

Activity 10. Carabina 30-30: A Song of the Mexican Revolution

Background: José Doroteo Arango Arámbula (1878–1923), better known by his nom de guerre Pancho Villa, was a military leader of the 1910 Mexican Revolution against an oppressive dictatorship that served wealthy landowners and United States interference in Mexican affairs. The 30-30 carbine was a Winchester model rifle used by the followers of Pancho Villa. Villa’s troops sang about and to their rifles as they headed into combat. Songs are an important part of many revolutionary movements. They teach people about the ideas of the struggle and they help maintain spirit and camaraderie. Josue Barahona, a student in the Hofstra University teacher education program translated these stanzas from a traditional Spanish version into English.

Instructions: Answer questions 1 – 3. As a follow-up, write a poem, song, or rap calling on people to support a revolutionary struggle.

With my 30-30 I am going to march
To enlist in the ranks of the revolution
If they want my blood, I’ll give them my blood
All for the people of our nation.
Comrades of the soil and of all walks of life
We only have one road, to grab our thirty-thirty!

Questions

1. What are the soldiers of Pancho Villa willing to do?
2. In your opinion, who are the “comrades of the soil”?
3. What other songs do you know of that have been used to rally people to fight for freedom and to participate in war?