Biography

LIVEWORKSHEETS

While reading you have to highlight the words you do not understand.

Eloy Alfaro "The Old Warrior"

José Eloy Alfaro Delgado (1842–1912), often referred to as "The Old Warrior" (El Viejo Luchador), was one of Ecuador's most influential political leaders and a key figure in the country's **liberal** movement. Born on June 25, 1842, in Montecristi, a small town in the coastal province of Manabí, Alfaro grew up in a politically turbulent era. From a young age, he was drawn to the ideals of liberalism, which emphasized **secularism**, modernization, and social justice. His early involvement in **revolutionary** activities against conservative governments earned him a reputation as a fierce and determined leader. Alfaro spent years in exile, organizing resistance and building alliances, which prepared him for his eventual rise to power.



Alfaro's most significant contributions came during his two terms as president of Ecuador (1895–1901 and 1906–1911). He led the Liberal Revolution of 1895, which marked a turning point in Ecuador's history. Alfaro sought to modernize the country by reducing the power of the **Catholic** Church, promoting secular education, and building infrastructure, such as the iconic Guayaquil-Quito railway, which connected the coast to the highlands. His reforms also included the separation of church and state, the introduction of civil marriage and divorce, and the establishment of public schools. These changes were deeply controversial and faced strong opposition from **conservative** forces, but they laid the foundation for a more progressive and inclusive Ecuador.

Despite his achievements, Alfaro's later years were marked by political strife and personal tragedy. After his second presidency, he faced growing opposition from both conservatives and factions within his own liberal party. In 1912, following a period of unrest, Alfaro was arrested and imprisoned in Quito. On January 28, 1912, he and several of his supporters were brutally murdered by a mob, an event known as the "Hogueras de Barbarie" (Barbaric Bonfires). Alfaro's death was a dark moment in Ecuadorian history, but his legacy as a champion of liberalism, modernization, and social justice endures. Today, he is remembered as a national hero and a symbol of the struggle for a more equitable and progressive society.

Objective: To provide a comprehensive and engaging biography of José Eloy Alfaro Delgado, highlighting his pivotal role in Ecuador's Liberal Revolution, his transformative reforms, and his enduring legacy as a national hero.

Before reading...

What do you know about José Eloy Alfaro and his role in Ecuador's Liberal Revolution? Why do you think he is considered one of the most important figures in Ecuador's history?

How do you think Alfaro's background as a revolutionary and his time in exile shaped his leadership style and political vision for Ecuador?

What do you think motivated José Eloy Alfaro to dedicate his life to revolutionary struggles and political reform in Ecuador?

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Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Eloy Alfaro: The Old Warrior's Legacy"

Instructions:

Work in groups and reflect on the impact of Eloy Alfaro's leadership and the Liberal Revolution in Ecuador. Discuss the following questions:

- Why was Eloy Alfaro's fight against conservative rule so significant for Ecuador's development? What changes did he bring to society?
- How did Alfaro's reforms challenge the power of the Catholic Church and the traditional elite? What resistance did he face?
- What can we learn from Alfaro's tragic death? How did his assassination impact Ecuador's political landscape and historical memory?

Create:
Write a Speech: Imagine you are a supporter of Eloy Alfaro during his presidency. Write a short speech defending his reforms and vision for Ecuador. Consider his contributions to education, infrastructure, and civil rights.

Presentation:
Share your speech with the class, taking turns presenting then discuss how Alfaro's legacy continues to influence Ecuador today.

Read again and then answer the following questions:

Why do you think Eloy Alfaro was called "El Viejo Luchador" (The Old Warrior)? *How did this nickname reflect his leadership and struggles?*

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How did Alfaro's reforms change Ecuadorian society, particularly in terms of education, religion, and civil rights?

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Why do you think Alfaro faced so much opposition from conservative elites and the Catholic Church? *What were the main points of conflict between them?*

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How did the construction of the Guayaquil-Quito railway symbolize Alfaro's vision for Ecuador? *What economic and political impacts did it have?*

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What were the consequences of Alfaro's assassination in 1912? How did his death affect Ecuador's political stability and the future of the Liberal Revolution?

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- **Write** how is Eloy Alfaro's legacy reflected in modern-day Ecuador, and what aspects of his vision continue to shape the nation today?

