Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15—October 15

Today, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 41 million people in the United States are of Hispanic origin. That's about 14 percent of us!

Learning about the contributions of Hispanic Americans, and about the cultures from which they come, will be the focal point of many classroom activities and discussions in the weeks ahead as students across the United States recognize Hispanic Heritage Month—September 15 to October 15.

But why teach about Hispanic heritage? Or, for that matter, why teach about any heritage?

Clearly, teaching about the contributions of Latinos can only help to build the self-esteem and the pride of those who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino American.

But, even more importantly, it is essential that we all learn to understand the ethnic diversity that is our country, according to Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives (Banks and Banks, 1992), integrating the cultures in classroom helps develop “ethnic literacy” in all students.

Developing ethnic literacy fosters pride in one’s own culture and a respect and appreciation for the uniqueness of others.

Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas—including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America), and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places). Some trace their roots to the Spanish explorers—who in the 1400s set out to find an easier and less costly way to trade with the Indies. Other Latinos trace their roots to the Africans who were brought as slaves to the New World. For purposes of the U.S. Census, Hispanic Americans today are identified according to the parts of the world that they or their ancestors came from, including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spain, or the nations of Central or South America.

In these pages, you will find quick facts, activities, and projects that teachers and students can use to explore Hispanic heritage. Feel free to pick and choose, and (by all means!) to adapt these ideas in any way. Use these activities as a jumping-off point for a real fiesta celebrating and honoring the contributions of Hispanic Americans! Buena suerte!
Crossword Puzzle

HISPANIC

Quick Quiz Answers

1. Whose flag has red and white stripes, a blue triangle and one white star?
   A. Mexico
   B. Puerto Rico
   C. The Cuban flag looks similar but its stripes are blue and the triangle is red.

2. On what day does Mexico celebrate its independence?
   A. May 5th
   B. September 16th
   "Diecisésis septiembre" is the day in 1810 when the struggle for independence began.

3. Whose flag has a yellow sun with a human face?
   A. Uruguay
   B. Mexico
   C. Puerto Rico
   The sun on Uruguay's flag is called the Sun of May.

4. What's in the beak of the eagle that sits in the center of the Mexican flag?
   A. an olive branch
   B. a sombrero
   C. a snake

5. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of what country?
   A. Cuba
   B. Mexico
   Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Virgin Mary. She first revealed herself to a Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, in the 16th century.

6. Which animal is native to the Andes Mountains?
   A. the horse
   B. the guinea pig
   Guineas are a favorite food in Ecuador and Peru.

7. People born in Puerto Rico are citizens of what country?
   A. the U.S.
   B. Spain
   C. Mexico
   Puerto Ricans gained U.S. citizenship in 1917.

8. According to the Census Bureau, about how many Hispanics live in the U.S.?
   A. 19 million
   B. 39 million
   Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.

9. Which is the largest group of Central Americans in the U.S.?
   A. Guatemalans
   B. Hondurans
   C. Salvadorans
   As of 2000, there were 655,000 people in the U.S. with roots in El Salvador.

10. If you had the most common Hispanic last name in the U.S., would you be named . . .
    A. Rodriguez
    B. Martinez
    C. Garcia
Educational Attainment by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1940–2005

((percent of population age 25 and older, by years of school completed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age and year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less than 5 years of elementary school</td>
<td>High school completion or higher</td>
<td>Less than 5 years of elementary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1940</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1950</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1960</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1970</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1980</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1985</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1990</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1992</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1993</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1994</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>84.9</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1995</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1996</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1997</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1998</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1999</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>87.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2000</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2001</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2002</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2003</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2005</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: (—) = not available.
1. Includes persons of Hispanic origin for years prior to 1980.
2. Data for years prior to 1993 include all persons with at least 4 years of high school.
3. Data for 1993 and later years are for persons with a bachelor’s or higher degree.

In 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (September 15–October 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>May 25 (1810)</td>
<td>Revolution Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>August 6 (1825)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>July 20 (1810)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>January 1 (1959)</td>
<td>Liberation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>February 27 (1844)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>August 10 (1809)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>November 3 (1903)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>May 14-15 (1811)</td>
<td>Independence Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>July 28 (1821)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>July 4 (1776)</td>
<td>U.S. Independence Day *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>October 12 (1492)</td>
<td>National Day **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>August 25 (1828)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>July 5 (1811)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory.
**Commemorates Christopher Columbus’s initial landing in North America on October 12, 1492.

