

Game Design Document

What is the idea?

- An explanation of Lake Guatavita, Colombia
 - The legend of 'El Dorado'




Why?

- I feel that there are not a lot of historical games or digital engagement related to South American history
- Why not share a part of the history of where my family is from
- Latin American pride

How?

- A virtual museum
- A sim-like walkthrough
- Nothing too complicated
 - Simple and straight to the point

Sources?

- My experience
- My mom
- Secondary sources
 - Colombian National Park Website
 - [LAGUNA DE GUATAVITA - COLPARQUES - PARAÍOS POR DESCUBRIR EN COLOMBIA](#)
 - [Global Forest Watch - Deforestation Stats Around Guatavita Colombia](#)
- The Indigenous people of Guatavita
 - https://www.worldhistory.org/Muisca_Civilization/
- The Legend of El Dorado
 - https://www.worldhistory.org/El_Dorado/
- 3D Map of Guatavita
 - [Lake Guatavita - 3D](#)
- Drone video of the lake
 -  Guatavita Lake: Legend of El Dorado Bogota, Colombia Phantom 3 drone ...
- Colombia Travel Vlog
 -  THE QUEST FOR EL DORADO - Colombia Travel Vlog 
 - A man from Kentucky to visit the lake and discovered the origin of the legend of El Dorado
- Pictures
 - Include some that I took when I went

- Ask my family if they have good pictures
- White, Patricia. “ANDES LAKE OF JEWELS: Waters Are Reputed to Cover a Fortune in Gold and Emeralds.” New York Times (1923-). New York, N.Y: New York Times Company, 1941.
 - This lake is the scene of the famous legend of El Dorado, the gilded man; it is told that into its sacred waters a Chibcha chieftain, covered with gold powder, plunged while thousands of Indians on the rim of the lake threw gold and the famous emeralds of the region in after him during an annual ceremony in honour of the goddess of Guatavita
 - From the days of the conquistadors, this lake has had the reputation of hiding in its depths vast quantities of gold and silver and countless jewels
 - Baron Alexander von Humboldt, the great traveller and naturalist, wrote that millions of dollars in emeralds must lie beneath the waters of Guatavita
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- ANDERSON, K. B., and W. BRAY. “THE AMBER OF EL DORADO: CLASS IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL AMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH LAGUNA GUATAVITA.” Archaeometry 48, no. 4 (2006): 633–640.
 - Crater-like lake
 - Used by the pre-Colombian Muisca people for a variety of socio-religious ceremonies, many of which involved casting offerings into the lake (Anderson, page 633)
 - The legend of El Dorado is one of the most pervasive modern myths. The original basis of the El Dorado legend stems from stories brought back to Europe by 16th-century conquistadores returning from the New World. (Anderson, page 633)
 - El Dorado (lit. ‘the Golden Man’ or ‘the Gilded Man’) is the central figure in coronation ceremonies held by the Muisca people at Laguna Guatavita (Lake Guatavita), for the enthronement of a new king (Anderson, page 633)
 - At this time they stripped the heir to his skin, and anointed him with a sticky earth on which they placed gold dust so that he was completely covered with this metal. They placed him on the raft . . . and at his feet they placed a great heap of gold and emeralds for him to offer to his god (Anderson, page 634)
 - The gilded Indian then made his offering, throwing out all the pile of gold into the middle of the lake, and the chiefs who had accompanied him did the same on their own accounts (Anderson, page 634)
 - Beginning with the conquistadores (and prior to the protection of the lake under Colombian law in 1965), there have been numerous attempts to drain and plunder the lake to recover valuable materials, especially gold and emeralds, ‘deposited’ during these ceremonies. (Anderson, page 634)
 - Among the most spectacular of these adventures, the efforts of a British company, Contractors Ltd, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are particularly

noteworthy. Under the direction of a Mr Hartley Knowles, Contractors Ltd successfully organized to tunnel under the lake to drain off the lake waters in an effort to recover materials from the lake bed. Although this effort did succeed in briefly emptying the lake (see Fig. 1), only a limited amount of material was actually recovered (Anderson, 634)

Order In Mural

Introduction

I am pleased to welcome you to this virtual walk-through of Lake Guatavita and the legend of 'El Dorado' that originated from this lake. I hope you enjoy the experience!

Who am I / Why did I choose to discuss this

- Why is my perspective important for this story
- Something from my Latin American background

Something that was discussed in our class throughout the term was the perspective from which a game was made or a story told. When Dany Guay-Belanger came to visit the class one example of a "bad" game stood out to me. It was a Tetris game but the blocks were slaves under a ship. It is very clear that those with slavery as part of their history would not appreciate that game at all. And so while that was one example of something we discussed in the term, we discussed how a lot of history is presented through a sort of "western" or "white" perspective. I have not heard of many games or even digital engagements with Latin American aspects. I wanted to change that. So I decided to take this opportunity to embrace my Latin heritage and share a story from my parent's homeland, Colombia.

