

The Amazing Journey of Isabel Godin

Task type

Story telling

Preparation

You will need one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students.

1 Lead in by writing the following words on the board and asking students what connects them: *Amazon, explorer, expedition, Andean mountains*
Ask students to predict the picture story they are going to look at.

2 Hand out the worksheets. Ask students to look at the first two pictures and ask, *Who is the story about? Where does it take place?* Then ask students to look at pictures 3 to 8. Tell them that the pictures are not in the correct order. Ask students, *What happens on the journey?* Elicit brief ideas about the story but don't tell students what actually happened.

3 Tell students in pairs to prepare to tell the story of Isabel Godin's journey. Ask them to decide why she took the journey, who travelled with her, where she wanted to get to, what happened on the journey, and what happened in the end. Tell them to put pictures 3 to 8 in any order they wish to tell the story.

Extra activity

Brainstorm or put on the board some useful language to help students:
set out head for canoe suffer from disease wander alone

4 In pairs, students decide what happens in their story then write the story. Allow them twenty minutes to do this, and monitor to help with ideas and vocabulary.

When they have finished, tell the students that one person in each pair is going to read out the story to the class. Tell them to practise reading out their stories before telling them to the class.

Extra activity

Revise the techniques involved in engaging an audience (*Life Advanced Student's Book* page 64).

5 Ask a few students to read out their stories. In feedback, discuss differences between the stories, and decide, as a class, which story was most exciting, most well-written, and best read out. At the end, tell students the true story with the events in the correct order (see below):

In 1769, Isabel Godin set off on a 3,000 mile journey from her home in Riobamba, in what is now Ecuador, to Tabatinga, in what is now Brazil. She was heading there to meet a ship that would take her to French Guiana to meet up with her husband who she had not seen for twenty years.

Isabel set off with an expedition party of 42, including her son, her two brothers, her nephew, her three servants, and over thirty native Americans. They trekked across the Andes mountains. Then they persuaded two natives to build them a canoe and they sailed down the river. One of their party drowned when he fell overboard trying to pull a hat from the river. They trekked through the rainforest, but infections from insect bites killed all the Europeans in the expedition, except for Isabel.

Isabel walked through the forest alone, for nine days, starving. Fortunately, she met some native people who helped her to reach the ship that was waiting for her. She survived her ordeal and, in July 1770, she met up with her husband again.