

Karl J Gee

Bullfighting

Purpose: For students to be able to identify the issue of whether or not bullfighting is appropriate. As there are fans and opponents of this in Spain, the students need to be able to identify the origins, the history, and the reasons why many Spanish people adore bullfighting. The students also need to give reasons why there are people in Spain, the Catalonians that believe bullfighting is barbaric.

Plan: This is designed for first year students. That is the reason that is in English. While designed to be a cultural lesson, it is also one in which students will be expected to look at their values and how theirs might differ from others. The students need to take an opinion at the end of the lesson and be able to represent their opinion through a poster.

Background information.

Bullfighting has been around since the island of Crete and the hunting of the Minotaurs. It is believed that ancient people in Spain sacrificed bulls to the gods. The modern bullfight started in the eighteenth century. There are three acts in bullfighting. In the first act, the picadors or lancers on padded horses provoke the bull into attacking them. They carry an eight-foot pole and they weaken the bull by plunging the spear into the animal's neck. In the second stage the banderilleros that carry banderillas or barbed darts and they run at the bull and jab it into the neck. These don't weaken the bull, but are supposed to correct for any tendency that the bull has. In the final stage the matador comes out and he has about 40 passes with the bull, each time drawing the animal closer to the body. To kill the bull, the matador has to ask permission from the President of the bullfight. He has 15 minutes since the start of the third act to kill the bull. If this does not happen the bull will go free. Also if the bull has behaved exceptionally, the crowd often petitions the President to grant an indulto or to allow the bull to go free. The matador kills the bull with a special sword, and finishes it off with a small dagger like knife. If the matador does exceptionally well, the president might award him a trophy, which consists of one or two ears and maybe a tail.

Links to the Internet

<http://coloquio.com/toros/timfaq.html>

<http://www.gregssandbox.com/places/spain/bull.htm>

<http://www.addaong.org/abc.html>

<http://coloquio.com/toros/intro.html>

Presentation

I would start with some pictures of a bullfight, or if possible show a bullfight. Then I would explain what happens in the bullfight using the proper vocabulary. This would work best in the laboratory so that students can look on the Internet to get various opinions from people that have seen bullfights. If a lab is not available, I would assign the students to look up links at their home so that they can do independent research.

Vocabulary: Toro, Matador, banderilleros, picadores, indultos, espada, faena, brindis, corrida de toros, plaza de toros, indulto, trofeos, cartel

Materials: a video of a bullfight, try the Spanish Resource Center found in Provo Utah.