Where does the legend take place?

- Include map
- Guatavita Colombia
- Drone video of Guatavita

Before getting into the legend, it is important to understand where it takes place. The legend of 'El Dorado' takes place in the continent of South America in the country of Colombia. Like many other countries, Colombia has many beautiful cities with stories to share. And so, just a car ride of about an hour and a half away from Colombia's capital city Bogota lies the city of

Cundinamarca where you can find the extraordinary Lake Guatavita. The lake itself is in the municipality of Sesquille, and surprisingly not in the municipality of Guatavita.

What is the legend

- The story begins
- Refer to the sources I found online/library

Well, first you must know who was residing by the lake before the legend occurred. The land around Lake Guatavita was and is home to the Indigenous people of this part of Colombia; the Muisca. The Muisca had many traditional rituals that caught the attention of Spanish conquistadors as well as many European explorers who all shared the legend of 'El Dorado' in the late 15th and early 16th century.

Beliefs and Rituals

Well first, who was the goddess Guatavita and why was she important to the Musica people? For them, she meant many things. Around the lake, there are signs that explain just who Guatavita was in three languages: Spanish, English and the language of the Muisca. As per the signs, she was the "mother of life, protector of the territory, [and a] sacred womb". According to their beliefs, the water in the lake represented her belly to which they would give their offerings. In fact, it was these offerings that caught the attention of the Spanish conquistadors.

The enthronement ritual of a new king or chieftain is what caught the attention of the Spanish conquistadors as well as other European explorers and started the legend of El Dorado. Before the offerings to the goddess Guatavita commenced, the man would be covered in "sticky earth" so that he would then have gold dust to cover him in the precious metal. This is what refers to 'El Dorado' since it means 'golden' or 'gilded'. And so after that, he would mount a raft and drift to the middle of the lake to drop his offerings into the belly of the goddess. Some of the offerings included silver, gold, emeralds as well as other precious jewels. As explorers noticed these offerings being made to the goddess, they saw the valuable items that could be found at the bottom of the lake.

Effects of the Legend

The legend of El Dorado caused a lot of desire for the treasures that could be found at the bottom of the lake. Some explorers were successful in digging tunnels and holes in order to drain the water from the lake. Despite their efforts, draining the lake was nearly impossible since it rains very often in that region. And so while some explorers were able to obtain few artifacts, there was not enough funding to continue digging. In the present day, you can see the path that the explorers made while trying to drain the lake.

Deforestation in the area

- Include two-tone audio

Thankfully, lake Guatavita is currently under Colombian government law to ensure the lake is protected. However, there have been a few cases of deforestation around the area of the lake. With statistics about deforestation in the area, a musical melody can be made.

Tourists!

Many people from around the world come to Guatavita to see where the famous legend of El Dorado takes place. It is possible to go and visit the lake with a tour guide. The tour takes roughly 2 hours and is led by a guide who explains the history of the lake and the Muisca people.

My experience there

- Include my pictures
- Include a video of a travel vlog (In English!)

The paths made for the trek up the mountain to see the lake took a bit of a long time since the ground was wet and everyone had to be more careful with their steps. However, once we got to the top and saw the view, it was absolutely worth it. Of course, we took pictures, but they do the lake no justice. I do hope that you can visit it one day and see the beauty of Lake Guatavita before your own eyes. Until then, I hope this short walk-through of the Lake helped you to understand its history.

I had briefly heard of the legend of "El Dorado" before but I had no clue that it was in Colombia. My own family is from Colombia and I did not even know about this until recently. And so I ask you, do you ever wonder if there is more that we haven't heard of?

I also wonder if not much is known about this beautiful Lake since it is from a country that is not known to all. I think that is why history should be told from many perspectives!

Connections to the course!

- I think that my project relates to the course because it explains something historical by a Latin American historian...me
- I am using Mural in a way to share history through digital engagement

The Historical Problem Space Framework (HPS) System

Genre

- Videos found on youtube
- Colombian Park Organization website
- As Mcall mentions in his article, “genre is a slippery term”
- Not quite sure what sort of genre my unessay would fall under

Goals

- To share history from my parents' homeland with others

Gameworld

- If my unessay is not a game, could it have a game world
- Would it be more like a “history world” and I explain the components within my unessay like so

Tools

- Mural
- Pictures

Obstacles

Player agent

- The person who is going through my lake Guatavita walkthrough
- GitHub almost always gives me a hassle

Strategies

Agents

- People involved in the story that I am telling
- The Muisca
- The Spanish conquistadors
- European Explorers
- Using pictures that I took proves that I can provide details about the experience since I have been there
- Pictures and videos grab peoples attention

Resources

- Articles found from the Carleton Library