

Learn About Cinco de Mayo and Talavera Tiles

Target Audience: Grades 3-5

RELATED CONTENT AREAS

World Geography & Cultures , Visual Art, Spanish

OVERVIEW

An interactive and interdisciplinary presentation on the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Mexico, as well as a discussion of an art form found in Puebla, Mexico, the site of Mexico's independence battle. The presentation will provide students with a brief overview of Mexican history, a discussion of celebrations in Mexico, and the opportunity to make their own Talavera Tile as they would see in Puebla, Mexico, if they visited it for a celebration.

STANDARDS

3rd Grade World Geography and Cultures: 3.33 Identify on a map major countries of South America

3rd Grade World Geography and Cultures: 3.34 Identify major physical features of South America

5th Grade Visual Art: 4.1 Explore the relationship of art from different cultures, time, and places.

5th Grade Visual Art: 4.2 Examine and demonstrate how culture, history, and art influence each other.

Modern Languages Elementary K-5: 2.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to relate the history of Mexico's independence and its cultural significance.
- Students will also be able to connect ideas of independence, celebration, and liberty to their own studies in United States history and their own culture.
- Students will be able to identify cultural art forms related to significant celebrations in Mexico.

VOCABULARY

celebración,

libertad

batalla

independencia

España

TIME

45 minutes

MATERIALS

Computer with projector, internet connection.

PROCEDURE

PRE-EVENT MATERIALS

Provide outside reading as printable [PDF](#) document for the students. After the students complete the above reading, the teacher will lead a short discussion with the students about what independence means to them and how they celebrate their country's independence. These questions are aimed at letting the students start thinking about the themes of independence and cross-cultural connections.

WORKSHOP

1. Go over the reading the students completed with the teacher prior to the outreach visit and begin with a short lesson review: did the students know about Cinco de Mayo/Mexican Independence before reading and discussing it with their teacher? If so, what things did they already know or think of when they heard about the holiday? How do we celebrate our independence? What does Independence mean?
2. Provide lesson that address the important issues of the history of Cinco de Mayo: who, what, when, where, why, as well as incorporating Spanish vocabulary words.
3. Present PowerPoint images such as a map of Mexico and artistic representations of the history and celebration.
4. Following discussion, the event will begin the hands-on activity where the students explore what it might be like if they were to travel to Mexico for this holiday and visit Puebla where the Cinco de Mayo battle was held, they would see characteristic in the city art – Talavera Tiles. The event will briefly discuss Talavera Tiles and Art (with examples) and provide the students with Talavera foam tiles to decorate themselves while assisting.

DRIVING QUESTIONS

- Do you know about Cinco de Mayo/Mexican Independence before reading and discussing it with the teacher?
- If so, what things did you already know or think of when they heard about the holiday?
- How do we celebrate our independence?
- What does Independence mean?

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Students will design their own foam Talavera Tiles like the [ones](#) from Puebla, Mexico.

MODIFICATIONS

For shorter sessions or for lower grade levels, historical elements or hands-on activity can be omitted.

EVALUATION

The teacher may place the finished Talavera Tiles on a large paper sheet to construct their own Talavera wall like in Puebla (using glue, large paper, and if they want, can laminate it).