This bibliography was prepared for middle school and high school teachers participating in a conference at New Mexico State University (July 14-18, 1993), to assist in research and pedagogical endeavors in the teaching of Spanish to native speakers. It is presented in two parts. The first is a bibliography edited by Francisco J. Ronquillo, which includes citations of materials, in these categories: Spanish language textbooks and readers (23 citations); general bibliography (95 citations); video recordings (18 citations); computer-assisted instruction (8 citations); dictionaries (5 citations); curriculum guides (2 citations); and Chicano literature (8 citations). The second part includes photocopies of articles by Isabel Schon and annotated bibliographies on science materials, children's literature, and materials on Mexico published in Spanish. (MSE)
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SPANISH FOR NATIVE SPEAKER SOURCES

Cecilia Rodríguez Pino
New Mexico State University
Selected Bibliography of Spanish for Native Speakers Sources

Compiled by Cecilia Rodríguez Pino
New Mexico State University

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for the grant project "Teaching Spanish to Southwest Hispanic Students" Summer Conference July 14-18, 1993
PREFACE

The Selected Bibliography of Spanish for Native Speaker Sources has been compiled by the Project Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities 1993 Summer Conference “Teaching Spanish to Southwest Hispanic Students” which had as its focus training thirty middle school and high school teachers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah to teach Spanish to Spanish-speaking bilinguals.

This bibliography has been prepared for the thirty middle school and high school teachers who were participants in the five day conference hosted by New Mexico State University, July 14-18, 1993 to assist them in their research and pedagogical endeavors in the field of Spanish for native speakers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A special recognition is expressed to Francisco J. Ronquillo, Teaching Assistant in the Department of Languages and Linguistics for his assistance in the preparation of this publication.
Spanish for Native Speakers

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Spanish Language Textbooks and Readers

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Video Section


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Hidalgo, M. On the Question of Standards vs. Dialect: Hispanic Students. (Video cassette), Davis, CA, University of California, Davis, Media Center, No. 927910, (60 minutes).

Merino, B.J. and Samaniego, F.A. The Dialect Speaker and Oral Proficiency Assessment. (Video cassette), Davis, CA, University of California, Davis, Media Center, No. 927900, (60 minutes).

- - -. Dialect Variants in the Southwest. (Video cassette), Davis, CA, University of California, Davis, Media Center, No. 927898, (60 minutes), 1989a.

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Myers, M. Classroom Research. (Video cassette), Davis, CA, University of California, Davis, Media Center, No. 927908-09, (90 minutes).

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Curriculum Guide


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Bibliography edited by Francisco J. Ronquillo D.
New Mexico State University
SPANISH BOOKS AND SOURCES
RECOMMENDED FOR
SPANISH SPEAKING CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS
Libros de Ciencia en Español

Consider these science trade books recommended for Spanish-speaking students.

By Isabel Schon

SPANISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN of all ages can learn about the world of science and technology through a wonderful variety of well-written, well-designed books. In contrast to those published just a few years ago, books available today will delight teachers, parents, and librarians as well as Spanish-speaking scientists-to-be. These books compare in reader appeal and physical format to ones long available in English.

As a guide for teachers and librarians, the selection that follows lists recent, noteworthy Spanish-language books in science. I have provided a tentative grade level for each series, but the individual student's Spanish reading ability, interest, and purpose will determine the appropriate level more accurately.

ANIMALS

ACTIVIDADES DE LOS ANIMALES (ANIMALS' ACTIVITIES). Jane Burton. Translated by Miguel A. Lafuente Rosales. Editorial Luis Vives, Spain. (Grades 3-6) 24pp. each. 1991. $6.30 each. As they read the books in this series, children will see how animals learn, eat, talk, and fight; how they stay safe, cool, and clean; and how they maintain their body temperature. Excellent closeup photographs in color and clear, interesting text make this series, originally published in Great Britain in 1970, a fascinating way to learn about animals. Simple subject indexes and glossaries add further to each book. Titles include LOS ANIMALES APRENDEN (HOW ANIMALS LEARN), ISBN 84-263-2066-X; LOS ANIMALES COMEN (HOW ANIMALS EAT), ISBN 84-263-2069-4; LOS ANIMALES HABLAN (HOW ANIMALS TALK), ISBN 84-263-2068-6; LOS ANIMALES LUCHAN (HOW ANIMALS FIGHT), ISBN 84-263-2067-8; MANTENERSE A SALVO (STAYING SAFE), ISBN 84-263-2065-1; MANTENERSE FRESCOS (STAYING COOL), ISBN 84-263-2063-5; MANTENERSE LIMPIOS (STAYING CLEAN), ISBN 84-263-2062-7; and MANTENERSE TEMPLADOS (MAINTAINING BODY TEMPERATURE), ISBN 84-263-2064-3.


attractive paperback book introduces readers to a family of wild chimpanzees from Gombe National Park, Tanzania, in eastern Africa. Candid photographs in color and a fluid narrative describe their habitat and characteristics. It ends with the author’s plea to protect chimpanzees in other parts of the world. As an introduction to chimpanzees, this one is hard to beat.

