

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: NOW

CONCEPTS: FAMILY, language

ACTIVITY: TWO EXERCISES RELATING TO FAMILY TREES AND ONE LEARNING CHECK ACTIVITY WITH SOMEWHAT HUMOROUS RESULTS. After the students have read an explanation of the use of the double surname (paternal and maternal) in Venezuela (as well as other Latin American countries) they will complete three short exercises, the third of which, if done individually, will serve as a good learning check.

OBJECTIVES: The students will understand the use and formation of the double surname and will be able to relate their understanding to other families (via activities provided) and their own (via class discussion).

MATERIALS: The following reading which explains the concept of double surname and three related activities.

PROCEDURE: Before reading the explanation of double surnames, there should be a brief discussion of the acquisition of surnames in the United States. Some questions might include:

- 1) Traditionally, what surname does a woman use in the U.S. when she marries?
- 2) What does she do with her maiden name?
- 3) What surname do the children of this marriage adopt?

After reading the explanation, three activities should be completed.

ACTIVITY #1: This is nothing more than answering questions relating to the family tree. It is recommended that a transparency be made and that this be done as an oral, whole-class activity. This would serve to provide further explanation for those who did not fully understand the written explanation. The following questions could be used:

- 1) To whom does "González" refer in Ana González de Pérez?
- 2) Diego is the son of Alonso and Ana and he uses both of their names. His sister, or their daughter, Carmen uses only Pérez and not González. Why not?
- 3) Why do Pepito, Juana, Kiko, and Susana all have the same last names?

ACTIVITY #2: The students are to fill in the blanks of this family tree. This activity could be done individually, in pairs, or as an entire class. It should, in any case, be checked before the students proceed to activity #3.

ACTIVITY #3: This activity will provide a humorous learning check for the students. It should be done individually. Due to the humorous results, both the students and the teacher will know if the concept has been learned.

RELATED ACTIVITY: To relate this concept to themselves, have the students imagine that they live in Caracas, Venezuela and after creating hypothetical marriages of the members of the class, discuss what their names would be, as well as the names of their children.

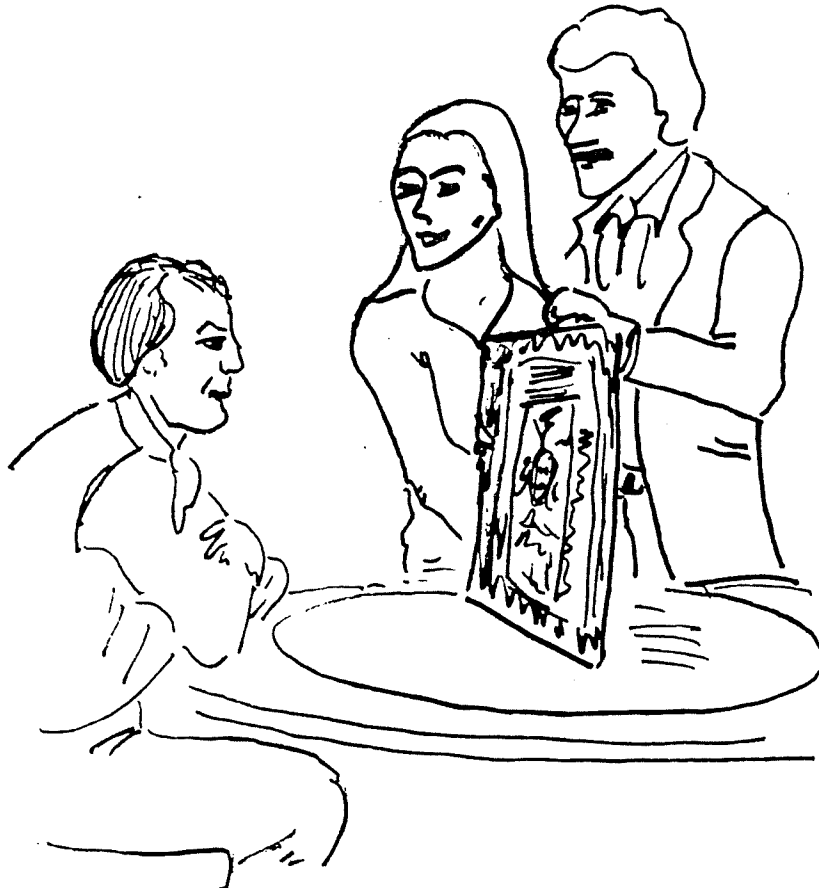
VOCABULARY: Patrilineal, Maternal, Paternal



