

## E. T. - A LOCAL WAY OF LEARNING

**Title:** CLASS SOCIOGRAM

**Author:** Jane Ducey  
Eulalie R. Rivera Elementary School

**Grade Level:** 3-6

**Concepts:** 2. Ecosystem  
3. Carrying Capacity  
11. Individual Acts

**Disciplines:** 1. Social Studies  
2. Art  
3. Language Arts

**Objective:**

Students shall make an attractive bulletin board display which shows the birthplaces of the student and his/her parents at a glance, and the composition of the class as a whole.

**Rationale:**

Since 1960 the population of the Virgin Islands has more than tripled; between 1835 and 1950, native born residents comprised roughly 70-80 percent of the population, while today the resident-born ratio is less than 40 percent. Students seem to enjoy this "pictograph" of their roots and want the display to remain on the bulletin board a long time. No two classes are ever the same.

**Materials Needed:**

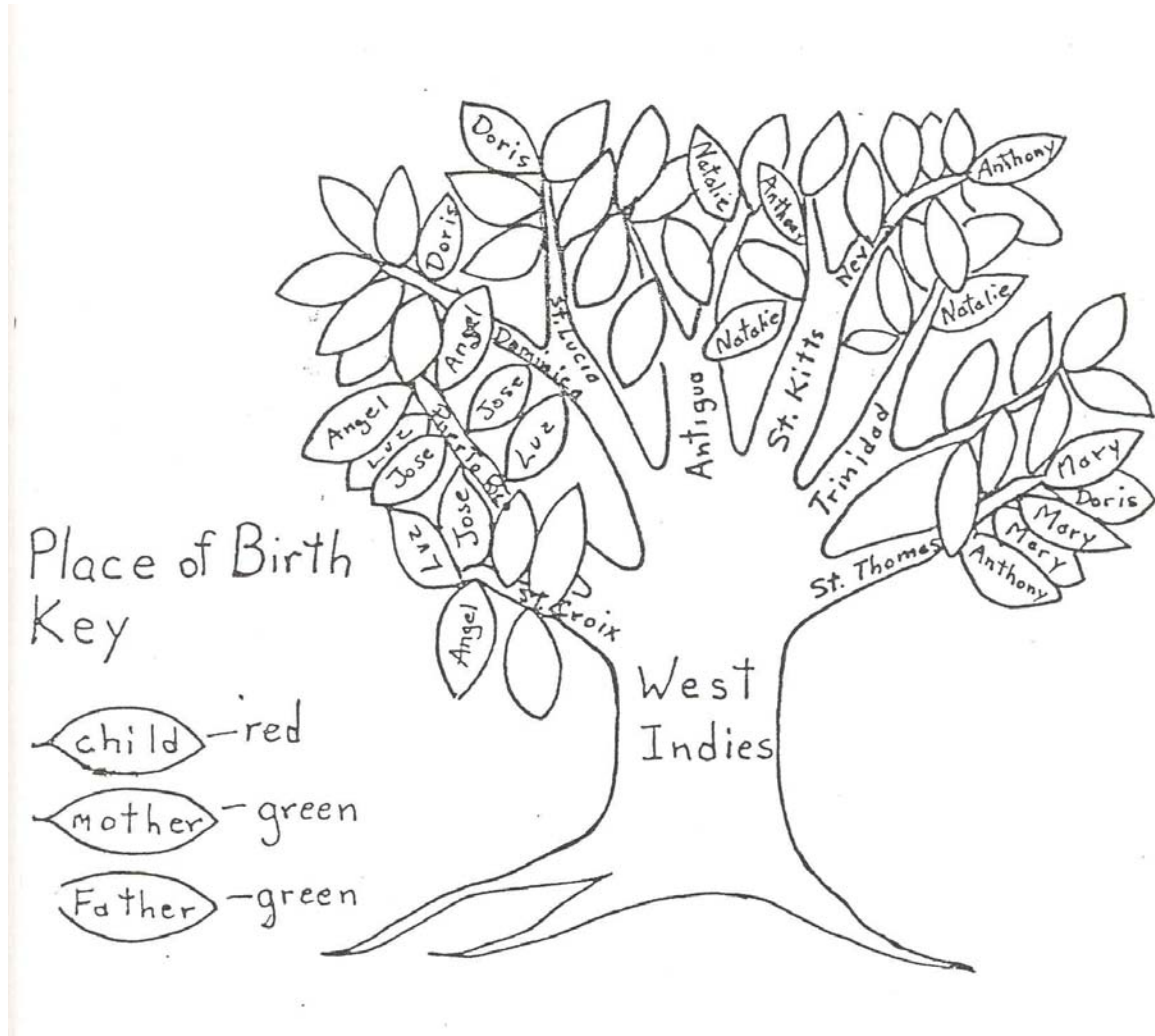
Construction paper, the colors black, green, and red make a smashing display against a background of yellow. Leaf shaped patterns. A black felt pen, stapler. Before you can construct the tree, you will need to know from each student where he/she was born, and where each of his/her parents was born.

**Activity:**

Cover the bulletin board with yellow construction paper. Several students can work together to draw a fat Baobab tree trunk with as many branches as there are islands of birth of students and parents. Each student will cut out three leaves, using the pattern, one in red for his place of birth, and two in green for his parents' birth places. He will then write his own first name on each leaf. The tree will be labeled West Indies on the trunk. Limbs to be labeled with the names of the islands or place of birth of each child and each parent. The student will then staple his three leaves on the proper branches. See picture.

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Discussion might include: how it feels to be a minority in your own land. How it feels to be away from your home if you are a recent arrival. How many generations of Hispanic persons are on St. Croix, or how many generations of French persons are on St. Thomas, etc. Why are there so many more people today? (People living longer) (Triumph over diseases of young people) You might assign essays on any of the above subjects, or poems.



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DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. How does it feel to be a minority in your own land?
2. How it feels to be away from your home if you are a recent arrival'.
3. How many generations of Hispanic persons are on St. Croix, or how many generations of French persons are on St. Thomas?
4. Why are there so many more people on the Virgin Islands today?
5. In what ways has the environment of the Virgin Islands changed since 1960?
  - a. St. Thomas
  - b. St. John
  - C. St. Croix
6. What are some of the environmental concerns caused by the increase in Island populations?
  - a. St. Thomas
  - b. St. John
  - C. St. Croix