



Children of other Lands:  
**ANDRES OROZCO**  
**OF MEXICO**

Teachers Guide written by  
**BETTY GOLBY**

Produced by  
**COLMAN COMMUNICATIONS CORP.**

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Program Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Student Objectives</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Suggested Lesson Plan</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pre-Viewing Activities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Post-Viewing Activities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Transcript of the Video</b>	<b>6</b>

All material in this program is the exclusive property of the copyright holder. Copying, transmitting, or reproducing in any form or by any means without prior written permission from the copyright holder or its distributor is prohibited by Federal Law (Title 17, U.S. Code Sections 501 and 506).



## **Children of Other Lands: ANDRES OROSCO OF MEXICO**

**Time: 14:25**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

As the video opens, the viewer sees Andres and his family eating breakfast. Andres lives in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, a very old and very beautiful city near the center of the country. The picturesque, old section of the city is seen, then the growing industrial areas. As the viewer sees the town, a brief history of the location is given. Andres' parents believe education is important and he and his brothers and sister are fortunate, unlike most other children of San Luis Potosi, because they are able to attend good schools. Andres'

school day is then briefly reviewed. After school, Andres eats a large meal with his family, and then goes bike riding with two of his brothers and some friends. Other recreational activities shown include playing soccer and going to a colorful market. In the late afternoon, Andres returns home to do his homework, then eat a light dinner. On Friday afternoons, all the Orosco go to the



family ranch, about an hours' drive into the mountains that surround San Luis Potosi. On the way, they pass some of the most beautiful lands in all of Mexico, small villages, farms, and ghost towns. At the ranch, workers finish their chores, including grilling goat in cactus leaves for dinner. Andres

and his brothers go fishing, then spend the rest of the weekend playing a tether ball game called *espiro*, feeding the animals, bike riding along colorful but dusty trails, climbing trees, and spending some time with his father.

### **STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, students should be able to do the following:

- (1) Locate Mexico and the city of San Luis Potosi on a map.
- (2) Briefly review the living patterns of a middle class Mexican child, including schooling, leisure activities, eating habits.
- (3) Compare and contrast their lives with the life of Andres Orosco.
- (4) Describe the physical surroundings of central Mexico and the city of San Luis Potosi.

## **SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN**

### **Introduction**

Locate Mexico on your classroom map or globe. Ask the class if anyone knows anything about the country. Does anyone know a person who lives in Mexico? Has anyone in the class ever visited Mexico? If so, have class members discuss what they know about that country. Then ask your class if they've ever known a child who has lived in Mexico. What do they suppose it would be like to live in that country? Would living there be different from living here? Would a person live in a different kind of house? Eat different foods? Go to a different kind of school? See different things on the street?



### **Pre-Viewing Activities**

Tell the class they will now see a video entitled “Andres Orosco of Mexico.” Explain that the program will tell not only about Andres and his family, but also about the city and country where he lives. Ask the class to pay close attention to how the city and countryside look, and to the different activities of the people who live there. Explain that after everyone sees the video, you’ll want to compare how Andres lives with how they live.

### **Post-Viewing Activities**

After viewing the program, explain to your class that most Mexican families are much poorer than the Oroscos, and that only about one out of every ten Mexican families lives as well as they do. However, the percentage of middle-class Mexicans is growing each year. You could also mention that by the time your students

become adults, perhaps close to half of all Mexican families will live in a manner similar to the Oroscos. Consider discussing the many political and economic changes are now taking place in Mexico. If you do, you could mention that a number of experts believe that the changes will bring significant economic benefits to the Mexican people, although the changes will take decades. On the chalkboard, write three categories, "My Life," "Andres' Life," and "Similar or Different?" Discuss schooling, recreation, nutrition, religious beliefs, region, home, and neighborhood. As the class discusses each of these aspects of Andres' and their lives, write their comments on the chalkboard. If any members of your class or their parents have lived in Mexico, you might invite them to talk about their experiences in that country. Has anyone vacationed in Mexico? Can they bring in mementos of the trip as a show-and-tell activity?