CONSERVATION
LOS SECRETOS DE LOS ANTIPODAS (THE SECRETS OF THE ANTIPODES), Paula Diperna. ISBN 84-348-3530-4. LOS SECRETOS DE LA AMAZONIA (THE SECRETS OF THE AMAZON), Pamela Stacey and David O. Brown. ISBN 84-348-3529-0. Translated from the French by Catherine Tussy. Ediciones SM, Spain. (Grades 5-8) 44pp. each. 1992. $16.50 each. Like previous titles in this outstanding large-format series (originally published in Great Britain as Eyewitness Encyclopedia), these books contain numerous excellent closeup photographs, charts and drawings in color, and concise, clear explanations. As attractive, easy-to-understand introductions to numerous topics, these titles are difficult to surpass.

ENCYCLOPEDIC SERIES

EXPLOREMOS LA NATURALEZA (EXPLORING NATURE), Jean-Baptiste de Panafieu. Illustrated by François Crozat and others. Rialp Junior, Spain. (Grades 4-8) 159pp. ISBN 84-321-2882-1. 1992. $22. Children will find this guide most useful and informative as they learn to observe and discover nature. Through brief narratives, clear charts, and simple illustrations, readers are exposed to numerous experiments and activities that they can easily do at the seashore, in the mountains, and in the countryside—gathering, conserving, or collecting leaves, algae, feathers, and minerals. The only weakness of this otherwise outstanding guide is several awkward illustrations that are more condescending than cute.
FRUITS TROPICALES (TROPICAL FRUITS), Clara Inés Olaya. Illustrated by Marcela Cabrera. Banco del Libro, Venezuela. (Grades 6-10) 77pp. ISBN 980-257-072-9. 1991. $9.95. The history, characteristics, and special uses of 31 tropical fruits, most of them indigenous to Latin America, are presented in this unassuming paperback publication. Each fruit is described in approximately half a page of text and rather dull black-and-white (and a few color) drawings. Despite lackluster illustrations, this is an informative guide to tropical plants, flowers, and fruits, emphasizing the many contributions of pre-Columbian civilizations.

MUNDOS SECRETOS (SECRET WORLDS), Kim Taylor. Translated by Miguel A. Lafuente Rosales. Editorial Luis Vives, Spain. (Grades 4-7) 24pp. each. 1991. $6.30 each. The secret world of nature is explained to young readers through excellent, detailed color photographs and informative text. Originally published in Great Britain in 1989, this appealing series discusses natural events not easily observed, such as plants eating insects, spiders carrying their infants, and butterflies seeking at night. Subject indexes complement each book. Titles include DEMASIADO INTELLIGENTE PARA VERLO (TOO INTELLIGENT TO BE SEEN), ISBN 84-263-2047-3; DEMASIADO LENTO PARA VERLO (TOO SLOW TO BE SEEN), ISBN 84-263-2046-5; DEMASIADO RÁPIDO PARA VERLO (TOO FAST TO BE SEEN), ISBN 84-263-2048-1; OCULTO BAJO EL AGUA (HIDDEN UNDER WATER), ISBN 84-263-2044-9; OCULTO BAJO LA TIERRA (HIDDEN UNDERGROUND), ISBN 84-263-2043-0; OCULTO EN EL INTERIOR (HIDDEN INSIDE), ISBN 84-263-2041-4; and OCULTO EN EL OSCURIDAD (HIDDEN IN DARKNESS), ISBN 84-263-2042-2.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

TECHNOLOGY
CURIOSIDADES DE LA CIENCIA (STRANGE AND AMAZING WORLDS), Celeste Ediciones, Spain. (Grades 4-7) 72pp. each. 1992. $16.50 each. This excellent series, originally published in the United Kingdom in 1991, introduces readers to numerous discoveries and inventions, from the world of printing to space travel to life forms found in the ocean depths. Spectacular photographs in color, clear charts and diagrams, and well-designed graphics accompanied by interesting text and notes make these books hard to resist. Easy-to-use indexes make the series even more useful. Titles include INVENTOS Y DESCUBRIMIENTOS (DISCOVERY AND INVENTIONS), by Geoff Endacott, ISBN 84-7553-28-1; OCÉANOS (OCEANS), by Philip Whitfield, ISBN 84-87553-27-3.

