

Español 4

May 15, 2020



Objective

In this lesson, we will learn about the Cinco De Mayo:
5 Myths And Facts to Marvel You

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Learning Target:

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognize what is a myth or a real fact about 5 de mayo celebration

(Bell ringer):

¿Qué celebramos el 5 de mayo, los mexicanos?



Lesson/Activity



Cinco de Mayo Myth #01: It's the Mexican Independence Day

The Cinco de Mayo is not the Mexican equivalent to the Fourth of July (that's the 16th of September for us by the way). Cinco de Mayo is about "La Batalla de Puebla" (The battle of Puebla) of 1862.

While we do care for the day of our Independence from the Spanish influence, the battle that Cinco de Mayo celebrates actually took place decades later in an unrelated conflict against the French under Napoleon the Third. Yes, the French.

It was a very significant moral boost in the sense that a rag-tag team of indigenous warriors and poorly armed Mexicans soldiers defeated what was considered at the time as the strongest military force ever to exist...except said victory was completely irrelevant to us Mexicans in the long-term.

Lesson/Activity



Cinco de Mayo Myth #02: It's an important historical event

For the Americans? Yes. For the French? Maybe. For the Mexicans? Not so much. Long story short? Napoleon the Third wanted to create a buffer state in Mexico in order to fight against the ongoing expansionism of the USA and to help the Confederate army during the American Civil War. The Cinco de Mayo history is definitely an interesting one.

Mexico was never the real objective and yet, the French came back two years later after the Cinco de Mayo and defeated us to oblivion. Did you know that for a couple of years we were actually ruled by Maximilian of Habsburg?

Yes, a pale Austrian dude was the Emperor of México for a short-time. Can you believe it?

Lesson/Activity



Cinco de Mayo Myth #03: It's a big holiday here in Mexico

Other than the traditional recreation of the Battle of Puebla in the forts located within said city, most (all?) Mexicans only care about the fact that there's no school and that in some years, you can combine this holiday with Labor Day (1st of May) to create a big weekend getaway.

Why is Cinco de Mayo so important in the USA then?

It's simple: If it wasn't because the fact that we Mexicans delayed the French invasion, the French would have arrived to the continent in a crucial year (1862) of the civil war and would have undoubtedly turned the tide in favor of the Confederate Army. You're welcome, ¡Estados Unidos!

Lesson/Activity

Cinco de Mayo Myth #04: The good guys defeated the bad guys



As you all know, history is very relative and falls to a grey area. Before the French invasion, Mexico had an ongoing civil war between the conservative and the liberal party (think of it as a battle between democrats and republicans if you will), the liberals, led by Benito Juarez, Mexico's one and only Indigenous President, wanted to break all ties with the catholic church and to bring Mexico to a new era of enlightenment. The conservative party, led by the guy who would eventually become Maximilian's right hand, wanted to embrace the same imperialist model that had existed during colonial times and to bring an European noble to govern the country in order to bring Mexico to a new era of enlightenment.

The civil war ended in 1867, 5 years after the Cinco de Mayo. Juarez's forces won against Maximilian's army thanks to the fact that Napoleon the Third withdrew his troops in preparation for his decisive battle against Prussia.

So what happened to the Austrian usurper? Benito Juarez wisely responded injustice with mercy as he pardoned Maximilian and...wait, who am I kidding? We totally executed that pale guy in cold blood. Viva Mexico, uh?

Lesson/Activity



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Cinco de Mayo Myth #05: It's a day to celebrate the Mexican heritage in America

Yes and no. While I do understand the importance that the Cinco de Mayo has in the Mexican communities that inhabit the USA, I fear that this celebration has become a sort of cultural appropriation used as an excuse for Americans to drink tequila and wear a colorful sombrero (which, by the way, belong to another era of Mexican history, that is, the 1910 Mexican Revolution).

Do I mind?

I do not think so. I just want people to understand what Cinco de Mayo is about and how it has received the Christmas effect. Did you know that one of my little cousins once told me that Christmas was about celebrating the birth of Santa Claus? Oh my!

Practice for Student

Te toca a ti



Write 5 important things you learned about 5 de mayo

Myths

1. _____
2. _____
- _____

Facts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Practice for Student



[Un video interesante](#)

**Con Cariño las maestras Cuquita, Dora y Jessica.
Los extrañamos. 😊**

[A bailar](#)