

CELEBRATIONS

Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May)

1. Warmer

Join the Mexican things (1–5) with their descriptions (a–e).

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| 1. sombrero | a. colourful, fantastical animal. |
| 2. cactus | b. a container that children hit at a party so that sweets fall out. |
| 3. tortilla | c. a hat for men that is tall and wide to keep off the sun. |
| 4. alebrije | d. a tall plant that grows in the desert. |
| 5. piñata | e. thin flat Mexican bread filled with cheese, beans, or meat. |

2. Key words and expressions

Read the definitions. Then read the text and find the word that matches the definition. Look at the underlined words in the text.

- _____ a liquid food that you put on other foods to give them a special flavour
- _____ in exchange for something
- _____ when people dress up and pretend to be in a historical event such as a war
- _____ people who live very near to you
- _____ used for saying that something happens more in one place than in another
- _____ the fact of winning a battle
- _____ tells people about an event
- _____ an event that celebrates something
- _____ a time when one country becomes free from the control of another country
- _____ celebrations where large groups of people move through an area, with music and colourful vehicles

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- 1 Cinco de Mayo is a festival in the United States of America, especially in cities where many Mexican-Americans live.
- 2 Most people in the US see Cinco de Mayo as a day to go to street parades or parties that celebrate Mexican things.
- 3 It is also celebrated in the city of Puebla in Mexico, but it is not a big holiday in other parts of Mexico.
- 4 Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the Mexican people and their country. People celebrate with Mexican music, dancing, and parties with Mexican food and drinks.
- 5 It is not a public holiday in the US or Mexico. People still have to go to work and schools are not closed.
- 6 Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican victory over the French army at the Battle of Puebla on 5th May, 1862. It is not Independence Day in Mexico (this is on the sixteenth of September).
- 7 Cinco de Mayo and many large festivals and street parties get money from Mexican drinks companies. In return, the company's name is on anything that advertises the festival, and their drinks are sold there.
- 8 People eat Mexican food on Cinco de Mayo: tacos, tortillas, guacamole and mole poblano – a thick sauce made from green chili peppers and chocolate that comes from Puebla.
- 9 Every year on the fifth of May in Puebla, people re-enact the Battle of Puebla and then celebrate the Mexican victory with music, dancing and food.
- 10 On Cinco de Mayo, schools in the southern US states teach their pupils about their neighbours from the south.

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3. Understanding the texts

Is the information true or false?

Correct anything that is false.

1. Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for the fifteenth of May.

2. Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican independence from the French in 1862.

3. The festival is celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico.

4. It is a day to celebrate Mexican people and their history.

5. Mexican drinks companies use the day to advertise their beer and other drinks.

6. Schools in the southern US states do teach their pupils about Cinco de Mayo as it's not an American festival.

7. Guacamole is a Mexican food made from green chili peppers and chocolate.

8. Cinco de Mayo is a normal workday in Mexico and the US.

4. Using the key words and phrases

Use some of the key words and phrases from task 2 to complete these sentences.

1. Diane lent John her car for the weekend, and _____ he fixed her computer.
2. My kids love to eat spaghetti with tomato _____ and parmesan cheese.
3. Our _____ are on holiday this week and so we are looking after their goldfish.
4. You cannot drive down this road today. It's closed because of the _____.
5. I like all animals, but I _____ like horses.
6. There's a big music _____ at the farm this weekend. Are you going?

5. Web task & discussion

Do an online image search with the words: *Cinco de Mayo*. Talk about what you see.

Answer these questions:

Would you like to attend a Cinco de Mayo celebration? What do you think you would most like / not like about it?

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6. Quiz – 20 questions about Mexico

Do the quiz in teams.

One student should be the quiz master and read the questions.

The teams write their answers in their notebook.

At the end, read the answers out loud to check which team are the experts.

Questions:

1. What are the main colours on the Mexican flag?
2. How many people live in Mexico? More or less than 100 million?
3. Is Mexico in north or south America?
4. Which country borders Mexico to the north?
5. Which two countries border Mexico to the south?
6. What is the drink tequila made from? Cactus, agave, or pineapples?
7. What colour is guacamole? Why?
8. Which of these is a Mexican festival: Easter bunny day, the day of the dead, or donkey racing day?
9. What bird is on the Mexican flag: the black hawk, the golden eagle, or the red parrot?
10. What animal does not live in Mexico: the wolf, the tiger, the spider monkey?
11. What is the main language in Mexico?
12. What is the name given to traditional Mexican music: Mariachi, maracas, mandolin?
13. What is the name of the sea to the east of Mexico?
14. Is Mexico north or south of the equator (the line around the centre of the earth)?
15. What is a saguaro? A car, a house, a cactus?
16. Frida Kahlo was a famous Mexican...?
17. What is the name of Mexico's capital?
18. Which colour of chili pepper is hotter: red, green or yellow?
19. What is the main crop in Mexico: apples, corn or potatoes?
20. The world's biggest *what* is in Mexico: castle, church or pyramid?

Key:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Green, white and red. | 11. Spanish. |
| 2. More. It's about 130 million. | 12. Mariachi. |
| 3. North America. | 13. The Gulf of Mexico. |
| 4. The United States of America. | 14. It is north of the equator. |
| 5. Belize and Guatemala. | 15. A cactus. |
| 6. Agave (blue agave). | 16. Artist / painter. |
| 7. Green, because it is made from avocados. | 17. Mexico City. |
| 8. The day of the dead. | 18. Green. |
| 9. The golden eagle. | 19. Corn / maize. |
| 10. The tiger. | 20. Pyramid. |