



Grades 3-5 Resource Guide

WHO IS POPE FRANCIS?

Who is Pope Francis?

- Born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936
- Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- He was baptized on Christmas Day, 1936
- Went to school to study chemistry
- He felt like God wanted him to be a priest so he prayed and studied to become a priest
- Ordained as a priest on December 13, 1969
- He became a bishop 25 years later
- He was elected to be pope on March 13, 2013
- The first pope from the Americas
- He speaks four languages: Spanish, Italian, English, French, and German
- He likes to cook
- Enjoys pizza and ice cream
- Soccer is his favorite sport

Suggested Activities:

- Create a storyboard using selected facts of the Pope's life. (Each frame might include a picture, or symbol as well as textual material.)
- Design a commemorative plate in honor of the Holy Father. Paste a picture of Pope Francis in the center of a paper plate. Add radiating lines each highlighting a fact about him.
- Make a "Most Wanted" page on the life of Jorge Bergoglio. Timeline his journey to becoming pope including his likes and interests.
- Study the meaning of the papal coat of arms and have each student make a personal coat of arms. Discuss with students different faith symbols and a motto they might want to include on their Coat of Arms. The symbols and motto should represent what they think is most important in a faith life. Students can then share their coat of arms in small groups.

- Locate Argentina on a map of the world. Identify five important places in the Pope's life or five facts about the country of Argentina
- Have students research the history and geography of Vatican City. Design a travel brochure entitled "A Visit to Vatican City." Consider the following facts about about Vatican City: It is located in Rome, Italy. It takes an hour to walk around the entire country. There are 1,000 residents who are mostly male. It contains a supermarket, library, railroad, pharmacy, department store, post office, gas station, and museums. The most important building is St. Peter's Basilica. St. Peter's is so large it would hold 6 football fields. The Basilica is where the pope celebrates Mass. Underneath the Basilica there is actually another church. This is known as the Tomb of the Popes. Archeological excavation has recently revealed the tomb of St. Peter to be directly below the main altar of the Basilica.

Related Enrichment Resources:

- <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/biography/documents/papa-francesco-biografia-bergoglio.html>
- <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/index.cfm>
- <http://www.vaticanstate.va/content/vaticanstate/en.html>