ACTIVITY: Holiday research. Divide the class into groups and assign each group a holiday to research. Many of these holidays are celebrated today by Hispanic Americans: Cinco de Mayo, La Navidad, La Posadas, Three Kings Day, and The Day of the Dead.
Hispanic Americans By the Numbers

**POPULATION**

42.7 million
The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2005, making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 14% of the nation’s total population. (This estimate does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.)

About 1 . . . of every two people added to the nation’s population between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2005, were Hispanic.

3.3%
Percentage increase in the Hispanic population between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2005, making Hispanics the fastest-growing minority group.

**STATES AND COUNTIES**

102.6 million
The projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 24% of the nation’s total population.

64%
The percentage of Hispanic-origin people in households who are of Mexican background. Approximately 10% are of Puerto Rican background, with about 3% each of Cuban, Salvadoran and Dominican origins. The remainder are of Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origins.

27.2
Median age, in years, of the Hispanic population in 2005. This compares with 36.2 years for the population as a whole.

Hispanics in Ohio: Ohio, the total Hispanic/Latino population was 217,123 or 1.9% of the state’s 11,353,140 people. Among the Hispanic/Latino population in Ohio, 90,663 were of Mexican origin, 66,269 were of Puerto Rican origin, and 5,152 were of Cuban origin. Hispanics/Latinos who reported other origins accounted for 55,039.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

1. Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15)
2. September 15 for El Salvador
3. First Hispanic-American U.S. treasurer
4. "Mouth of the Mouse" (in Florida)
5. Please in Spanish
6. Ohio county with lowest Hispanic population
7. Explorer in Spanish
8. You're Welcome in Spanish
9. The most common Hispanic last name in the U.S.
10. 1950’s Labor Leader, Cesar
11. Ohio county with highest Hispanic population
12. First Hispanic-American to win Grand Slam championship
13. First Hispanic-American astronaut
14. Town in Texas named after St. Anthony

Statistics obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Ohio Civil Rights Commission
www.crc.ohio.gov
Quick Quiz

1. Whose flag has red and white stripes, a blue triangle and one white star?
   A. Mexico       B. Puerto Rico

2. On what day does Mexico celebrate its independence?
   A. May 5th      B. September 16th

3. Whose flag has a yellow sun with a human face?
   A. Uruguay      B. Mexico       C. Puerto Rico

4. What’s in the beak of the eagle that sits in the center of the Mexican flag?
   A. an olive branch B. a sombrero C. a snake

5. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of what country?
   A. Cuba         B. Mexico

6. Which animal is native to the Andes Mountains
   A. the horse     B. the guinea pig

7. People born in Puerto Rico are citizens of what country?
   A. the U.S.      B. Spain       C. Mexico

8. According to the Census Bureau, about how many Hispanics live in the U.S.?
   A. 18 million   B. 39 million

9. Which is the largest group of Central Americans in the U.S.?
   A. Guatemalans  B. Hondurans   C. Salvadorans

10. If you had the most common Hispanic last name in the U.S., would you be named...
    A. Rodriguez    B. Martinez   C. Garcia

---

BUSINESSES

1.6 MILLION
The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002.

Triple
The rate of growth of Hispanic-owned businesses between 1997 and 2002 (31%) compared to the national average (10%) for all businesses.

$222 billion
Revenue generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 19% from 1997.

11% of all Hispanic-owned firms were owned by people of Mexican origin.

29,184
Number of Hispanic-owned firms with receipts of $1 million or more. Nearly 3-in-10 Hispanic-owned firms operated in construction and other services, such as personal services, and repair and maintenance. Retail and wholesale trade accounted for 36% of Hispanic-owned business revenue.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

9.5 million
The number of Hispanic families who reside in the United States. Of these families, 63% include their children under 18 years old.

67%
The percentage of Hispanic families consisting of a married couple.

44%
The percentage of Hispanic families consisting of a married couple with children under the age of 18.

65%
Percentage of Hispanic children living with two parents.

22%
Percentage of population under age 5 that is Hispanic, as of July 1, 2005.

SPANISH LANGUAGE

$1 million
The number of U.S. household residents age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. household residents. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English "very well."

COMING TO AMERICA

53%
Percentage of the foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 18.3 million people.