INGENIEROS EN ACCIÓN (ENGINEERS IN ACTION). Translated by Genís Pascual. Ediciones B, Spain. (Grades 5-8) 32pp. each. 1992. $12.50 each. Through diagrams, drawings, color photographs, and clear explanations, this series, originally published in Great Britain in 1988, shows how designers, engineers, and technicians work together to produce airplanes, space rockets, and supercars. Each title discusses special problems that production teams must solve, such as how to make faster airplanes or more powerful car engines. A glossary and subject index add to the value of these technical books. Titles include AVIÓN (AIRLINER), by Nigel Cawthorne, ISBN 84-406-2746-7; COHETE ESPACIAL (SPACE ROCKET), by Tim Furness, ISBN 84-406-2747-5; and SUPERCOCHE (SUPERCAR), by Mike Trier, ISBN 84-406-2745-9.

Dealers of Books in Spanish for Children and Young Adults

Adler's Foreign Books
915 Foster St.
Evanston, IL 60201-3199

Aims International Books, Inc.
7709 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45211

Bilingual Publications Company
270 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

French and Spanish Book Corporation
115 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10003

Hispanic Book Distributors, Inc.
1665 W. Grant Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85002

Iaconi Book Imports
1110 Mariposa
San Francisco, CA 94107

Lectorum Publications, Inc.
137 West 14th St.
New York, NY 10011
tel. 800-345-5946

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Books In Spanish Published in the United States

Recommended Titles

Young Spanish-speakers, their parents, and their teachers (as well as the increasing number of students of Spanish worldwide) will certainly rejoice in the rising quality and quantity of books in Spanish now being published in the U.S. With noted exceptions, the following are excellent, fluid Spanish translations of popular English books.


Adler, David A. Illus. by Castilla, Robert. Un libro ilustrado sobre Martin Luther King, hijo (A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.). Tr. by Teresa Mlawer. 32p. 1992. Holiday. S14.95 (0-8234-0982-1); paper. S5.95 (0-8234-0991-0).

Gr. 3-5. Like the original English versions, these well-done Spanish translations present information on their subjects from boyhood until death. The easy-to-read texts and the attractive watercolor illustrations make these books just right for primary-age Spanish-speaking readers.


Gr. 3-5. The story of Johnny Appleseed and his efforts to disseminate apple trees across the new colonies is beautifully retold in an easy-flowing Spanish translation. Alki's cheerful, alternating watercolor and black-and-white illustrations add just the right zest to this tale of friendship and kindness.


Gr. 3-6. Spanish-speaking-speak Spanish and those learning Spanish) will enjoy this translation of Baden's retelling of a Costa Rican tale about two cousins: Carlos, who is poor and kind; and Richardo, his rich and greedy cousin, receives an unpleasant surprise. The colorful illustrations, which portray scenes of rural Costa Rica, capture the tone and spirit of the lighthearted tale.


Gr. 3-5. In a lyrical and emotional manner, a desert mermaid describes how her beautiful oasis is growing smaller and how people are disappearing because they have forgotten the songs of their ancestors. The story is set in the beautiful Sonora Desert and illustrated with photographs of colorful woven tapestries that give this bilingual [English/Spanish] story a mythlike quality. The original Spanish text is a special pleasure.

Dyches, Richard W. and Shaw, Jean M. Primer diccionario de matemática (First Math Dictionary). (0-531-07926-0). Preschool-Gr. 2. With full-page, color pencil and crayon illustrations that add a childlike quality, this traditional nursery rhyme, which takes readers through a kingdom and through the day in English, French, and Spanish, is a joy to listen to or read in any language.


Preschool-Gr. 1. Day's humor and sense of adventure, combined with luxuriously textured, brightly hued oil paintings of rotweiler Carl and his happy toddler, make this almost wordless picture book a joyous afternoon in the park. Six easy-to-understand sentences in Spanish are appropriate as introduction and conclusion to this story about a reliable and attentive baby-sitter.

Dyches, Richard W. and Shaw, Jean M. Primer diccionario de dicha (First Science Dictionary). (0-531-07925-2).

Dyches, Richard W. and Shaw, Jean M. Primer diccionario de matemática (First Math Dictionary). (0-531-07926-0).

