



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES

Archaeology/Anthropology Classes: Spain Confronts its Past

Valerie Walker

Classes 50 minutes long. This lesson should use 4-5 class periods.

This lesson will deal with the problems and methods of archaeological research in locating excavation sites and the site analysis.

Provide materials and have students do the following:

Read [Spanish Civil War timeline](#) provided by ALBA

Read 4 [James Lardner letters](#) describing movement and events in several locations.

Read Tampa resident [Aida Gonzalez's recollection](#) of her experience during the SCW

Read Archaeology Magazine article – [Opening Franco's Graves](#) volume 59, Number 5, Sept/Oct 2006.

The Christian Science Monitor article, Feb. 23, 2003-[Spain Confronts its Past](#).

Article by Paul Stuart, September 11, 2006, Published in Spain: ["Law of Historical Memory" continues cover-up of Franco's crimes.](#)

Class discussion:

- differences in foreign correspondent descriptions and indigenous person's.
- agencies involved in research
- cultural debate – should we or should we not excavate?

Divide the class into 3 groups. Small Group Discussion topics:

- SHOULD these sites/graves be excavated? Why and why not. Produce convincing, factual arguments for both sides as well as possible letters from each side explaining your "moral" stand.
- Knowing that Franco destroyed most evidence in his country and knowing Spanish people reluctant to recognize or talk about Republican topics, how could we pull possible sites from the readings? What type of things could we expect to find at such excavations. Produce written direction in this exercise as well as reproduction artifacts.
- Which agencies, departments, and scientists would you expect to work with/deal with in this type of research and excavation? (Come up with 6) Why would each be important? How would you approach these agencies? (intro letters, request letters/forms, etc.) Produce examples of these letters/requests.

One class period for introduction and readings

One class period – media center. Homework: media search online from home.

One class period – work in small groups
One – two class periods – presentations