



Spanish Raid

Challenge:

Pupils create two eyewitness accounts of an event providing contrasting evidence. Accounts may be written or verbal (in character).

Possible Objectives:

KS2 English 3f – distinguish between fact and opinion;

KS3 History 1.6a – a understanding how historians and others form interpretations.

Activities

Read pupils the story **Resource 7a – The Spanish Raid**.

Show pupils copies of **Resource 7b – Cornish Version**. Explain to pupils that the story that they have heard is based on Carew's *Survey of Cornwall*. His survey was written in 1602, seven years after the raid and Carew almost certainly obtained this information by word of mouth from Sir Francis Godolphin.

Explain that in 1602 English was spoken and written very differently from today.

Split the class into groups and give groups time to read through the extract. Challenge groups to:

- Find an example of each letter of the alphabet in the text;
- Find five words that are spelt differently to the way we spell them today;
- Find three words that we would be unlikely to use (what do they mean?).

Ask the pupils to imagine what Sir Francis Godolphin might have written in his message to Sir Francis Drake and challenge them to write their own version of this message. Encourage pupils make use of some of the old English words, phrases or spellings used by Richard Carew in his account and to remember that Francis would have had little time and different writing equipment.

Show pupils copies of **Resource 7c – Spanish Version**. Explain to the pupils that another important source of information is the official Spanish account of the expedition: a report sent to the King of Spain and written by the notorious Captain Carlos de Amezola.

Challenge pupils to play detective and ask: **What are the main differences/discrepancies between the two accounts?**

For instance:

The two accounts differ mainly with regard to the numbers of men involved.

Amezola claimed that about 400 men attacked Mousehole, whilst Carew gave the number as about 200, rising to about 400 when Penzance was attacked.

Amezola estimated that his forces were opposed by about 1200 men under arms on the Green West of Penzance, but Carew mentions around 100.

There is also some information supplied by Amezola that is missed out in the account made by Carew:

- The names of Amezola and the other Spanish officers;
- The fact that St Mary's Chapel in Penzance was not burned;
- The existence of an armed fort in Penzance;
- The presence with the raiders of the renegade Englishman, Captain Richard Burley;
- The Spanish raiders holding a mass on land the day after the burning of Penzance.

Help pupils to interrogate the sources by asking:

What are the possible reasons for the differences between the two accounts? Can we trust either of the two versions as an accurate portrayal of events? How does each of these versions serve the interests of those involved?

Select some pupils to read different parts from the story script **Resource 7d – What really happened?** Encourage participants to read the script to the rest of the class.

Ask pupils: **What does the saying 'there are two sides to every story' mean? Is this true?**

Show pupils **Resource 7e – Headline Examples** and encourage pupils to identify more examples of contrasting perspectives on the same issue in a selection of newspapers.

Challenge the pupils to create two contrasting eye witness accounts for an event they have witnessed, seen in the news or heard about. Provide pupils with newspapers where required. Pupils' accounts may be written like a police witness report of an accident **or** verbal like an interview or monologue in character.

Ask: **What factors might influence each version of events? Consider carefully how you are likely to select, miss out and prioritise the information that you choose to provide in each account.**