Republic of the Philippines

Mater Dei College

Tubigon, Bohol

**Dagohoy’s Revolt: A 3D Educational Game for Elementary Pupils**

**Narrator:** In the year 1744, the parish priest of Inabanga (Bohol) Jesuit Luis de Morales, S.J., ordered a constable name Sagarino, to capture a man named Ibong.

**Narrator:** Ibong was a brave native of Talibon, a neighbouring town of Inabanga. He roamed the mountains, having apostasized from the catholic faith. Fr. Morales ordered his arrest. However, no native dared to execute his order. In view of his insistence, Sagarino a peace-officer of the town who was Francisco Dagohoy’s brother, decided to go to the mountain.

**Narrator:** Instead of capturing Ibong, the fugitive, however, resisted arrest and killed Sagarino in a fight after a bloody encounter.

**Narrator:** His brother Francisco Dagohoy, was anxious to retaliate against the murderer, and went to the mountain. By not being able to find the killer, he brought his brother’s dead body and told the priest that there was no other alternative but to give him the catholic burial.

**Narrator:** But Father Morales, however, refused to give the constable Christian burial because he had died in a duel. Hence, giving him a Christian burial was contrary to religious practices at that time.

**Narrator:** Dagohoy then begged for exemption for the reason that the death was caused by Fr. Morales’ order to arrest apostate Ibong, and it was on this principle that the right of stole be not applied.

**Narrator:** The priest insisted on denying his burial in the catholic cemetery, on the grounds that he died excommunicated for having engaged in a duel which was a huge disgrace and thus he incurred the punishment imposed upon the duellers.

**Narrator:** In these controversies, the cadaver remained unburied for three days and the priest became much more obstinate not to bury it.

**Narrator:** Naturally the cadaver was decomposed and eaten by worms emitting unbearable stench around the town. Dagohoy eventually buried his brother without the benefit of a Catholic burial.

**Narrator:** These strings of events led Dagohoy to make a vow to correct the wrong done to his brother. In the process, he stopped paying tribute to the Spaniards and refused to render the required "forced" labor. He also called upon his relatives, friends and the other residents to do the same and fight for their freedom.

**Narrator:** Dagohoy and his followers continue in their revolt for a span of 85 long years, the longest revolt in the Philippines.

**Narrator:** Dagohoy vowed that he should wait for the day to see that the cadaver of Fr. Morales would also get rotten and eaten by the worms.

**Narrator:** Dagohoy and his men sallied out in lightning raids on the lowland towns, assaulting the local Spanish garrisons, looting the churches, and slaughtering Spaniards, particularly the Jesuit priests.

**Narrator:** Being so infuriated with the priest, he instigated the people to rise in arms. The signal of the uprising was the killing of Father Giuseppe Lamberti, Italian Jesuit curate of Jagna on January 24, 1744.

**Narrator:** Shortly afterwards, Morales was killed by Dagohoy. The rebellion rolled over the whole island like a tropical typhoon. Bishop Miguel Lino de Espeleta of Cebu, who exercised ecclesiastical authority over Bohol, tried vainly to mollify the rebellious Boholanos.

**Narrator :** The ground was fertile for Dagohoy's call. Around 3,000 Boholanos rallied to his call and joined him in a revolt against Spanish injustice and tyranny. Together with other leading members of the Tagbilaran, Baclayon and Dauis principalia, Dagohoy proclaimed the "Independence of Bohol" in the mountains of Talibon and Inabanga.

**Narrator:** The concept of independence, however, might not be applicable at that time. What is most likely is that the revolutionaries stopped submitting themselves to the dictates of the Spanish authorities and decided to move to the mountains where they can live on their own in peace.

**Narrator:** Dagohoy defeated the Spanish forces sent against him. He established a free government in the mountains, and had 3,000 followers, which subsequently increased to 20,000. The patriots remained unsubdued in their mountains stronghold, and, even after Dagohoy's death, continued to defy Spanish power.

**Narrator:** Up there in the mountains, the revolutionaries established their headquarters, which they fortified with trenches of big rocks, just like the way some upland farmers pile up big rocks on top of one another in their farms. They also built dwellings for their families and cleared up some of the forest areas so that they can plant crops for their subsistence.

**Narrator:** Since Dagohoy has experience in leading a community being a cabeza de barangay, it is safe to assume that he set some rules and norms to maintain peace and order in the new community. When the other Boholanos heard about the revolt, they expressed their sympathy by joining the revolutionaries or by supplying them with arms and money.

**Narrator:** The Francisco Dagohoy Cave in the town of Danao was the headquarters of Dagohoy. One of the many crystal studded passages within Dagohoy's cave has an underwater route leading to dry land, and it is said that every time Spaniards would search the cave, Dagohoy would swim underwater through this passage to hide in the breathing space.

