

Set Title: Cinco de Mayo

Source One

The Fifth of May

Justin Clark

Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for “the 5th of May.” There was a time when Texas was a part of Mexico. The Mexican heritage is strong in this area, so Texas celebrates this Mexican holiday. Many cities throughout Texas have parties, parades, and festivals in celebration of Mexico’s military victory.

On May 5, 1862, four thousand Mexican soldiers fought the French infantry in Puebla, Mexico. This army was much larger than their own so they were excited when they won. Every year this day is celebrated to remember the great victory.

It began when the French landed in Mexico to collect money Mexico owed them. The President was Benito Juarez. He also owed money to the Spanish and English who were also there to collect, but he made deals with them so they left. On the other hand, the French stayed because they wanted to rule the Mexican empire. They invaded Mexico by attacking Mexico City from the west.

The Mexicans waited for them under the command of a General from Texas and Colonel Diaz. Diaz took his soldiers on horseback to meet the French. They fought but the French could not defeat the Mexicans.

The French infantry that were left tried to fight, but a thunderstorm came. This storm caused the cattle to stampede. Many French soldiers were killed and hurt as the rest were chased away by the cattle. The Mexicans had won the battle.

Cinco de Mayo is now a celebration of freedom. It is a time when the people of Mexico remember standing up for liberty.

Vocabulary

Infantry-soldiers fighting on foot.

Stampede-a sudden rush of a large group of animals running.

Heritage-belongs to a person at birth and has been handed down.

Customs passed down to generations.

Source Two

Fiesta Texas!
Austin Caldwell

Texas was once part of Mexico. This connection gives it a Mexican heritage causing many Texans to follow Mexican traditions. One tradition Texas enjoys is Cinco de Mayo. Cities throughout Texas hold celebrations. San Marcos has a parade at 10 a.m. Austin holds a 5K. San Antonio is the city most closely linked to Mexico, so they hold the greatest number of celebrations.

It doesn't matter where you are in Texas, you can count on celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Last year I was visiting San Antonio in May. To my surprise, on May 5th the city came alive. My uncle took me, his favorite nephew, to a festival downtown. I got dressed thinking it was no big deal. Boy was I wrong. When we pulled up I could see red, white, and green everywhere. People were dressed in traditional Mexican clothing. We walked up to the Market Square and there was a concert going on. I was a little hungry, but this wasn't a problem. I have never seen so many vendors selling Mexican foods. I had a chalupas. They were fried tortillas topped with salsa, meat, onion, and cheese. My taste buds went wild! As I ate I watched girls dance in colorful dresses with full skirts. There were so many events going on around me I did not know where to look. When the parade began making its way down Center Street it was like a sea of color. The costumes and floats were a great way to celebrate Mexico. I must say, I was impressed with this festival.

Source Three

Plan A Cinco de Mayo Party

Many people in the United States throw a Cinco de Mayo party. This is a great time to celebrate the Mexican culture. If you can't actually be in Mexico, then throw a party. Let's see what is needed for a Mexican fiesta.

1. **Invitations:** Send out Mexican themed party invitations to guests.
2. **Decorations:** The flag of Mexico is red, white, and green. These colors can be seen in many Mexican restaurants. Use these colors all over the party space. Chili peppers are another great way to add a festive touch.
3. **Mexican Food:** Cinco de Mayo party foods include nachos. You can serve different dips such as salsa, queso, or guacamole. Quesadillas are easy to make using tortillas and cheese. Beef tacos are another favorite. You can let people choose their own toppings.
4. **Party Music:** Set the mood with mariachi music.
5. **Games:** A piñata is a must for any party. You can buy one or make your own. Fill it with candy and your guests will be excited to participate.

Have a fun time celebrating Cinco de Mayo!

Directions:

Many Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Pretend you are going to a Cinco de Mayo celebration and must explain to someone what this is. Inform the reader the history of Cinco de Mayo and explain how it is celebrated. Use text evidence to support your response.

Plan

B: C.A.T

M: BI1: history

BI2: celebrate

BI3: retell story

E: T.I.P

Middle Hints:

- One paragraph telling the history.
- One paragraph telling how it is celebrated.
- One paragraph doing a retell of the boy's experience at the celebration.

Don't forget to add my 2¢, text evidence phrases, a simile, words that spark, and start a sentence with an adverb.

Sample Response:

Grab your sombrero as we dance into a Cinco de Mayo fiesta! Have you ever been to a celebration like this? Cinco de Mayo is a time to celebrate a Mexican victory from long ago.

To begin with, to fully understand this celebration it is important to look at the history behind it. The passage titled “The Fifth of May” explains what took place on May 5, 1862. The French invaded because Mexico owed them money. They were hoping to take over and rule the Mexican empire. The Mexican soldiers went on horseback to fight these men. This must have been a trying time for Mexico. They were coming together to fight for their land against a strong force. Shockingly, during the battle there was a thunderstorm. The first text states that this storm frightened a large herd of cattle causing them to stampede. Not only were the French being killed by the Mexican soldiers, but then a stampede was running toward them causing Mexico to win the battle. Talk about luck! Nature was clearly on their side. Picture a fleet of cattle running toward soldiers at full speed. Unfortunately, cows don’t know what it means when soldiers wave a white flag. The history is fascinating.

Next, there are many entertaining ways to celebrate. According to the first and second sources Texas was at one time a part of Mexico. It still has a lot of Mexican heritage, so Cinco de Mayo is celebrated each year. Other states in America enjoy celebrating this day as well. “Fiesta Texas” states that cities throughout this state hold huge events such as parades and 5K runs. Strangely, some people enjoy participating in runs. Others would prefer to hold up signs encouraging those running. That is more my style. Another way to celebrate is with Cinco de Mayo parties. Source three explains decorations are often the colors found in Mexico’s flag: green, red, and white. Chili peppers are another fun theme for a party. This article also shares different types of Mexican foods that can be served such as nachos, tacos, and quesadillas. I don’t know about you, but these foods sound scrumptious to me. Loading a taco shell with meat, corn, and cheese creates an enjoyable treat. Count me in on this celebration. The text boasts that mariachi music is a great way to set the mood when celebrating this holiday. I can see myself now playing maracas while wearing a colorful sombrero. It is hard to stand still when this beat fills the air. Finally, it shares that a piñata is a fun party game that can make the party come alive. Most would agree that smacking a piñata filled with candy is fun for all ages. Celebrating Cinco de Mayo is a blast!

Finally, the passage “Fiesta Texas!” provided a great illustration of what it would be like to attend a Cinco de Mayo celebration. It tells the story of a boy visiting his uncle in Texas. They go to a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Market Square. His mind must have been filled with ideas before arriving. He was probably little nervous about what he would experience. The story goes on to show while there, he heard festive music, ate chalupas, and even watched a parade as it came down Center Street. What an amazing way to remember what happened on this day in Mexico so many years ago. This was a great way for the boy to make treasured memories. This story is an excellent example of Cinco de Mayo.

Without a doubt, Cinco de Mayo is a spectacular Mexican celebration. It is a time to remember a victory for this country. On the 5th of May, don’t forget to join others in this Mexican tradition.