

# Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is a day of national pride, filled with parties, parades, music, and lots of food. On this day, Mexicans remember their victory at the Battle of Puebla, fought on May 5, 1862. During this battle, more than 6,000 French soldiers had come to take over the village of Puebla. No one thought the small Mexican army of just 2,000 soldiers could beat the well-trained French, but they did! The victory showed the French that the Mexican people would not give up easily, and the Mexican President, Benito Juarez, said that May 5 would forever be a national holiday. Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in both the United States and Mexico.

## Essential Vocabulary

**battle** – a fight that takes place during a war, usually over land or natural resources

**fiesta** – a party or celebration, usually for a holiday

**piñata** – a papier mâché decoration, filled with toys and candy

**comida** – the biggest meal of the day

**amigo/amiga** – Spanish words for friend

## Lesson Starters

### Throw a Fiesta

Have students help create a menu for a Mexican fiesta. Do research through books or the Internet to help find authentic foods and games to be played. Ask parents if they would like to help with food or decorations.

- [Cinco de Mayo — A Fiesta of Fun!](#)
- [Let's Have a Fiesta!](#)

## Resource Connection

### [Cinco de Mayo: Everything You Need](#)

Visit this link to information and activities that will help your class celebrate Mexican history and culture.

### Activities

#### [Celebrate Hispanic Heritage](#)

Interactive timelines, web hunts, and other resources to teach students about the cultures and contributions of Latinos in the U.S.



### [Cinco de Mayo: La Celebración Matemática!](#)

Festive math activities and ideas to help you celebrate this important day in Mexican history.

### [Internet Field Trip: Celebrate Mexico](#)

This Internet field trip introduces students to the cultures and history of Mexico.

### Unit Plans

#### [Let's Discover Mexico!](#)

Students will discover Mexican culture, crafts, and cuisine with hands-on projects.

#### [Magnificent Mexico](#)

This unit plan was created from a teacher's experiences backpacking in central Mexico. Includes classroom crafts.

### Nonfiction Passage with Questions

#### [Cinco de Mayo-May 5!](#)

#### [Spanish Bingo from \*Monthly Idea Book: May\*](#)

Use this game as a fun way to incorporate new Spanish vocabulary into your classroom. Vocabulary includes family members, greetings, days of the week, colors, numbers, and other common words. Directions for making salsa and quesadillas in the classroom are also provided.

#### [Whiteboard Activity: Piñata Concentration Game](#)

Use this interactive concentration game on your whiteboard to help students learn Spanish vocabulary.

### Bulletin Board Ideas

#### [Cinco de Mayo](#)

#### [Book List for Teaching About Mexico](#)