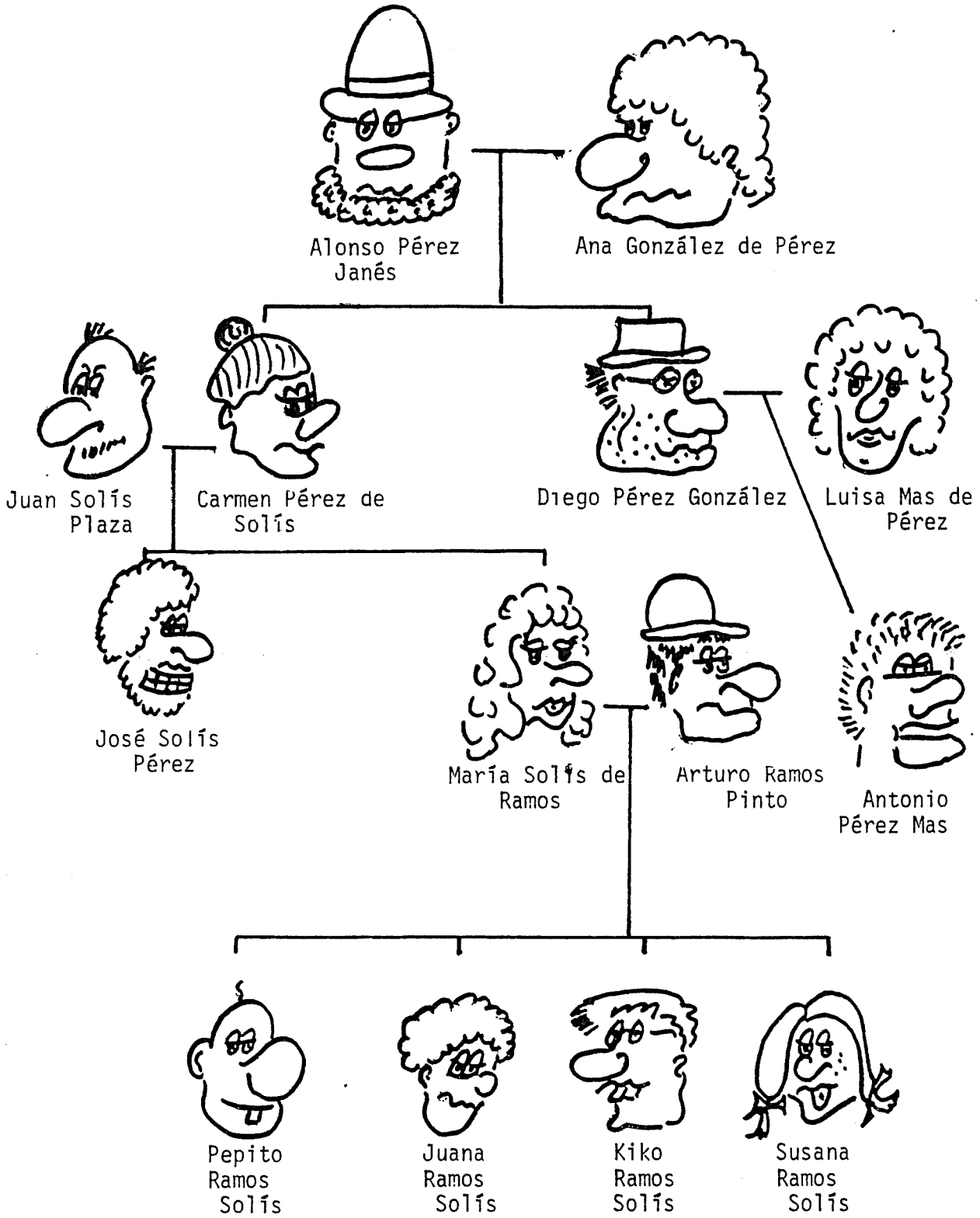
Family Names in Venezuela

When a woman marries in Venezuela, as well as in most other Latin American countries, her husband's surname is attached directly to her maiden name, often with the prefix "de" (literally "of") added. Children born to the marriage will take their father's name but will also usually add their mother's maiden name after their father's.

