

CINCO DE MAYO

Reading Passage



Cinco de Mayo

Have you ever celebrated Cinco de Mayo? If so, you are like many other Americans or Mexicans who observe this holiday. "Cinco de Mayo" means the fifth of May, which is the day the holiday is celebrated.

Many people mistakenly believe that Cinco de Mayo is the Mexican Independence Day. The two holidays are separate and have different beginnings. While Cinco de Mayo is on May 5th, Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th.

In 1967, a group of students at California State University saw that there were no Chicano (United States residents with a Mexican heritage) holidays. They felt that the Chicano people should have their own holiday to celebrate their history and culture in the United States. They organized the first Cinco de Mayo celebration. The holiday grew from there and today is largely celebrated throughout the country.

The students chose May 5th for a specific reason. It was on this date in 1862 that the Mexican people showed a tremendous amount of courage during the Battle of Puebla. During this battle, 4,500 Mexican soldiers defeated the French army of 6,500 soldiers at Puebla, Mexico. What is really remarkable about this victory is that the Mexican soldiers were not really trained, professional soldiers at all. They were common people, such as farmers or shopkeepers who did not have any true experience with fighting as an army. It was their courage and fierce determination to defend their Mexican land and country that helped them win the battle. This "Batalla de Puebla" became a symbol of Mexican **patriotism**.

Today, people of all cultures celebrate Cinco de Mayo throughout the United States. There are many parades, festivals, and community events where the Mexican heritage is celebrated. Families have cookouts and picnics with delicious Mexican food, such as enchiladas, empanadas, and burritos. Children are blindfolded, given a large stick, and cheered on to break hanging piñatas. When the hollow piñata breaks apart, the children scramble to pick up the falling candy. Mariachi music can often be heard playing throughout the streets of the Cinco de Mayo festivals.

If you have never celebrated this holiday before, perhaps you will now want to plan on joining in on the fun this May 5th. Start looking up some tasty Mexican recipes and find the nearest parade to celebrate the Mexican heritage. Happy Cinco de Mayo!



Cinco de Mayo

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions:

What does "Cinco de Mayo" mean?

Who started the holiday Cinco de Mayo in the United States?

When is the Mexican Independence Day?

Why did the students choose the date of May 5th?

2 ways people can celebrate Cinco de Mayo today.

In the paragraph, the word "patriotism" means:

a. types of food
b. types of food
c. types of food
d. defend, protect

Do you think the small, Mexican army was able to win against a larger, well-trained army?



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CREATED BY: SHELLY REES



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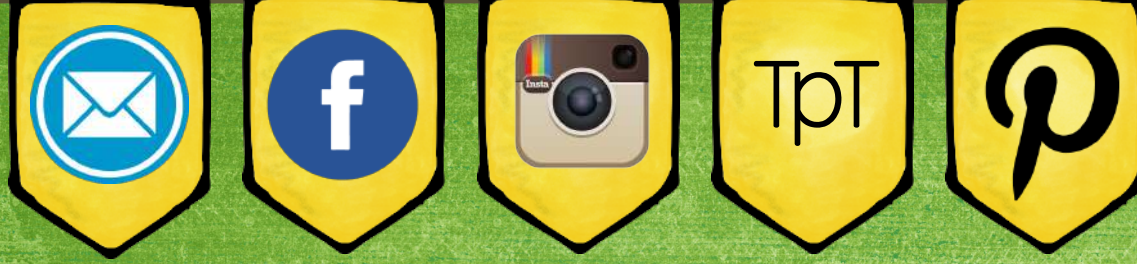
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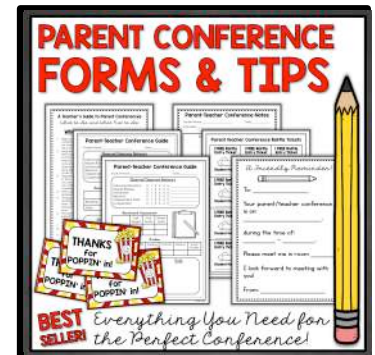
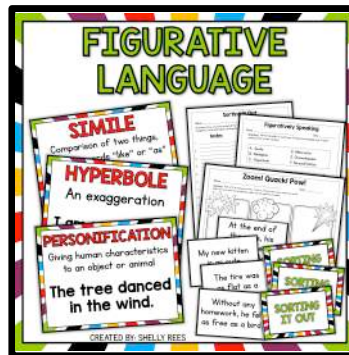
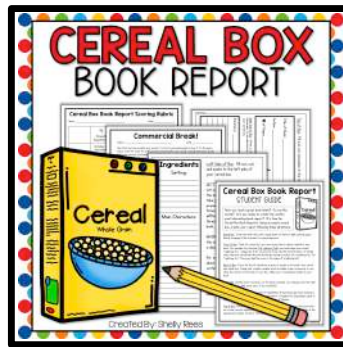
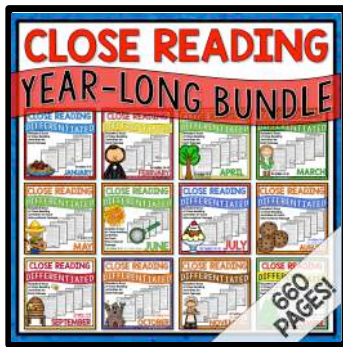
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CLIP ART AND GRAPHICS CREDITS:



About This Packet

Cinco de Mayo: This high-interest passage is ideal for independent work, small groups, or even whole group reading. It includes the passage, question sheet, and answer key.