Gr. 2–4. As a simple introduction in Spanish to math and science terms, this series might be useful, but the simplistic albeit cheerful cartoons add little to the readers' understanding of the terms. The Spanish definitions are, with a few exceptions, understandable—especially if explained by a helpful adult. Several typos and awkward sentences as well as a clumsy, literal translation of the introductions detract from the value of the series.

Fowler, Allan. El gusto de las cosas (Tasting Things). (0-516-34911-2).
Fowler, Allan. El olor de las cosas (Smelling Things). (0-516-34912-0).
Fowler, Allan. El sol siempre brilla en alguna parte (The Sun Is Always Shining Somewhere). (0-516-34906-6).
Fowler, Allan. Lo que escuchas (Hearing Things). (0-516-34909-0).
Fowler, Allan. Lo que sientes al tocar (Feeling Things). (0-516-34908-2).
Fowler, Allan. Lo que ves (Seeing Things). (0-516-34910-4).

Gr. 1–2. Including full-color photographs and simple tests, like previous titles in this series, these six books introduce readers to the five senses and the importance of the sun. Despite their small size—6 1/4 inches by 7 1/4 inches—and generally monotonous tone, these science books for the very young will be welcomed by Spanish-speakers.


Preschool-K. Spanish-speaking fans of the popular Corduroy will be satisfied with this lively Spanish translation. The full-color illustrations of the appealingly portrayed stalwart bear who wants a pocket for himself are the best part of the story.

Heller, Ruth. Las galinas no son las únicas (Chickens Aren't the Only Ones). Tr. by Alma Flor Ada. Grosset & Dunlap. $10.95 (0-448-40586-5).

Gr. K–2. Like the original English version, first published in 1981, this festive science lesson for young Spanish-speaking readers with buoyant but realistic full-color drawings explains that it's not only chickens who lay eggs. The well-done Spanish translation is just right for scientists-to-be as well as youngsters eager to read or hear about other animals and their eggs.


Gr. 2–4. The purpose of this bilingual (English-Spanish) story is to help children and their parents to feel more familiar with the therapeutic process. Through Tanya's continuing fear of the Tobo Man, readers are exposed to her mother's apprehensions, visits to a therapist, and the happy results. The black-and-white drawings of a black mother and her daughter are realistic and appropriate. The Spanish translation is adequate though marred by four typographical mistakes.


Gr. 1–3. This warm story about the immigration period of the late 1800s has been ably translated into Spanish. The gentle illustrations depicting the old-fashioned ambiance will charm and inform Spanish-speakers unfamiliar with this period in American history.


Gr. 3–5. Don Roberto, an unconventional and brave knight, sets out in search of adventure. In his special way, he defeats the fearsome dragon, saves the kingdom, marries the beautiful princess and returns home where he and his princess live happily ever after. The three-tone, humorous, albeit tiny illustrations are a beautiful complement to the slightly ironic story of chivalry and courage. Unfortunately, the "conversation pieces"—questions framed to help readers express their own thoughts about the themes and issues explored in the story—are unnecessary at best and may encourage well-meaning adults to turn the story into a deadly lesson about courage, friendship, teamwork, and other noble topics.
Gr. K-2. Zelinsky's exquisite artistic interpretation of the Grimms' tale about a miller's daughter who gets unexpected help from a gnomelike creature. The direct, easy-to-read text, translated in Spain in 1987, is a real joy to listen to or to read. However, Spanish-speakers in the U.S. might object to one particular Spanish conjugation, Imaginad. Although recognizable, this inflected verbal form sounds old-fashioned to Spanish-speakers from Latin America and the U.S. This minor caveat is certainly not meant to deter the enjoyment of this wonderful adaptation with jeweled tones and museum-quality illustrations.

Nonrecommended Titles

It is wonderful to see the new interest of U.S. publishers in publishing books in Spanish for young readers. However, as I noted in a previous column [BKJ la 192], there are still major inadequacies in many of these books. My plea, one more time, is to urge U.S. publishers to take a serious look into their translating/publishing efforts. Obviously, U.S. publishers know how to serve the reading needs of young English-speaking readers. And, they are trying to serve the needs of Spanish-speakers. But, to do so, they've got to pay attention to what they are doing with their books in Spanish. The following inexcusably inferior recently published books are not recommended.

Bailey, Donna. Los águilas (Eagles). (0-8114-2659-9).
Bailey, Donna. Los delfines (Dolphins). (0-8114-2656-4).
Bailey, Donna. Los osos (Bears). (0-8114-2659-9).
Bailey, Donna. Las ranas (Frogs). (0-8114-2660-2).
Bailey, Donna. Las serpientes (Snakes). (0-8114-2657-2).
Bailey, Donna. Los tiburones (Sharks). (0-8114-2658-0).

