

CELEBRATIONS

Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May)

Age: Adults

Level: pre-intermediate - intermediate (A2 / B1)

Time: 60–90 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. read a text about Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May);
2. work with the language involved;
3. do a Mexico quiz in teams.

Language focus: vocabulary related to *Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May)*, and the language involved in writing specific questions.

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student. You only need to make one copy of the last page (for the quiz master). Internet access to see Cinco de Mayo images.

Procedure

1. Warmer

Students first match the words 1–5 with the descriptions f–j.

Then, ask if the students can come up with the names of any other things that they connect with Mexico, and, if possible, they should say what these things are.

E.g. Tequila – it is a very popular Mexican drink

Key:

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. a
5. b

2. Key words and expressions

Students first read the underlined words in the texts. Then they read the definitions and decide which of these underlined words in the texts they describe. Then they write the words from the texts on the lines next to the descriptions.

Key:

1. sauce
2. in return
3. re-enact
4. neighbours

5. especially

6. victory

7. advertises

8. festival

9. independence

10. parades

3. Understanding the texts

Students decide whether the sentences are true or false and try to correct any that are false to make them true.

Key:

1. False. It is Spanish for the fifth (5th) of May.
2. False. It celebrates the victory of the Mexicans over the French army at the Battle of Puebla on 5th May 1862.
3. True.
4. True.
5. True.
6. False. They often use Cinco de Mayo as an opportunity to teach their pupils about their neighbours in Mexico.
7. False. Mole poblano is a thick sauce made from green chili peppers and chocolate. It comes from Puebla in Mexico, so it is connected with this festival.
8. True.

4. Using the key words and phrases

a. Students complete the sentences using some of the key words and phrases from task 2.

Key:

1. in return
2. sauce
3. neighbours
4. parades
5. especially
6. festival

5. Web task & discussion

Students search for online images using the words: *Cinco de Mayo* and name the things that they see – if possible using the words from task 1 and the texts. Ask them to say what most of the images show. Would they like to attend a Cinco de Mayo celebration? What would they like the most or the least at the celebration?

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6. Quiz – 20 questions about Mexico

Give the question and answer sheet to just one student in the class. This student is the quiz master. He or she will read out the questions while the others listen and write the answers. The quiz master should not give the answers until the end of the quiz.

Put the students into teams of 2 – 4. Tell them that the quiz master will read the questions one at a time and give them the chance to write their answers in English in their notebook. They should not say what they think the answers are until the questions have all been read out. The quiz master should repeat any questions the teams want him or her to.

Students may not use their phones to look anything up during the quiz!

The team with the most correct answers – written in English - are the winners.