



Desi Arnaz

Objective: To learn about the life and career of Desi Arnaz and his contributions to the entertainment industry; to begin to explore the history of Cuba as it relates to the United States.

Standards:

English-Language Arts:

Standard 4 – Language for Social Interaction

- Ricky's Cuban connection; Batista Revolution; prejudice
- Reading excerpts

The Arts:

Standard 1 – Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts

- Students will view various episodes of ILL, then write their own and act it out; include director, cameraman, etc.

Standard 3 – Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art

- Students will listen to examples of Latin music through the years, and watch films of the Conga line.

Standard 4 – Understanding the Cultural Contribution of the Arts

- Learn about the influence of ILL, Desi's innovations

Career Development and Occupational Studies:

Standard 1 – Career Development

- Explore careers related to movies and TV and related skills

Languages Other Than English:

Standard 2 – Cultural Understanding

- Desi's life and career

Social Studies:

Standard 1 – History of the United States and New York

- Entertainment and the arts in the US in the 20th century
- History of television

- Immigration
- Standard 2 – World History
- Cuba in the 20th century
 - Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Fulgencio Batista
- Standard 5 – Civics, Citizenship and Government
- Cuba’s government and relations with the US
 - Racism and prejudice

Procedures:

- Students will begin by reading the enclosed “Desi Arnaz – a short biography.
- After becoming familiar with that biography, students will select areas of study from the standards above.
- Using the biography, topics underlined therein, and outside research materials, students will meet criteria for teacher-designed activities related to those standards.

Materials:

- Internet, encyclopedias, etc. for research
- Music and videos of Latin music and dance
- Relevant videos of “*I Love Lucy*” episodes*

Suggested reading:

- *The I Love Lucy Book* by Bart Andrews
- *A Book* by Desi Arnaz
- *I Love Lucy: Complete* by Michael McClay
- *Desilu* by Coyne S. Stevens and Tom Gilbert
- *I Love Lucy: Fifty Years* by Elisabeth Edwards

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NOTE: A visit to the Lucille Ball – Desi Arnaz center can provide many additional opportunities for research on the life and career of Lucille Ball. Please address the contact above for more information.