

LATINO AMERICANS

Opening Lesson: Who Are Latinos? (For use with Series Teaser)

Lesson Overview

Who are Latinos? Whom does the term “Latino American” reference? In this quick, introductory activity, students consider their own preconceptions of Latinos, view a trailer for the documentary series and identify new questions to investigate further.

Grade Level: 4 – 13+

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Materials

- Web access for viewing segment (*Series Teaser*)
- Handout: **Who Are Latinos? Organizer**

Learning Objectives

- Identify baseline preconceptions about Latino Americans.
- Contrast content of series trailer with preconceptions.
- Identify questions and topics for further investigation.

Lesson Procedure

This serves as a great pre-activity before jumping into other lessons connected to the series. It will serve as a baseline and help frame questions of inquiry.

STEP 1: Before Viewing

Using the prompt on the **Who Are Latinos? Organizer**, encourage students to list some of what they know about Latino Americans. The following questions will help generate responses. For groups with more knowledge on the subject, consider asking them to answer the questions based on society’s preconceptions. For students new to the topic, start with their own presumptions.

- Who are Latinos?
- Where do Latinos live?
- When did Latinos arrive in the United States?
- Where do Latinos come from?
- What issues are important when we talk about Latino Americans?
- Is there such thing as a typical Latino? If so, who?
- What have Latinos contributed to the United States?

STEP 2: During Viewing

Introduce the trailer for the documentary series, **Latino Americans**. Ask the students to consider the following:

- Does what they see confirm or challenge the preconceptions they listed? How so?

STEP 3: After Viewing

Ask students to review what they saw in pairs or small groups. They should discuss how the trailer either confirmed or challenged their expectations.

Next, students should complete the final prompts on the **Who Are Latinos? Organizer**:

- What did you see that met your expectations?
- What did you see that was new, different or unexpected?
- What's one thing you saw that you'd like to learn more about?
- Write down two questions you have after viewing the trailer.

STEP 4: Next Steps

Have students discuss their post-viewing questions and create a chart that students can refer to during later lessons.

Organizer: Who Are Latinos?

BEFORE VIEWING: What are your preconceptions about Latino Americans? Who are they? Where do they live? Where did they come from? When did they arrive in the United States? What issues are important when talking about Latinos? What have Latinos contributed to the United States? Is there such thing as a typical Latino? If so, describe.

TO CONSIDER DURING VIEWING: As you watch the preview for the series **Latino Americans**, does what you see confirm or challenge the preconceptions you listed? How so?

AFTER VIEWING: What did you see that met your expectations?

What did you see that was new, different or unexpected?

What's one thing you saw that you'd like to learn more about?

Write down two questions you have after viewing the trailer.