

UNIT TITLE: Spanish Golden Age Theatre
By Sarah Haynie, BYU Student
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LESSON TITLE: Lope de Vega

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the life of playwright Lope de Vega by performing a skit that illustrates a fact from his life.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Slips of paper with a Lope fact on each one

Picture of Lope de Vega (see Google Image Search, "Lope de Vega")

HOOK (before teaching presentation): Show students a picture of Lope de Vega and list the following characteristics; playwright, lover, husband, father, soldier, priest.

TEACHING PRESENTATION:

Step 1: *discussion* Ask students who is the most important playwright of all time. (Someone will invariably say Shakespeare.) Ask how many plays Shakespeare wrote. (He actually wrote 37 or 38).

Step 2: *instruction* Inform students that while Shakespeare was an amazing playwright and deserves our respect and admiration, there were other *more prolific* playwrights, including Lope de Vega. List these facts about Lope:

He *said* that he wrote 1500 plays.

We *know* of 800.

We still *have* almost 500.

Step 3: *instruction* Explain the following facts about Lope de Vega's life:

Félix Lope de Vega Carpio (1562-1635)

-born in Madrid to a humble family

- studied at a Jesuit school

-University in Alcala de Henares (poor student)

-Adventurer: expedition to the Azores, part of the Spanish Armada

-married twice, lover to others, father of 7+, became a priest in 1613

- father of Sor Marcela de San Feliz (nun, playwright- She wrote *La muerte del Apetito*)

-resided in Madrid

-died in 1635 alone, in Madrid. All of Madrid attended his funeral.

Step 4: *directions* Tell students that they will create a short skit to teach the class an interesting fact about Lope. Each group will receive a slip of paper with a fact on it, and they will have 10 minutes to create/rehearse a skit that will teach this fact to the group.

Facts:

1. Lope de Vega was so famous that it was said "There is no home of a curious [educated or cultured] man that does not have a picture of him." Nearly everyone had a picture of Lope de Vega on display in their home.
2. Lope wrote two plays before he was 12 years old.
3. Lope was so famous that, in Madrid, to say that something was "cool," they would say "Es de Lope" (It must be Lope's). This was the common slang of the time.
4. A common saying in Madrid during Lope's time was "Creo en Lope de Vega, poeta del cielo y de la tierra..." or "I believe in Lope de Vega, poet of heaven and earth...", almost like a prayer to Lope!
5. The 48-hour bet: While Lope was at a bar one day, someone said that they'd bet him that he couldn't write an entire play in 48-hours. He replied that he would take their bet, and that he would not only write a play in 48 hours, but that he would write it, cast it, produce it, rehearse it and *perform* it, all in

48 hours, and that it would be a hit. And he did it!

Step 5: *check for understanding* Before dividing into groups, ask students to describe in their own words what they need to do.

Step 6: *group practice* Have students prepare and rehearse their skits.

Step 7: *performance* Have each group perform their skit to teach other members of the class their particular fact about Lope. Have students write down each fact as it is “performed”

Step 8: *discussion* Ask students to list the facts about Lope de Vega that were performed. List these on the board, and discuss them.

ASSESSMENT: Assign participation points for participation in the skit on the Lope facts. Have students turn in the lists of facts that they observed in the skits of others.

Lope Facts (to be cut into strips and distributed among groups):

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Lope wrote two plays before he was 12 years old.

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