

Name of movie: Guantanamera (Cuba)
Name of clip: La muerte de tía Yoyita
Name of activity: Iku, African death goddess
Student level: beginning

Start time: 10:30
Stop time: 15:30

Objective: To identify the influence of African religious beliefs in Latin American cultures.

Procedure: Watch film with scripts.

Activity:

1. Structure: El imperfecto.

This old couple is referring to a day in their life many years ago. Write a paragraph using the imperfect to describe their recollection of that day.

1. ¿Dónde estaban? _____
2. ¿Cuántos años tenían? _____
3. ¿Qué pasó en el río? _____

2. Vocabulary:

¿Cuál es otra palabra que es sinónimo de “esposa”?
¿Qué otras palabras se usan para referirse a la familia?

3. Culture:

What are three cities mentioned in the clip? Can you locate them in a map?

Notice the picture under the ribbon. Describe the picture.

When the hearse leaves, who is standing by wall as the car lights shine in the dark?

Is there a Judeo-Christian or any other mythical symbol for death that you know?

This girl’s name is Iku in the movie. Find what this name stands for in the Yoruba tradition by reading this poem: <http://www.cultural-expressions.com/poetry/iku.htm>

Since this is a Cuban film, what kind of inference can you predict on religious syncretism in the different Caribbean cultures? _____

Post-viewing activities.

1. Working with partner, tell him/her about a recollection of special day with your family. Make sure you mention why this memory is meaningful to you. Use vocabulary of the family and the imperfect/preterit to narrate the event.

Assessment Rubric (5 is the highest, 1 is the lowest)

1. Proper use of imperfect/ preterit:	1	2	3	4	5
2. Use of family vocabulary:	1	2	3	4	5
3. Accuracy of cultural answers:	1	2	3	4	5
4. Quality of post-viewing activity:	1	2	3	4	5

Additional information that may be of use:

Santería is a religious cultural practice in many Caribbean communities. It traces back to the religions brought by the African slaves. You can learn more about santería:

<http://w3.iac.net/~moonweb/Santeria/TOC.html>

Listen to the song “Babalu Aye.” Can you identify African themes and rhythms in this song? Which ones?

http://www.nelsonguirado.com/index.php/cubanocast/2007/01/17/babalu_orquesta_casino_de_la_playa