This reading passage and question sheet is part of a larger, more comprehensive reading unit for the month of May. This larger resource includes reading passages, center games, poetry, writing activities, and more!

Click [HERE](#) to see the May Reading Unit.

MAY

Reading Passages **ELA Centers & Activities** **Poetry Corner** **Writing Activities**

Cinco de Mayo

Hamburger Happiness

What is Memorial

What's the Effect?

Sentence Sort

CAUSE & EFFECT

ANALOGY TRUE OR FALSE?

Monthly Reading Unit

GRADES 3-5 **CREATED BY: SHELLY REES**

Cinco de Mayo

Have you ever celebrated Cinco de Mayo? If so, you are like many other Americans or Mexicans who observe this holiday. “Cinco de Mayo” means *the fifth of May*, which is the day the holiday is celebrated.

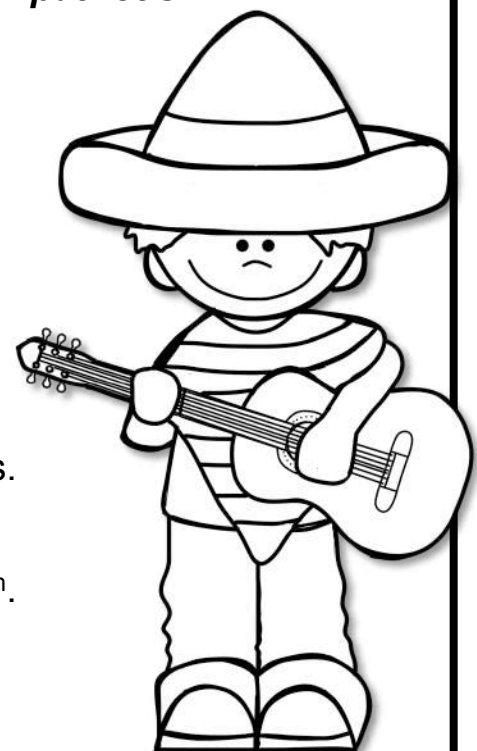
Many people mistakenly believe that Cinco de Mayo is the Mexican Independence Day. The two holidays are separate and have different beginnings. While Cinco de Mayo is on May 5th, Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th.

In 1967, a group of students at California State University saw that there were no Chicano (United States residents with a Mexican heritage) holidays. They felt that the Chicano people should have their own holiday to celebrate their history and culture in the United States. They organized the first Cinco de Mayo celebration. The holiday grew from there and today is largely celebrated throughout the country.

The students chose May 5th for a specific reason. It was on this date in 1862 that the Mexican people showed a tremendous amount of courage during the Battle of Puebla. During this battle, 4,500 Mexican soldiers defeated the French army of 6,500 soldiers at Puebla, Mexico. What is really remarkable about this victory is that the Mexican soldiers were not really trained, professional soldiers at all. They were common people, such as farmers or shopkeepers who did not have any true experience with fighting as an army. It was their courage and fierce determination to defend their Mexican land and country that helped them win the battle. This “Batalla de Puebla” became a symbol of Mexican **patriotism**.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer the following questions:

1. What does "Cinco de Mayo" mean?

2. Who started the holiday Cinco de Mayo in the United States?

3. When is the Mexican Independence Day?

4. Why did the students choose the date of May 5th for the Cinco de Mayo holiday?

5. Name 2 ways people can celebrate Cinco de Mayo today.

6. In the 4th paragraph, the word "patriotism" means:

a. love of one's country

b. types of food

c. American

d. defend, protect

7. Why do you think the small, Mexican untrained army was able to win the battle against a larger, well-trained army?

Cinco de Mayo

ANSWER KEY

Answer the following questions:

1. What does "Cinco de Mayo" mean?
Cinco de Mayo means the fifth of May.
2. Who started the holiday Cinco de Mayo in the United States?
A group of college students from California State University started the holiday.
3. When is the Mexican Independence Day?
Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th.
4. Why did the students choose the date of May 5th for the Cinco de Mayo holiday?
It was on May 5th of 1862 that the Mexican people won the Battle of Puebla.
5. Name 2 ways people can celebrate Cinco de Mayo today.
They can attend a parade, have a cookout with Mexican foods, break open a piñata, listen to a Mariachi band, or attend a community festival.
6. In the 4th paragraph, the word "patriotism" means:
☒ a. love of one's country b. types of food
c. American d. defend, protect
7. Why do you think the small, Mexican untrained army was able to win the battle against a larger, well-trained army?

I think the untrained Mexican army was able to defeat the larger French army because they had courage and determination. In the article, it says that even though the Mexican army had no experience in fighting in battles, they were able to win. The author also explains that they had fierce determination.