

Worksheets

Excerpts from three songs about Gregorio Cortez

Option 1: “El corrido de Gregorio Cortez”

Traditional corrido; Arranged and recorded by José "El Patrullero" Moreno

En el condado del Carmen,
Miren lo que ha sucedido.
Murió el *Cherife* mayor,
Quedando Román herido.

In Carmen County,
Take note of what’s happened.
The Sheriff has died,
Leaving Roman wounded.

Exhortaron a Cortez
Por toditito el estado:
"Vivo o muerto que lo aprehendan
Porque a varios ha matado."

They exhorted Cortez
From every corner of the state:
“Dead or alive they must catch him,
Because he’s taken many lives.”

Decía Gregorio Cortez
Con su alma muy encendida:
"No siento haberlo matado,
La defensa es permitida."

Gregorio Cortez announced
Incensed to his soul
“I feel no remorse for killing him,
Self-defense is legal”

Option 2: “Gregorio Cortez”

Traditional corrido; Recorded by: Los Pingüinos del Norte

Iban los americanos,
Que por el viento volaban,
Porque se iban a ganar
Diez mil pesos que les daban

The Americans were riding,
They were flying down the wind,
Because they were trying to earn
The 10,000 dollars they would be given.

Le echaron los perros *juanes*
Que iban detrás de la huella,
Pero alcanzar a Cortez
Era alcanzar a una estrella.

They set the hound dogs on him
That were tracking his trail,
But catching up with Cortez
Was like catching up with a star.

“Dicen que por culpa mía
Se ha matado a mucha gente;
Yo me voy a presentar
Porque esto no es conveniente.”

"They say it's my fault
That many people have been killed;
I'm going to turn myself in
Because this isn't right."

Option 3: “Gregorio Cortez”

Agustín Lira and Trio Alma

Pero algo malo iba a pasar
De pronto salió un *cherife*
Y se pone a averiguar
Que alguien se robó un caballo
Y que caro va a costar
Y acusa a Cortez
Y allí comenzó
la leyenda de Cortez
Su vida defendió
Con pistola en la mano luchó
Su vida defendió
Con pistola en la mano luchó

El *cherife* suelta un tiro
Y al hermano lo hirió
Y voltea hacia Gregorio
Y disparó
Y Gregorio en un instante
Con su arma respondió
Y el *cherife* en un suspiro
Se murió

El pueblo lo notó
Y nunca lo olvidó
En sus cantos se ha de oír
“Y que viva Gregorio Cortez”
En sus cantos se ha de oír
“Y que viva Gregorio Cortez”
Por los cerros y los montes
Corriendo va Cortez
Por los ríos y desiertos vuela ya
Su ejemplo es muy bueno
Y lo debemos recordar
La defensa propia es justa

But something bad was about to happen
Suddenly, a sheriff arrived
And started asking questions
That someone stole a horse
And that someone will have to pay
And accused Cortez
And that was the beginning
Of the legend of Cortez
He defended his life
Gun in hand he fought
He defended his life
Gun in hand he fought

The sheriff fired a shot
And wounded his brother
And turning to Gregorio
He shot
In an instant Gregorio
Answered with his gun
And with a sigh the Sheriff
Passed away

The people knew him
And never forgot him
In their songs you can hear
“Long live Gregorio Cortez”
In their songs you can hear
“Long live Gregorio Cortez”
Through hills and mountains
Cortez keeps running
Through rivers and deserts, he flies
His example is very good
And we must keep it in mind
Self-defense is just