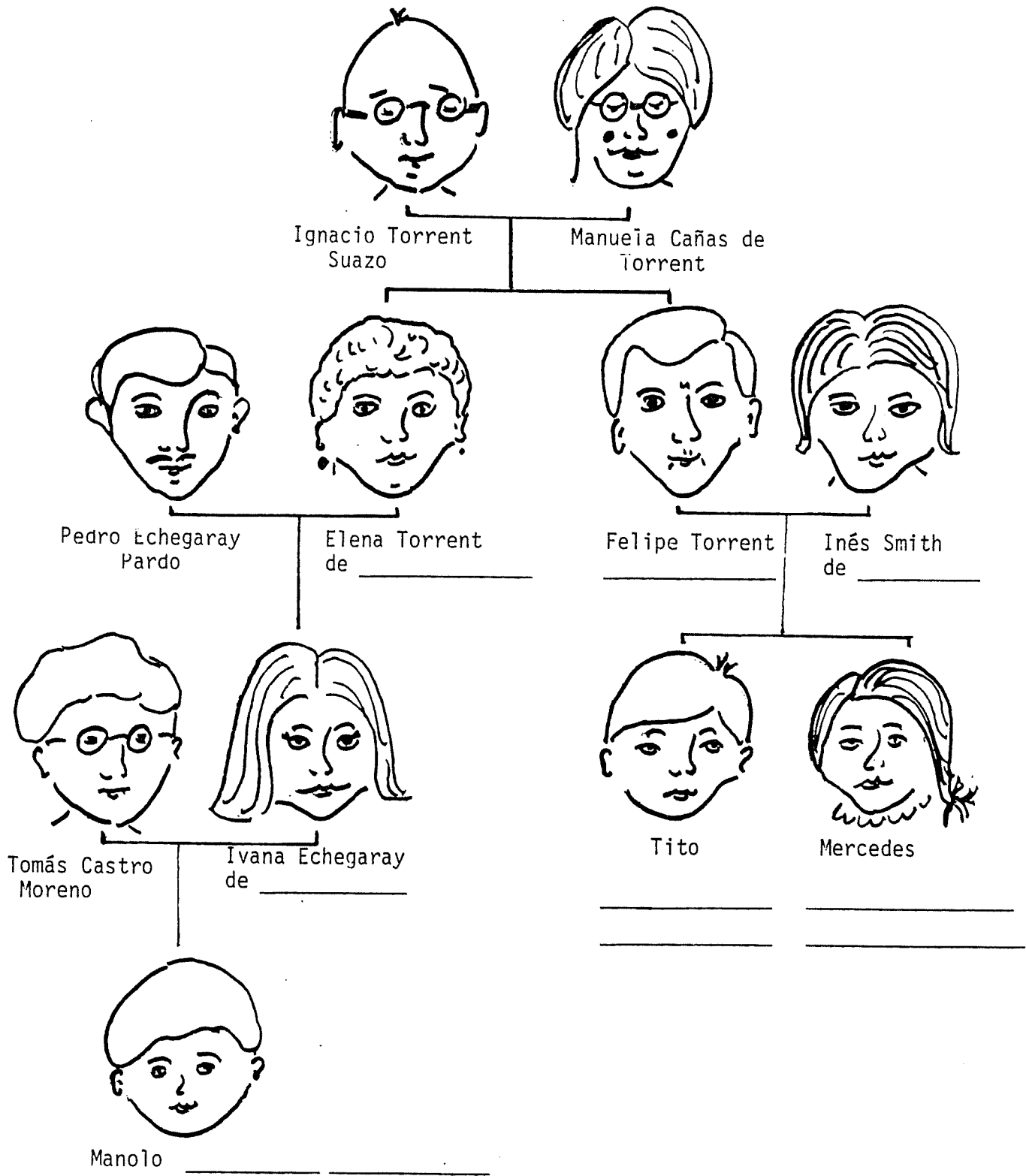
The essential difference between North American and Latin American usage regarding names is that the Latin custom allows for a person to use both his father's last name and his mother's maiden name. Thus, by the use of both the paternal and maternal surnames, a child is identified with the two families to which s/he belongs. For example, a father's name is José García. His wife's name (before marriage) is María Martínez. After the wedding, her name becomes María Martínez de García and when a son is born his name is Juan García Martínez. Despite the use of the mother's family name, it is the father's name that is perpetuated from one generation to the next. In other words, the continuation of names is patrilineal as in North America.



LA FAMILIA



SOME OF THE NAMES IN THIS FAMILY TREE ARE NOT COMPLETE. FILL IN EACH BLANK WITH THE APPROPRIATE NAME:



SURNAME EXERCISE

Now let's see whether or not you have understood the Latin American system of double surnames. (Remember, a boy uses his father's surname followed by his mother's maiden name. A girl does the same, but she drops her mother's maiden name when she marries. She then substitutes her husband's paternal name preceded by "of.")

1. Harry Keck Smith marries Susan Peese Dunlop. What is Susan's name now?

2. Allen Cullough Johnson marries Elizabeth Flower Bloom. They have a son named Peter. What is Peter's full name?

3. Andrew Moss Bryand and Phyllis Keeter Davies are married. Their daughter's name is Alex. What is Alex's full name?

4. Barbara Head Long and Jim Hare Brush are married. What is Barbara's married name?

5. John Hegg Curtis and Sandy White Stone marry and have a son named Richard. What is Richard's full name?

