

Cinco de Mayo - Time to Celebrate!



Cinco de Mayo means the 5th of May in Spanish. Many people think that Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican Independence Day. But it isn't. Mexico actually celebrates Independence Day on September 16th. On that day in 1810, Mexico declared independence from Spain. They decided the people in Mexico would have their own government instead of being ruled by the Spanish government.

So, what does Cinco de Mayo celebrate? This holiday celebrates a difficult battle with the French. The Mexican army beat the French in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. The French thought they would win. After all, they had more people and better weapons. But even with less, the Mexicans were very brave. And they defeated the French. It was a great reason to celebrate!

Today, Cinco de Mayo is more popular in America than it is in Mexico. It has

come to represent much more than the Battle of Puebla. Mexican-Americans celebrate with parades and parties to honor their heritage. It is also a chance for Mexican-Americans to share their culture and traditions with others. On this day, people eat Mexican foods like chalupas. They enjoy Mexican dance and listen to mariachi music. This music is a special style of Mexican folk music.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Cinco de Mayo celebrate?

- A. Mexican Independence Day
- B. the number five
- C. Mexico's win against France in the difficult Battle of Puebla

2. What does the text describe?

- A. how Mexican-Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo
- B. why the Battle of Puebla was fought between Mexico and France
- C. the government Mexicans created after declaring independence from Spain

3. Read the following sentences from the text:

"Mexican-Americans celebrate with parades and parties to honor their heritage. It is also a chance for Mexican-Americans to share their culture and traditions with others. On this day, people eat Mexican foods like chalupas. They enjoy Mexican dance and listen to mariachi music. This music is a special style of Mexican folk music."

Based on this information, what can be concluded about Cinco de Mayo in America?

- A. In America, the holiday has become a way to honor Mexican soldiers that have died in wars.
- B. In America, the holiday has become a way to celebrate Mexico's skill in fighting difficult battles.
- C. In America, the holiday has become a way to celebrate Mexican heritage and culture.

4. Mexico defeated France in the Battle of Puebla. Why was this win very impressive?

- A. France had better soldiers and generals. It took a lot of skill to beat them.
- B. France was fighting from a better location. It took a lot of effort to beat them.
- C. France had more people and better weapons. It took a lot of bravery to beat them.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. On September 16th, 1810, Mexico declared independence from Spain. They decided the people in Mexico would have their own government instead of being ruled by the Spanish government.

B. Cinco de Mayo is a holiday that celebrates Mexico's win against the French in a difficult battle. But in America, the holiday is more popular as it has become a chance to celebrate Mexican heritage and culture.

C. France fought Mexico in the Battle of Puebla with more people and better weapons. However, the Mexicans were very brave, and they defeated the French with less.