Gr. 3-5. Numerous vocabulary and grammatical mistakes in every book that has these literal translations. The original English version was published by Heinemann Children's Reference in 1991.


Ages 5-8. Carle's bold watercolor illustrations of a grumpy ladybug who is looking for a fight are the best part of this story. The Spanish translation, however, leaves much to be desired: it includes words not in general use as well as clumsy sentence constructions and two incredible spelling mistakes. It is important to note that as bad as this Spanish translation is, it is not as bad as that of another Carle book, La oruga muy faméntica (The Very Hungry Caterpillar).


Gr. 3-5. The obvious purpose of this bilingual "story" is to help turtles "climb out of their nests of sand and make the long journey to the sea. Forever." So, through Hope, a Ridley sea turtle, children learn about "a journey of hope." The only commendable aspects of this "journey" are the outstanding clear photographs and drawings of a turtle at sea. The English text is schmaltzy at best. The Spanish translation can be used as an example of how not to translate bilingual books: it is a literal translation of the English version, hence it lacks the richness and fluidity of the Spanish language. In addition, it has misaccented words, grammatical and spelling mistakes, anglicisms, and other barbarisms.


Ages 3-7. A most unfortunate incorrect literal translation into Spanish. In the only sentence on the first page of the amusing story about Peter, a small boy who longs to be able to whistle for his dog, Willie, will disappoint and confuse Spanish-speakers. Like the original English version, first published in 1964, the colorful illustrations include bits of patterned paper to supplement Keats' joyful paintings. It should be noted that even the book's Spanish title is absurd: Silba por Willie means "You Whistle Instead of Willie," which doesn't make any sense. What a misfortune for young Spanish-speakers!

Let's Eat/Vamos a comer (0-671-76927-8).
Let's Play/Vamos a jugar (0-671-76928-6).
Let's Take a Walk/Vamos a caminar (0-671-76929-4).

What Color/¿Qué color? (0-671-76930-8).


Ages 2-5. Only parents desperate for bilingual (English/Spanish) books for their little ones will be interested in these tiny—5-by-5-inch—board books. The insipid, lifeless illustrations are, at times, difficult to figure out and will confuse young learners. In addition, misspelled words and the use of regionalisms—torta, chorrera, guina—as opposed to standard Spanish words will make it even more difficult for those learning the Spanish language. The sloppy translation is also evident in the occasional use of articles, which are indeed important in Spanish.


Gr. 1-4. What an incredible disappointment! Originally published in Spain, these were fun-filled books with tiny, delightful, colorful full-page spreads and enjoyable Spanish texts in which lovers of detail are encouraged to search for David, his two friends, and other objects. Unfortunately, however, these U.S. editions have "adapted" the original, fluid, amusing, well-written, rich Spanish texts into stale, incorrect, awkward, and generally inferior Spanish ones that are full of grammatical, usage, and other mistakes. It appears that the only reason for this U.S. "adaptation" is to facilitate the dull English translation.


Ages 4-7. Through this illustrated, bilingual "pull-the-tab" book, children ostensibly will learn words in English and Spanish used in the farm, store, park, town, and home. The idea and physical presentation of this book are outstanding. However, it includes so many obsolete, nonstandard, and misspelled words in Spanish that it is best to find other means to expose children to their "first 100 words in Spanish" (it is interesting to note that no such problems appear in the English words).

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Although Mexico shares a 2,000-mile border with the United States, in the minds and hearts of many Americans it is far away. Our southern neighbors are often misunderstood, slighted, or ignored. Stereotyped views of the people as lazy and impoverished prevail, and the country is often considered useless except as a vacation spot. This problem is complicated by the fact that for many years too few books were written about Mexico, and those that were published too often gave a limited or one-sided view of the country. This situation, fortunately, is changing; in recent years the number of good books has increased. Listed here are some high-quality selections that can introduce young readers to the broad panorama of Mexico: its beauty, variety, and joy as well as its sad realities, past and present.

**Picture Books**

- Preschool-Gr. 2. Borreguita, which means "little lamb" in Spanish, lives on a farm at the foot of a mountain. Her dealings with a persistent coyote who is intent on eating her are retold in a simple and direct manner and depicted against colorful rural scenes.

- K-Gr. 3. In this delightful story about a poor family that is taken to court for stealing the smell of its rich neighbor's food, the author-artist sensitively and wryly compares the lives, homes, and attitudes of the very rich and the very poor.