### **TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO**

It's 7 o'clock in the morning, breakfast time at the Orosco household, and Mrs. Orosco is almost done preparing a hearty breakfast of ham and eggs, juice, rolls, yogurt, cantaloupe and refried beans for her children -- 13-year-old Mauricio; 6-year-old Rodrigo; Montserrat, who's 14; Guillermo, Jr., the oldest at 16; and last -- but certainly not least -- 8-year-old Andres.

The only family member missing is Mr. Orosco, who spends four out of every five weekdays on the family's ranch, about an hour's drive from San Luis Potosi, where the Orosco family lives.

San Luis Potosi is very old and very beautiful. Its ancient buildings resemble those of Spain, the country that once ruled Mexico.

San Luis Potosi is famous for its beautiful plazas, where water droplets perform shimmering dances in stately fountains; where men spend siesta time in deep conversation, or in deep sleep; where sidewalk clowns

entertain anyone at hand; and where vendors sell their colorful wares for a few *pesos*, or pennies.

And towering above each of these plazas is a church.

The Spanish settlers who came to Mexico some 500 years ago brought their religion, Roman Catholicism.

Today, 97 out of every 100 Mexicans are members of the Roman Catholic faith.

The cathedrals of San Luis Potosi are considered by many to be among the most beautiful in the world.

Although some of the sights and sounds of San Luis Potosi are age-old reminders of the days of Spanish rule, there is also a growing number of signs that point to changes that have taken place in more recent times.

The city's large factories are among the most noticeable.

In fact, San Luis Potosi is becoming a major manufacturing center, where, among other things, automobile parts are manufactured and where hot, liquid steel is molded into products such as lamp posts and stair railings.

Mrs. Orosco and her husband know that if their children are to take part in the new and changing world of San Luis Potosi, they will need a first-rate education in good schools.

And that's where Andres is rushing off to now -- to the Instituto Potosino, his grade school located several miles from his house.

The 700 first through sixth graders at the *Instituto Potosino* gather in the school's courtyard beginning at about 7:30 each morning.

As you can see, there are no girls in Andres' school, which is run by the Catholic Church.

In Mexico, it's not unusual for girls and boys to attend separate schools -- that is, if they go to school at all.

Many children there spend their days working with a relative or wandering their neighborhoods because their parents cannot afford to send them to a private school such as the one Andres attends.

Another reason many young people in Mexico spend their days outside the classroom is that public schools are generally very crowded -- and usually offer a poor education.

And when students drop out, often at a very young age, no one encourages them to return.

Things are very different at Andres' school, however. At 8:00 each morning, the entire student body gathers to hear morning announcements from Senor Perez Castilleja, the school's principal.

It's not unusual for him to remind his students about the importance of education. He also encourages each person to do his best.

After the announcements, it's time to begin the day's lessons.

Senora Galvan, Andres' teacher, starts her class with a brief Bible lesson, after which her students pray silently.

Then they complete a short workbook assignment in which everyone draws a picture of their plans for the upcoming summer vacation.

Then it's off to the library, where the class is greeted by the school's librarian, Senorita Castillo.

During library period, students in one group select books to read while the rest of the class listen to a fable about a cat and a coyote.

Next comes art class taught by Senor Carillo.

And then, at 10 o'clock, there's a half-hour recess.

"La Burrita," a small snack shop at one side of the playground, is a popular spot during the morning break. There, students can buy corn chips, candy, sweet rolls and soft drinks to tide them over until lunch time.

It's a hot day, so Andres decides on an icy, cold orange drink.

A favorite recess activity at Instituto Potosino is a tether ball game called *espiro*.

Another popular game is soccer, which, at times, can get a little out of hand!



Basketball, too, is played during the morning break.

After recess, Andres' class settles down to its arithmetic lesson.

As you can see, it's on multiplication tables.

Later, in the computer lab, the class continues its work on multiplication.