Key Words

Liberal

Secularism

Revolutionary

Catholic

Conservative

What If...?

What if Eloy Alfaro had never led the Liberal Revolution? How might Ecuador's political and social landscape have evolved under continued conservative rule?

What if Alfaro had not been assassinated in 1912? How might his continued leadership have shaped Ecuador's future? Would his reforms have been more enduring?

What if Alfaro's ideas had spread more widely across Latin America? Could he have influenced liberal movements in another countries?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Manuela Cañizares: The Brave Woman

Manuela Cañizares was born in 1769 in Quito, in the Spanish Viceroyalty of New Granada. She grew up in a well-educated and **privileged** family, which gave her access to knowledge and intellectual circles that were **uncommon** for women at the time. Her education and independent spirit allowed her to develop strong political awareness and a passion for literature, making her an influential figure in Quito's social scene. As tensions against Spanish colonial rule grew, Manuela became deeply involved in the revolutionary movement, using her influence to support the cause of **independence**.



On the night of August 9, 1809, Manuela hosted a secret meeting in her home, gathering key independence leaders such as Juan Pío Montúfar, Antonio Ante, and José Joaquín de Olmedo. This historic **gathering**, known as the Conspiracy of Quito, led to Ecuador's first declaration of independence on August 10, 1809. When some revolutionaries hesitated, fearing Spanish retaliation, Manuela boldly rebuked them, declaring, "Cowards! Men born to serve! What are you afraid of?" Her **determination** inspired the group to act, marking the first step in Ecuador's long fight for freedom.



Although the 1809 revolution was crushed, and many of its leaders were executed, Manuela Cañizares' bravery left a lasting mark on Ecuador's history. She was later **imprisoned** and died under mysterious circumstances, but her role in the independence movement cemented her as a national heroine. Today, she is honored as a symbol of courage and resistance, with streets, schools, and institutions **bearing** her name. Her legacy continues to inspire Ecuadorians, particularly as a reminder of the crucial role women played in the fight for independence.

Objective: To understand the pivotal role of Manuela Cañizares in Ecuador's independence movement, recognizing her contributions to the Primer Grito de Independencia and the broader fight for freedom, while also highlighting the significance of women's participation in historical revolutions.

Before reading...

What do you know about Manuela Cañizares and her role in Ecuador's independence movement? Why do you think she is remembered as a key figure in the country's history?

How do you think her decision to host the secret meeting on August 9, 1809, influenced the fight for independence? What risks do you think she faced as a woman involved in revolutionary activities?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Manuela Cañizares: The Woman Behind the Revolution"

Instructions:

Work in groups and reflect on the impact of Manuela Cañizares' bravery and leadership in Ecuador's path to independence. Discuss the following questions:

- Why was Manuela Cañizares' role in the independence movement so important for Ecuador? How did her actions help shape the country's future?
- How did Cañizares defy the gender norms of her time by becoming an active participant in political movements?
- What lessons can we learn from Cañizares' courage and her involvement in the Primer Grito de Independencia?

Create:
Design a poster about Manuela Cañizares' life and achievements. Use visuals, quotes, and key facts to showcase her role in the fight for independence.

Presentation:
Present your poster to the class, explaining how Manuela Cañizares helped change Ecuador's history and why her legacy is important.

Read again and then answer the following questions:

What motivated Manuela Cañizares to host the secret meeting at her home and urge the revolutionaries to act? *How did her actions influence the early stages of Ecuador's independence?*

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Why do you think Manuela Cañizares' story is significant in understanding the role of women in Ecuador's independence movement? *How does her contribution challenge the traditional view of women's roles during that time?*

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How would you describe Manuela Cañizares' leadership style based on her involvement in the independence movement? *What qualities made her a key figure in Ecuador's fight for freedom?*

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How did Manuela Cañizares defy the expectations of women during her time? What made her stand out as a leader in the fight for independence?

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- **Write** how does the **legacy** of Manuela Cañizares, the woman behind the revolution, continue to inspire or influence the role of women in Ecuador's society and politics today?

Key Words

Privileged

Uncommon

Independence

Gathering

Determination

Imprisoned

Bearing

What If...?