*dePaola, Tomie.* The Lady of Guadalupe. 1980. 48p. Holiday, $14.95 (0-8234-0373-4); paper, $5.95 (0-8234-0403-X); Spanish edition, $14.95 (0-8234-0734-2).  
- K-Gr. 3. Striking illustrations and poignant text tell the story of Mexico's patron saint, the Lady of Guadalupe, who in 1531 appeared to Juan Diego, a poor Mexican Indian, and directed him to tell the bishop to build a church in her honor.

*Doña Blanca and Other Hispanic Nursery Rhymes and Games.* Edited by Isabel Schon. 1983. 46p. T. S. Denison, $6.95 (0-513-01768-2).  
- K-Gr. 6. Eighteen well-known Mexican nursery rhymes and games are included in this bilingual (Spanish-English) publication. Two-tone illustrations and simple instructions explain how to play the games.

- K-Gr. 3. The 1960 Caldecott Medal winner tells of Ced, a middle-class girl in Mexico City, who accompanies her mother to a market to choose the piñata for the upcoming holiday. Scenes of the city, a typical posada, and a traditional market project excitement. *Gilberto and the Wind* (Puffin, paper) is also by Ets; another Christmas story is Ann Tompert's *Silver Whistle* (Macmillan), which takes place in Oaxaca.

- K-Gr. 3. For generations a Mexican family has made fireworks for its village; now, the maestro, Pepito's father, has been commissioned to construct the finest firework castle yet, to celebrate the birthday of the village's patron saint. The work of building the castle, fiesta day, and the firing of the castle are part of the fast-moving story.

Preschool–Gr. 2. This bilingual collection of 13 well-known Latino nursery rhymes includes favorites that have been passed down through generations. However, many of Cooney's illustrations depict stereotyped scenes of barefooted peasants in quaint, rural settings.

Gr. 2–4. No matter what is happening, the mischievous and personable Lorenzo is in the middle of the action. Politi's warm, authentic artwork adds life to this fun-filled chapter book.

Gr. 3–6. Lewis and Young capture the nuances of this Aztec myth concerning Earth's creation and the beginning of music.

Gr. 2–5. This legend from the Zapotec people of Mexico (narrated in Spanish and English) tells of a beautiful woman who, scorned by the villagers, takes away their precious river as punishment.

Gr. 2–5. In this dramatic original tale set in the ancient Mayan civilization, a young ball player challenges the rain god to a game of pok-a-tok to end a terrible drought.

Fiction

Gr. 6–9. Tomas, 14, is determined to catch a shark, the greatest prize for the Sea of Cortez fishermen. By combining interesting aspects of Mexico's pre-Columbian history with the sad realities of contemporary Mexico (the abuse of government officials) and the personal dilemma of an adolescent boy, the author has created an exciting coming-of-age story with a Mexican flavor.

Gr. 5–8. Set against the backdrop of sixteenth-century Mexico, this adventure story finds 15-year-old Miguel joining his godfather on a journey to find a rumored temple of gold. Also note Betty Baker's Walk the World's Rim (HarperCollins).

Gr. 5–8. In this compelling story, an honest, courageous Mexican boy, Jose Policarpo Rodriguez (later known as Poli), comes to Texas in 1839 with his father. This fast-moving fictionalized account describes what life was like for Mexicans and Texans, and especially for Mexican Texans, who came of age with Texas during its formative years.

Gr. 7–12. The terror, poverty, ignorance, and lack of hope of the people of a small Mexican town are vividly described in this famous short novel about a great pearl that was found and then lost again. Also note Scott O'Dell's The Black Pearl (Houghton), about pearl divers in Baja California.

Gr. 4–7. This historical fiction, based on the boyhood adventures of Trevino's father-in-law and set in Baja California, features strong characters and prevailing optimism in an exciting story of survival.

Gr. 7–9. In this well-written story, Tony has to save 2,000 pesos in three months or otherwise leave his beloved Acapulco to live in Mexico City with his Uncle Juan. His many adventures with his American friend are played out against the beauty of Mexico City and Acapulco. The friendship between the two is realistically described.
Folklore

Gr. 3-5. These 20 fables, adapted by Indian retellers in the 1500s and retold by Bierhorst, a well-known translator of Aztec and American Indian literature, have a distinct Aztec flavor. Soft pastel watercolors convey the essence of each fable. Older readers will appreciate the author's documented collection Hungry Woman (Morrow).

Gr. 3-6. The Aztec culture and the Christian religion are beautifully intertwined in Bierhorst's carefully translated story and Cooney's stunning pre-Columbia-style illustrations of the Nativity.