Physical education is Andres' and his classmates' last period before school lets out.

Senora Galvan's 3rd graders will also study, on other days, Spanish, geography, and Mexican history.

School lets out at 1:30. Andres' mother usually picks him up by herself, but today it's his father's mid-week trip into town, so Mr. Orosco also has come along.

Within a half hour, the entire family begins its early afternoon meal, which is, by Mexican custom, the largest and most formal of the day.

There's plenty to eat -- fried chicken, a variety of vegetables, refried beans with avocados and eggs, and rice.

For the Oroscos, this leisurely mid-day meal gives everyone a chance to hear about and discuss the important things happening in their lives.

Andres, Rodrigo and Mauricio often go bike riding after lunch. Today, they've been joined by their cousin, Daniel, and Mauricio's friend, David.

The Tequis Park neighborhood of San Luis Potosi, where the Oroscos live, is neither rich nor poor. It's somewhere in between.

The people who live there with their families own small businesses, or are teachers or other professional people.

The largest number of the city's residents live in very poor areas.

The city's wealthiest people live in a neighborhood called *Las Lomas*, or "the hills." They're the ones who own large factories or are politicians.

Many *Las Lomas* residents are also members of private clubs and seldom, if ever, go to places like Tequis Park, where Andres and his friends have joined some other neighborhood children for a game of soccer.

Afterwards, everybody's ready for refreshments -- an iced fruit drink for Andres, and sliced cactus with chili sauce for everyone else.

Later, on the way home, Andres and his cousin Daniel do some shopping for Andres' mother at Tangamanga Market, one of the oldest in the city.

The two boys enjoy looking at all the colorful products and foods on display there.

They also enjoy watching the people who work and shop at the market.

After Andres buys some potatoes for his mother, he and Daniel head home. Andres then spends about a half hour on his homework.

For him, homework time is usually between seven and seven-thirty -- right before dinner, the lightest meal of the day in most Mexican homes.

It's also the most informal, with at least one or two of the children eating elsewhere.

Mrs. Orosco mentions that tonight Montserrat is at a friend's house, and that Mr. Orosco has returned to the ranch.

But he'll be back Friday afternoon, when the family sets out for their country home, where they spend every weekend -- as well as two months each summer.

It takes about an hour to get there.

Along the way, the family passes some of the most beautiful lands in all of Mexico.

Small settlements dot these lands. The people who live in them are mostly farmers who take their crops to market on horse-drawn carts, or shepherds who tend small flocks of goats and sheep.

The area around San Luis Potosi is also home to a number of ghost towns -- old villages now practically deserted.

Hundreds of years ago, these settlements were bustling centers of activity, home to silver miners and shop keepers.

Today, however, little remains -- save the ghostly winds that sweep down

from the mountains when a summer storm rumbles across the sky, and the small handful of people who have chosen to live in these faraway places.

Within an hour -- right on schedule -- the Orosocos arrive at the small community where their ranch is located.

Inside the ranch house courtyard, preparations are already underway for the main course of the family's dinner -- grilled goat meat.

The cactus leaves will be wrapped around the meat to keep it juicy as it cooks.

While dinner is prepared, each ranch hand finishes his chores before the weekend begins and Andres, Rodrigo and Mauricio head for a nearby pond to fish.

It's too late in the day for the fish to bite, so the boys don't have any luck. But it really doesn't matter, of course, because the family already has plenty to eat for dinner.

The rest of Andres' weekend is filled with all kinds of activities -- playing *espiro* with Rodrigo; watching his father and a ranch hand fix a tractor; feeding the geese, ducks and chickens; spending some time with the horses; going bike riding with Mauricio and Rodrigo; and climbing the ancient tree in the ranch courtyard.

In fact, all of Andres' days seem to be filled with activity -- not just those on the weekend.

But no matter how busy he is, he always can find time for a friendly, parting message for everyone who's seen how he lives.

ANDRES: *Adios, amigos!*