language slowly changed the words. Can you see any pattern, or rules for these changes?

<u>English</u>	<u>Portuguese</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
nation	nação	nación
attention	atenção	atención
station	estação	estación
spirit	espírito	espíritu
skeleton	esqueleto	esqueleto
bandit	bandido	bandido
credit	crédito	crédito
geography	geografia	geografía
biology	biologia	biología
cabin	cabana	cabaña
mountain	montanha	montaña
charity	caridade	caridad
piety	piedade	piedad

Can you write these English words in Portuguese?

information

strict

biography

fraternity

Do you know what these Portuguese words mean?

celebração

informação

fotografia

petróleo

simplicidade

escândalo

máscara

dieta

diferença

união

Do you know in what other countries Portuguese is spoken as an official language?