10 million
The number of foreign-born people who were born in Mexico, by far more than any other Latin American country or any other country in the world for that matter. Other countries of birth that contribute large numbers of Hispanics are El Salvador (937,000), Cuba (925,000), the Dominican Republic (686,000), Guatemala (590,000) and Colombia (500,000). (The difference between the estimates for El Salvador and Cuba is not statistically significant.)

4 states are home to about 2 of every 3 foreign-born persons born in Latin America. Those states are California, Florida, New York, and Texas.

58%
The percentage of Hispanics age 25 and older who had at least a high school education in 2004.

12%
The percentage of the Hispanic population age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2004.

JOBS

68%
Percentage of Hispanics age 16 and older who are in the civilian labor force.

18%
The percentage of Hispanics who work in managerial, professional and related occupations. Approximately 24% of Hispanics work in service occupations, 22% in sales and office jobs, 15% in construction, extraction and maintenance jobs and 19% in production, transportation and material moving occupations.

VOTING

7.6 million
The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting—about 47%—did not change from four years earlier.

SERVING OUR COUNTRY

1.1 million
The number of Hispanic veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.
Speaking Spanish

Bilingualism
According to the 1990 United States Census, one in seven or 31.8 million people speak a language other than English in their home. In the past, second generation children were encouraged to adopt the customs, culture, and language of what was identified as the majority culture. Today, with greater recognition and celebration of cultural differences, people are more likely to maintain and share their primary language with their children and to promote bilingualism as a reflection of ethnic pride and identity.

What is Bilingualism?
Different people use the term in different ways. For some, bilingualism means an equal ability to communicate in two languages. For others, bilingualism means the ability to communicate in two languages but with the possibility of greater skills in one language.

Common Spanish phrases that you can try on your own!!

Hello! / Good morning! ¡Buenos días! /bway-nohs dee-ahs/

Good afternoon! ¡Buenas tardes! /bway-nahs tard-ays/

Good evening! / Good night ¡Buenas noches! /bway-nahs noh-chays/

Hi! / Bye! ¡Hola! / chow/

What is your name? (informal) ¿Cómo te llamas? /koh-moh tay yah-mahs/

Please. Por favor. /por fah-bor/

See you / See you later. Hasta la vista / Hasta luego. /ah-stah lah veez-tah / ah-stah loo-ay-go/

ACTIVITY #1. Geography. Locate and mark on a U.S. Map the places listed in this article.

San Antonio (Texas): “Saint Anthony” (of Padua). On the feast day of St. Anthony in 1691, Spanish explorers found and named the eponymous river. Later the name was given to the city, which was founded in 1718.

San Francisco (California): “Saint Francis” (of Assisi). The city by the bay was once a Mexican village named Yerba Buena (Good Grass). In 1846, during the Mexican War, Commodore John Sloat captured and renamed the settlement for its San Francisco de Asís mission (better known as Mission Dolores), which was founded in 1776.

Santa Fe (New Mexico): “holy faith.” Spanish settlers founded this oldest U.S. capital nearly 400 years ago, as La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asís (The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint

ACTIVITY #2. Can you find additional U.S. Place names of Spanish origin? Locate and mark them on your map as well!!
The Spanish were among the first Europeans to explore what is now the United States, and the first to found a permanent settlement here (St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565). From Alaska’s Madre de Dios Island to Mexico, Maine, the United States is dotted with Spanish place names. Here are a few.

**Alamo:** “poplar.” This tall softwood tree gave its name to a number of U.S. places, including the memorable chapel-fort in Texas and the town of Los Alamos in New Mexico, where atomic bombs were produced.

**Boca Raton** (Florida): from “boca de ratones,” a Spanish term applied to nearby inlets. It translates as “mouth of the mouse” (not “rat,” which is “rata”) and may refer to the jagged rocks at these inlets. It has also been suggested that “ratones” was a term used for the pirates who might hide in such a place.

**California:** The state was named for a mythical land described in a popular Spanish novel from around 1500, Las sergas de Esplandián (The exploits of Esplandián) by García Ordóñez de Montalvo.

**Cape Canaveral** (Florida): from “cañaveral,” canebrake. The promontory NASA made famous takes its name from the thickets of cane that grow in sandy areas.

**Colorado:** “reddish.” The state is named for the reddish color of mud found in the Colorado River.

**El Paso** (Texas): “passage.” The border city of El Paso lies at a small gap between the Rockies and the Juarez Mountains of Mexico. This narrow passage has made the city a hub for both north-south and east-west travel.