What if Manuela Cañizares had not hosted the secret meeting in her home? How might the events of the Primer Grito de Independencia have unfolded without her involvement?

What if Manuela Cañizares had been discovered by the Spanish authorities before the independence movement gained momentum? How might her arrest have affected the revolution?

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Jefferson Pérez: A Champion of Perseverance

Jefferson Pérez, born on July 24, 1974, in Cuenca, Ecuador, is one of the most celebrated **athletes** in the country's history. From an early age, he showed a deep interest in athletics, particularly in race walking, a sport that requires immense physical **endurance** and mental focus. His passion and **dedication** paid off when he became the first Ecuadorian to win an Olympic gold medal, achieving this historic feat at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, where he triumphed in the 20 km race walk. This victory was not just a personal achievement, but also a moment of national pride, as it marked Ecuador's first-ever gold medal in the Olympics.

Throughout his career, Pérez faced numerous challenges, including intense competition and the pressure to maintain high **performance**. However, his resilience and commitment to sport led him to success on multiple international stages. In addition to his Olympic gold, he won four World Race Walking Championship medals and numerous other titles. His career was characterized by remarkable consistency, as he continued to perform at an elite level for over a decade, proving his status as one of the world's best race walkers. His victory in Atlanta was a turning point for Ecuadorian athletics and has continued to inspire generations of athletes in the country.

After retiring from competitive athletics, Jefferson Pérez remained active in promoting sports and youth development in Ecuador. He has served as an **ambassador** for various sports initiatives, encouraging young people to take up athletics and pursue their dreams. Pérez's legacy goes beyond his medals; he is a symbol of hard work, perseverance, and the power of sports to unite a nation. His achievements continue to inspire not just aspiring athletes, but all Ecuadorians who look up to his example of dedication and success against the odds.



Objective: To understand the journey and achievements of Jefferson Pérez, explore the impact of his Olympic victory on Ecuadorian sports, and recognize the values of perseverance and dedication in his career.

Before reading...

What do you know about Jefferson Pérez and his achievements as an Olympic athlete? Why do you think he is considered one of Ecuador's greatest sports heroes?

How do you think Jefferson Pérez's Olympic victory in 1996 impacted the perception of sports in Ecuador and inspired future generations of athletes?

What do you know about Jefferson Pérez's career as a race walker and his significance in Ecuador's sports history?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Jefferson Pérez: The Race for Gold and Glory"

Instructions:

Work in groups and reflect on the impact of Pérez's Olympic victory and his contribution to Ecuador's sports culture. Discuss the following:

- Why was Jefferson Pérez's Olympic gold medal so significant for Ecuador? How did his achievement inspire the nation?
- How did Pérez's dedication to race walking defy expectations and make him a role model for future generations of athletes?
- What lessons can we learn from Jefferson Pérez's perseverance and commitment to excellence?

Create:
Design a detailed timeline that chronicles Jefferson Pérez's journey in the world of athletics, from his early life in Cuenca to his Olympic victory in 1996.

Presentation:
Present your Jefferson Pérez's timeline and explain each chapter of this life and discuss why is important.

Read again and then answer the following questions:

What obstacles did Jefferson Pérez face in his early life and career, and how did he overcome them to achieve his Olympic success?

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Why do you think Jefferson Pérez's gold medal in the 1996 Olympics was so significant for Ecuador? *How did it impact the country's perception of athletics?*

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How did Jefferson Pérez's dedication to his sport reflect his values and his contribution to Ecuador's national pride?

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In what ways do you think Jefferson Pérez's legacy continues to influence Ecuadorian athletes today?

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- **Write** in which ways does Jefferson Pérez's **legacy** as a champion of perseverance and excellence continue to inspire future generations in Ecuador and beyond?

Key Words

Athletes

Endurance

Dedication

Performance

Ambassador

What If...?

What if Jefferson Pérez had not pursued race walking as a career? How might his achievements and influence in Ecuador's sports history have been different?

What if Pérez had not won the Olympic gold in 1996? How do you think this would have impacted Ecuador's pride and involvement in international sports?

What if race walking was not recognized as a competitive sport in the Olympics? Would Pérez's talent and achievements have been celebrated as they are today?

LIVEWORKSHEETS