Gr. 3-5. This intriguing collection of six Mexican pre-Columbian legends and riddles about plants, flowers, and fruits is strikingly illustrated. Other titles in the series include Toni de Gerez and William Stark's Song Is a Letter: Poems of Ancient Mexico in English and Spanish, Francisco Hinojosa and Leonel Maciel's The Old Lady Who Ate People: Frightening Stories, and Marcos Kurtycz and Ana Garcia Kabeh's Tigers and Opossums: Animal Legends (all Little, Brown).

Gr. 3-6. Recently reissued, this highly diverse and outstanding collection of 26 short, authentic folktales includes such delightful tales as “The Boy Who Took Care of the Pigs” and “The Magic Grocery Store.”

K–Gr. 3. This attractive adaptation of a Mayan legend tells why the gray cuckoo lost its splendid feathers and beautiful singing voice and why it lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Written in both English and Spanish, the story will appeal to children who speak either language.

Gr. 2-6. Magnificent illustrations show the joy and vigor of Aztec culture in this somewhat confusing story about a young Aztec boy who outwits nine evil lords of the night to get the flame of peace from Lord Morning Star. The author has also created the amusing Why There Is No Arguing in Heaven: A Mayan Tale (HarperCollins).

K–Gr. 3. This collection of popular tales shows the wit, wisdom, and flavor of Mexico. Included are animal tales, stories that portray the life of the rich in Mexico, and a varied selection of Mexican sayings. Also note Juliet Piggott's Mexican Folk Tales (Crane Russak, o.p.).

Gr. 3-6. Bright, bold, primitive-style illustrations complement the easy-flowing language of this bilingual (Spanish/English) Aztec tale, which recounts the creation and destruction of the world by the Aztec deities.

Biography

Gr. 7-12. Numerous details regarding Rivera's tumultuous personal life, "unconventional behavior," and communist ideas are vividly reported alongside his artistic achievements both in the U.S. and in Mexico. Disappointingly, only eight color photographs of Rivera's paintings are included; the other illustrations, though well selected, are small black-and-white photographs and do not do justice to the artist's vibrant murals.

Gr. 7-12. The life and work of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera's one-time wife and one of Mexico's best-known female artists, are presented with great understanding and sensitivity. In a compelling manner, the author tells about Kahlo's youth, adolescence, tragic accident, life with Rivera, and experiences as an artist and as a woman.

Gr. 6-9. A fictionalized biography of Doña Marina, a noblewoman who was sold into slavery and given as tribute to Cortés, and who became his interpreter in his campaign to conquer Mexico.

Gr. 5-8. This accurate biography of renowned Mexican artist Diego Rivera is presented in a fluid and straightforward man-

Mexican Independence Day

The 16th of September is Mexico's Independence Day celebration. Plan a festival for the entire school, with songs, poems, and tales from Mexico to be sung or read aloud. Talk about Mexican heroes, such as Hidalgo and Juárez, play Mexican music, and display Mexican flags. Invite a Mexican American to come to the school or library to talk about the holiday and perhaps give his or her childhood remembrances of it.
Close Up:

Using James Inside Mexico

Show students the photographs is this or one of the other photo-essays on the list and suggest they plan a coffee-table book about Mexico. They will need to map the regions to be covered, choose the sites to be photographed (a limit might be set to have the exercise be more challenging), and plan the itinerary of the photographer. Then, with photos cut from old magazines or photographed from books the students can put together their own photo-essay and write appropriate captions based on their research.

Information Books


Gr. 4-7. This book successfully mixes photographs, maps, and colorful drawings with a simply written text to give a clear overview of the Aztec and Inca civilizations.

Calderwood, Michael and Gabriel Breno. Mexico, a Higher Vision: An Aerial Journey from Past to Present. Photos by Michael Calderwood. 1990. 192p. ALTI Publishing, 4180 La Jolla Village Dr., Ste. 520. La Jolla, CA 92037. $49.95 (0-9623599-5-3).

Gr. 6-10. This spectacular, large-format publication for adults, organized by geographical area, shows the beauty and diversity of the Mexican landscape in some of the best color photographs of Mexico ever published. A brief introduction to each region highlights its history, environment, and special characteristics.


Gr. 7-10. Originally published in 1942, this handsome volume gives an eyewitness account of a soldier of fortune who traveled with Cortés as he and his followers defeated the Aztecs and laid claim to their territory and treasures for Spain. Illustrated with sixteenth-century Indian drawings of the conquest. Also note Albert Martin's Aztecs and Spaniards: Cortes and the Conquest of Mexico (Athenaeum).


