

Platicas con Family Photos:

What might we learn about our families from photos?

Teacher directions and steps are found [here](#).

Warm Up:

What do people take photos with?

When do people take photos?

Why do we take pictures or photos?

Historical Background

Familia or family is really important. Family can be people who are connected to you because they are related to you. They can also be people you live with and people you choose to call family. Many times families live far apart so abuelitas and abuelitos (grandmothers and grandfathers), *tias* (aunts), *tios* (uncles), cousins, *madrinas y padrinos* (godmothers and godfathers) step in and share family stories. All of those kinds of families participate in *platicas* to share love, ideas, joy, and support.

Platicas or conversations in the LatinX community are one way people or families come together and share stories, ideas, "dichos" or proverbs, music, and traditions. Many times the *platicas* happen at gatherings or parties. Other times they happen when a meal is being prepared over dinner or when stuck in traffic. A huge way that LatinX children and teenagers learn family and community stories is in this informal way of passing down traditions, culture, knowledge, music, wisdom, and joy.

Answer these questions:

How does your family share family traditions or stories?

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Is there a family story you love hearing?

Key Terms:

When you encounter words you don't know. Here is some help.

Platicas	A conversation with family and friends.
Photographer	Someone who takes pictures. Some people have this as a paid job.
Portrait	A picture or photo where the person knows the camera is there and they look into it. In the past, they were taken at a studio and by a professional photographer.
Action Shot	A picture where the person, animal, or object is moving.
Selfie	When someone takes a picture of themselves.
Candid	A picture where the person is not posing for the camera
Caption	Words that tell you what was happening or who the person in the picture might be.
Text	Words or group of words

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Summarizing	To tell someone the most important information about something.
Historically	Having to do with history, which is the story of people, places, and events that happened a long time ago.
Capture	To remember or record events, ideas, or memories.
Information	Facts or details.

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Step 1: Exploring a Family Photo

Select a family photo you are curious about. Look at the photo carefully and fill out these questions.

Observe	Think/Infer	Question/Wonder
What do you notice highlight all that apply) ☐ Portrait ☐ Action Shot ☐ Event ☐ Family ☐ Selfie ☐ Posed ☐ Candid/ Unposed ☐ In color ☐ Black & white Is there a caption or text? ☐ Yes ☐ No What does it say: List the people, objects, and activities you see:	What do you think is going on here? What makes you think that? Why do you think this picture was taken? (Its purpose)	What question(s) do you have about the people or event in the photo? What question(s) might you have for the photographer?

Write one sentence summarizing this photograph. Use one of the sentence stems below:

This photograph shows _____.

My photograph is _____ because it shows _____.

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Step 2: La Platica/ The Conversation

Now you want to sit with an adult or other person who knows about the photo and have a *platica*, a chat, to learn about the photo, the people, and why the photo was taken.

Who did you talk to to get more information about the photo? Write your answer here:

The Conversation or Platica:

You may ask any of these questions to help get the conversation started. You can write your answers here.

- Who took this photo?
- Where and when was it taken?
- What is happening, historically (in the world or the country), at the time this photo was taken?
- Why was this photo taken?

Make sure to ask and record the answers to these questions before your conversation is over:

How do you want me or other people to remember this (person, place, or event)?

Why do you think this was important to capture?

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After you are done with the platica, answer this question:

- What new information did you learn about your family from talking about this photo?

I learned _____ from this photo and my *platica*.

Assessment

Focus Question: What does this photograph tell me about my family?

This family photograph shows *(describe three details from the “observed” column)*

(1) _____, (2) _____, and

(3) _____. When I first examined the photograph, I thought

_____.

After talking to _____, I learned that _____

_____. I am still wondering about _____

_____. This is an important piece of my family's history

because _____.