**Narrator:** From time to time, the revolutionaries would raid the coastal towns, assault the Spanish garrisons, loot churches and kill Spaniards. In one of these raids, they killed the Cura of Jagna, an Italian Jesuit priest, and Father Morales. Dagohoy fulfilled the promise he made over the grave of his brother and continued to lead the revolt until his death.

**Narrator:** It is unknown when and how he died. It is probable that he died of old age or sickness a little before or after the 19th century. What is certain is that the revolution did not end with his death.

**Narrator:** The Spaniards were not happy with the Dagohoy-led revolt. In fact, there were several attempts to suppress it. The historian Gregorio Zaide has this to say:

**Narrator:** “In 1747 Bishop Juan de Arrechederra, acting Governor-General of the Philippines (1745–1750), dispatched a punitive expedition to Bohol under the command of Don Pedro Lechuga. Commander Lechuga won a few skirmishes but failed to crush the rebellion. In desperation, he sent a commando unit into the mountains to kill or capture Dagohoy, his sister Gracia, and other leaders. The commandos returned empty-handed because they could not penetrate Dagohoy's fortified stronghold.”

**Narrator:** The revolt continued. By 1770, five years before the waging of the American War for Independence against Great Britain, there were already about 30,000 revolutionaries in Bohol.

**Narrator:** Twenty Spanish governors-general, from Gasper de la Torre (1739–45) to Juan Antonio Martínez (1822–25), tried to quell the rebellion and failed.

**Narrator:** In 1825, General Mariano Ricafort Palacin (1825–30), a kind and able administrator, became governor-general of the Philippines. Upon his order, Alcade-mayor Jose Lazaro Cairo, at the head of 2,200 Filipino-Spanish troops and several batteries, invaded Bohol on May 7, 1827. The brave Boholanos resisted fiercely. Alcade-mayor Cairo won several engagements, but failed to crush the rebellion.

**Narrator:** In April 1828, another Spanish expedition under Captain Manuel Sanz landed in Bohol. After more than a year of hard campaign, he finally subdued the patriots.

**Narrator:** By August 31, 1829, the rebellion had ceased. Governor Ricafort, with chivalric magnanimity, pardoned 19,420 survivors and permitted them to live in new villages at the lowlands. These villages are now the towns of Batuan, Cabulao, Catigbian, and Bilar.

**Narrator:** It was only in April 1828, three years after the arrival of Governor-General Mariano Ricafort, that the Spaniards sent its strongest expedition to Bohol. This is understandable because Spain experienced problems in its other colonies in the 19th century.

**Narrator:** For instance, the Spanish American colonies revolted in 1810 until 1826, thus severing the link between Acapulco and Manila. It was, therefore, a hard time for Spain. It was no longer a world superpower as it was in the 16th century. And it could not quell the Dagohoy revolution in Bohol.

**Narrator:** Probably to help save its face after its defeats from the forces of Dagohoy and its loss of colonies, Spain decided to put an end to the revolt using Spanish and native (like Cebuanos) troops. According to Zaide:

**Narrator:** “Fighting with desperate courage, the indomitable Boholanos resisted the enemy, whose heavy artillery pieces caused much havoc to their fortifications and took a terrible toll of human lives. Wearied by the ceaseless combat, weakened by hunger and thirst, and depleted in numerical strength, they made their last stand in the mountain of Boasa under the command of the valiant brothers, Handog and Auag. In June 1829, they fought their last battle and were crushed by Spain's superior arms. The survivors fled into the forest, where they grimly continued to carry on their hopeless cause.”

**Narrator:** The revolt ended formally on August 31, 1829. Manuel Sanz, commander of the Spanish forces, officially reported that 3,000 Boholanos escaped to other islands, 19,420 surrendered, 395 died in battle, 98 were exiled and around ten thousand revolutionaries were resettled in the areas of Balilihan, Batuan, Bilar, Cabulao and Catigbian.

**Narrator:** These figures all point to the fact that the revolt was widespread in the province. Being the insurrection's indtigator, Dagohoy continued to be a source of inspiration to his comrades even after his death.

**EXTRA**

**Narrator:** The Dagohoy rebellion features in the Bohol provincial flag as one of the two bolos or native swords with handle and hand-guards on top. These two bolos, which are reclining respectively towards the left and right, depict the Dagohoy and Tamblot revolts, symbolizing that "a true Boholano will rise and fight if supervening factors embroil them into something beyond reason or tolerance."

**Narrator:** Dagohoy will always live in the pages of Philippine history, not only as a good brother and a heroic man, but also as a leader of the longest Filipino insurrection on record. His revolt lasted 85 years (1744–1829).

**Narrator:** The town of Dagohoy, Bohol is named in his honor. It was Vice President Carlos P. Garcia who proposed the name "Dagohoy" in honor of the greatest Boholano hero, Francisco Sendrijas alias Dagohoy.

**Narrator:** The name Dagohoy is a concatenation of the Bisayan phrase, Dagon sa huyuhoy or talisman of the breeze in English. The Dagohoy Memorial National High School in Dagohoy, Bohol is also named in his honor and memory.