**SPANISH PLACE NAMES**

Hispanic heritage from coast to coast

by Holly Hartman on Infoplease.com

Dictionary skills.

Many common English words are very similar to Spanish vocabulary. Match the Spanish word to the English word.

**Example, colores = colors.**

1. barbacoa  A. salad
2. cafetería  B. paper
3. vegetal  C. bottle
4. ensalada  D. barbeque
5. inteligente  E. canyon
6. mucho  F. map
7. papel  G. explorer
8. rosa  H. music
9. botella  I. colors
10. canón  J. numbers
11. colores  K. cafeteria
12. explorador  L. much
13. mapa  M. rose
14. música  N. intelligent
15. números  O. vegetable

Of course  Claro que sí  klah-roh keh see
What? Pardon me?  ¿Cómo?  koh-moh
Where is ... / Where are ... ?  ¿Dónde está / Dónde están?  dohn-deh eh-stah / dohn-deh eh-stahn
Here.  Aquí  ah-kee
How do you say ____ in Spanish?  Cómo se dice ____ en español?  koh-moh seh dee-ceh ____ en eh-spahn-yol
What is that?  Qué es esto?  keh ehs ehs-toh
What’s happening?  Qué pasa?  keh pah-sa
Bless you!  ¡Salud!  sah-lood
I love you. (informal and singular)  Te amo.  tay ah-moh
Famous Firsts
By Hispanic-Americans

Government
Member of U.S. Congress: Joseph Marlon Hernandez, 1822, delegate from the Florida territory.
U.S. Representative: Romualdo Pacheco, a representative from California, was elected in 1876 by a one-vote margin. He served for four months before his opponent succeeded in contesting the results. In 1879 he was again elected to Congress, where he served for two terms.
U.S. Senator: Octaviano Larrazolo was elected in 1928 to finish the term of New Mexico senator Andres Jones, who had died in office. He served for six months before falling ill and stepping down; he died in 1930. The first Hispanic senator to serve an entire term (and then some) was Dennis Chavez, of New Mexico, who served from 1935 through 1962.

Science and Medicine
Astronaut: Franklin Chang-Diaz, 1986. He flew on a total of seven space-shuttle missions. The first female Hispanic astronaut was Ellen Ochoa, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991.
Nobel Prize in Medicine: Severo Ochoa, 1959, for the synthesis of ribonucleic acid (RNA).

Literature
Pulitzer Prize for Fiction: Oscar Hijuelos, 1990, for his novel The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love.
Pulitzer Prize for Drama: Nilo Cruz, 2003, for his play Anna in the Tropics.

Music
Opera diva: Lucrecia Bori, who debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in 1912.

Television
Star of a network television show: Desi Arnaz, 1952, I Love Lucy.
Broadcasters of the Year: Geraldo Rivera, 1971.

Baseball
Major league player: Esteban Bellán, 1871, Troy Haymakers.
World Series player: Adolfo “Dolf” Luque, 1919, relief pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds, against the infamous “Black Sox.” (He later pitched for the New York Giants in the 1933 Series and was credited with the win in the final game.)
All-Star Game player: Alfonso “Chico” Carrasquel, 1951, starting shortstop for the American League.
Rookie of the Year: Luis Aparicio, 1956, shortstop, Chicago White Sox.
No-hitter: Juan Marichal, June 15, 1963, for the San Francisco Giants, against the Houston Colt .45s.
Hall of Fame inductee: Roberto Clemente, 1973. He was also the first Hispanic player to serve on the Players Association Board and to reach 3,000 hits.
Team owner: Arturo “Arte” Moreno bought the Anaheim Angels in 2003, becoming the first Hispanic owner of any major U.S. sports franchise. In 2005, he renamed it the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Other Sports
LPGA Hall of Fame inductee: Nancy Lopez, 1987. In 1978, she became the first player to have won the Rookie of the Year Award, Player of the Year Award, and Vare Trophy in the same season.


Other Hispanic-American Firsts
Supermodel: Christy Turlington.
Labor leaders: Juan Gómez, 1883. Cesar Chavez, 1950s-90s. The first female Hispanic labor leader of note was Lucy González Parsons, 1886.
Entertainer on the cover of TIME magazine: Joan Baez, 1962.