

# Who's Who in Nicaragua: An Historical and Cultural Perspective

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## Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- identify the contributions of key individuals to Nicaraguan history and culture.
  - examine the roles of said individuals from an historical and cultural perspective.
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## Materials

- Available Internet and/or library materials
  - Student Handout: **Biography Sign-up Sheet**
  - Student Handout: **Biography Data Sheet**
  - Teacher Handout: **Teacher Information Sheet**
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## Note to the Teacher

The following Internet sites can be useful for students in conducting their research. Data collected from these sites was used in creating the information included in the **Teacher Information Sheet**.

- [www.nmu.edu/www-edgar/language/Martin/dariobio.htm](http://www.nmu.edu/www-edgar/language/Martin/dariobio.htm)
  - [www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0853338.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0853338.html)
  - <http://www.sandino.org/sandino.htm>
  - [library.thinkquest.org/17749/laleman.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/17749/laleman.html)
  - <http://www.hickoksports.com>
  - <http://www.trocaire.org/overseas/cenamerica/nicaragua.htm>
  - [www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/surgery/cardenal3.html](http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/surgery/cardenal3.html)
  - [www.cnn.com/resources/newsmakers/world/namerica/chamorro.html](http://www.cnn.com/resources/newsmakers/world/namerica/chamorro.html)
  - [library.thinkquest.org/17749/ortega.html](http://library.thinkquest.org/17749/ortega.html)
  - <http://www.lasmujeres.com/giocondabelli/bio.shtml>
  - [www.dennismartinezfoundation.org/](http://www.dennismartinezfoundation.org/)
  - [www.geocities.com/dreampitchers/id75.htm](http://www.geocities.com/dreampitchers/id75.htm)
  - [www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/nicaragua/pastora.htm](http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/nicaragua/pastora.htm)
  - [members.tripod.com/luisemejiagodoy/](http://members.tripod.com/luisemejiagodoy/)
  - [http://www.calnative.com/n\\_walk.htm](http://www.calnative.com/n_walk.htm)
  - <http://www.angel.org.ni/2000-36/invitado-i.html>
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**Activities**

1. Create an instruction sheet for the project that includes directions, expectations, due dates and a copy of the scoring rubric or other method of evaluation.
2. Distribute the student handout entitled **Biography Sign-up Sheet** and a copy of the instructions to each student.
  - a. Explain that the **Biography Sign-up Sheet** contains a list of key individuals in Nicaraguan history and that each student is to choose one person to research.
  - b. Instruct students to write a one to two page biography, in English, of the person they chose, highlighting that person's contributions to Nicaraguan history and/or culture.
  - c. For Spanish language classes, instruct students to also write a summary of their biography (approximately 100 words, depending on the level of the class) in Spanish.
3. Once research has been completed, instruct students to prepare a short presentation for the class in which they play the part of the person they researched, presenting the information they found in the 1<sup>st</sup> person.
  - a. While each student presents, the other students should complete the data sheet with the information required.
  - b. Review the data sheets with the class at the end of the presentations to ensure the accuracy of the information given.

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**Extension Activities**

1. Create a jeopardy-type game to review the data with the class.
  2. Give a quiz on the information learned from the biographies.
  3. For Spanish language classes, instruct students to write a journal page in Spanish for the person they researched, as if it were written by that person. They shouldn't include the person's name in the journal entry.
    - a. Collect the journal entries and redistribute them to the class.
    - b. Ask students to try to determine the author of each entry.
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# Biography Sign-up Sheet

Ruben Dario	_____
Jose Santos Zelaya	_____
Augusto Sandino	_____
Arnoldo Aleman	_____
Alexis Argüello	_____
Anastasio Samoza Garcia	_____
Ernesto Cardenal	_____
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro	_____
Daniel Ortega	_____
Gionconda Belli	_____
Dennis Martinez	_____
Eden Pastora	_____
Luis Enrique Mejía Godoy	_____
Hernando Zuniga	_____
Alfonso Cortes	_____
Humberto Ortega	_____
Maximo Jerez	_____
William Walker	_____
Camilo Zapata	_____
Antonio Machado	_____

# Biography Data Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Profession	Significant Contributions or Important Facts

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## Teacher Information Sheet

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**Arnoldo Aleman** *President of Nicaragua from 1997 to 2002. Accused of stealing more than \$100 million from the Nicaraguan government during his presidency.*

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**Alexis Argüello** *Three-time world boxing champion. Began fighting at age 16; achieved great success despite humble beginnings.*

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**Giaconda Belli** *Award winning writer/poet best know for her novel “La Mujer Habitada”*

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**Ernesto Cardenal** *Writer, poet and ordained Catholic priest. Pro-Sandinista revolutionary and former minister of culture for Nicaragua during the Sandinista regime.*

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**Violeta Barrios de Chamorro** *Defeated Sandinista Daniel Ortega in 1990 to become president; served one term. Widow of Pedro Chamorro, publisher of Nicaragua’s major Newspaper, La Prensa*

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**Ruben Darío** *Writer, poet and diplomat. Founder of the Modernist movement in poetry; world traveler*

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**Luis Enrique Mejía Godoy** *Singer/songwriter. Founder of the Mejia Godoy Foundation. Composed more than 200 songs*

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**Dennis Martinez** *First Nicaraguan baseball player to play in the major leagues. Battled alcoholism. Started the Dennis Martinez foundation in 1997 to benefit underprivileged children.*

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**Daniel Ortega** *Leader of the Sandinista forces that ousted Somoza in July 1977. President from 1984 to 1990. His election prompted civil war and intensified U.S. support for “contra” rebels.*

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**Humberto Ortega** *Brother of Daniel Ortega. Former defense minister and head of the Sandinista army. Thought to be one of the richest men in Nicaragua*

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**Eden Pastora** *Sandinista guerrilla who captured Nicaragua's national palace in 1978. Named to the Sandinista regime but later defected to lead a rebel group.*

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**Anastasio Samoza Garcia** *Dictator for two decades. Came into power in the 1930's with the support of the United States. Assassinated in 1956. Succeeded by his two sons. His family dynasty's repression was allegedly responsible for approximately 50,000 deaths. Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) was formed in the 1960's to overthrow the family regime.*

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**Augusto Sandino** *Supporter of nationalism and anti-imperialism. Resisted U.S. occupation in Nicaragua and helped end it in 1933. Assassinated by Samoza in 1934; FSLN named after him*

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**William Walker** *American adventurer and self-proclaimed president of Nicaragua. Planned to unite all of Central America into one country under his rule. Overthrown in 1857 and executed in Honduras in 1960.*

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**Jose Santos Zelaya** *President from 1894 to 1909. Leader of the Liberal party. U.S. helped to overthrow him and send him into exile.*

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**Camilo Zapata** *Folk singer and composer of "La Mora Limpia", sometimes known as "Nicaragua's second national anthem." Creator of rhythm known as Nicaraguan "Son."*