Gr. 3-5. Glubok offers insightful photographs of the temples, religious objects, decorative ornaments, jewelry, weapons, and painted books (codices) of the pre-Columbian Aztec, Mixtec, Toltec, Olmec, and Zapotec civilizations.


Gr. 4-7. While leading readers through the numbers 1 to 10 in Spanish, the author imaginatively introduces basic aspects of the history, folklore, arts, foods, and animals of Mexico. The soft color-pencil illustrations round out the simple text.


Gr. 4-8. The direct and easy-to-read narrative, numerous full-color photographs, and well-conceived charts and maps provide the reader with a basic introduction to the country's geography, economy, and life-style.

Gr. 4–8. James discusses the land, history, people, arts, economy, industry, and other aspects of Mexico through direct text accompanied by numerous outstanding photographs: one of the best introductions to Mexico today.

Gr. 6–12. Remarkable color photographs and an enthusiastic narrative present the reader with a fascinating view of the dry, long, and rocky peninsula of Baja California.

**Lye, Keith.** Take a Trip to Mexico. 1982. 32p. Watts, $7.99 (0-531-04471-8).
Gr. 2–4. Mexico's geography, sights, and prominent places are described in this photo-filled book that includes a map, a list of key facts, and a time chart.

**McKissack, Patricia.** Aztec Indians. 1985. 48p. Childrens Press, $7.95 (0-516-01936-2).
Gr. 2–4. McKissack's easy-to-read text and excellent graphics showcase the history, religion, language, customs, and final days of this pre-Columbian civilization. Also note the author's companion volume, *The Maya* (Childrens Press).

Gr. 7–12. In this well-researched account, Meltzer presents both sides of the Mexican War through letters, diaries, and writings of Mexican and American people who lived at the time.

Gr. 7–12. Mills chronicles the causes and events of the Mexican War from its early rumblings to its end in 1848. Scattered maps and reproductions of old photographs are included and a reading list is appended.

**Moran, Tom.** A Family in Mexico. 1987. 32p. Lerner, $8.95 (0-8225-1677-2).
Gr. 3–6. Attractive full-color photographs and an appealing narrative feature nine-year-old Paula Maria Fosado, who lives in a small city in southwestern Mexico. Through her daily activities, readers learn basic facts about the life and interesting customs of a middle-class family. Another resource is Carlos Somonte's *We Live in Mexico* (Watts).

**Neurath, Marie.** They Lived Like This: The Ancient Maya. Illus. by John Ellis. 1966. 32p. Watts, o.p.
Gr. 4–6. Authentic drawings based on Mayan wall paintings and designs and a straightforward text describe outstanding aspects of Mayan civilization: pottery, agriculture, gods, cities, religious buildings, pyramids, jewelry, ceremonies, wars, houses, astronomy, the calendar, and mathematics.

Gr. 4–8. The amazing variety and contrasts in Mexico's geography, history, economy, culture, government, and people are interestingly described in this well-written introduction to our neighbor to the south. The author honestly describes the problems of Mexico (severe unemployment, poverty, and smog in Mexico City) but, regrettably, there are a large number of misaccented, misspelled, or misused Spanish words.

**Resources**

- **Faces.** The June 1990 issue is devoted to ancient Mexico and includes a recipe for quesadilla, directions for playing patolli, instructions for making a tree of life, and an illustrated glossary of ancient gods.

- **Parke, Marilyn and Sharon Panik.** A Quetzalcoatl: Tale of the Ball Game. Illus. by Lynn Castle. 1992. 48p. Fearon Teacher Aids, P.O. Box 280, Carthage, IL 62321, $8.95 (0-86653-962-X); Spanish edition, $8.95 (0-86653-961-1); teacher's guide, $8.95 (0-86653-960-3). This brightly illustrated paperback tale also has a teacher's guide (available in English only) that gives background information, activities, a short bibliography, and reproducibles. A companion volume, *A Quetzalcoatl: Tale of Corn,* is also available in English and Spanish editions and with a teacher's guide.

- **Shalent, Phyllis.** Look What We've Brought You from Mexico. 1992. 48p. Messner, paper, $6.95 (0-671-75257-X). This collection of crafts, games, recipes, stories, and other cultural activities demonstrates the many contributions Mexico and Mexican Americans have made to the U.S.

- **Stencils: Ancient Mexico.** Five easy-to-do art projects with punch-out stencils are available along with basic information about the country and its myths and games. Order for $9.95 from GoodYearBooks, Scott-Foresman, 1900 East Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60025.
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