

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Top Tips

Don Quijote .Com: Why Learn about Spanish Culture? The statistics are impressive. The United States has the third-largest Spanish speaking population in the world. The size of the US Spanish speaking population is smaller than #1, Mexico; and almost as large as #2, Spain. Larger than the populations of 19 other nations that claim Spanish as their official language! If you don't have children of Hispanic speakers in your classroom now, you will be blessed with them in the future.

Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the United States.

Why Study Spanish Spanish is the world's third most spoken language, after Mandarin Chinese and English, and ranks second in terms of native speakers. Almost 500 million people worldwide speak Spanish! Spanish is the second most used language in international communication Spanish is the native language of approximately 350 million people in 21 countries. The countries with the largest Spanish speaking populations are: Mexico: 98 million

Spain: 39 million

USA: 39 million

Argentina: 35 million

Colombia: 36 million

Venezuela: 22 million

Peru: 20 million Hispanics account for 12.5% of the US population, and, 29 million US residents above the age of 5 speak Spanish at home. This is one in ten people who live here.

Source: Don Quijote .Org Knowing a Language is not Enough: You have to Understand the Culture Vocabulary and concepts do not a language make, at least not in its entirety. So, what else makes a language? Culture

Attitudes and Beliefs

Values and Ideals

History

Literature and the Arts

Architecture and Dwellings What cultural learning is available at Don Quijote .Com? Spanish fiestas

Spanish music

Spanish cinema

Spanish food

Spanish flamenco

Spanish siesta

Spanish painters

Spanish writers

Languages in Spain

Spanish dances

Spanish History

Spanish Customs

Free Membership Don Quijote offers a free membership. Link to free Don Quijote Membership application Impressive Quality and Depth of Information Compare the quality of Don Quijote.com with a site like

Thinkquest; Thinkquest;

WikiPedia; Culture of Mexico You can see that Don Quijote offers a richer, deeper experience of the culture. Online Courses and Study Abroad Opportunities Don Quijote seems to have chosen strategic locations, i.e., great cultural, historical and tourist spots to offer immersion classes. Link to Study with Don Quijote information …

Valuing Students and their Culture Sharing appreciation for the richness of all cultures showcases a Master Teacher's ability to establish relationships with students and communicate at a deeper level. Showing and demonstrating this appreciation for each culture does more to convince students that their teacher is "for real" and not just trying to con them into cooperating.

Teachers can devote an entire year to thematic units based upon the cultural heritage of the students in their classes.

Posted by Classroom Toolkit Newsletter in Top Tips at 06:00