

The Real Story Behind Cinco de Mayo

Question to consider: *Will the Real Mexican Independence Day please “Stand” up?*

Actually, the question should be “What is the actual day in which Mexican citizens won their independence from Spain? Why is it essential that we teach others about this holiday’s case of mistaken identity?”

Background Info:

Many of you think that Cinco de Mayo celebrates the day when Mexico won its independence from Spain and other European countries.

Well, you are not alone in thinking this.....

But.....

The actual Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th (just as Independence Day in Chile is celebrated on September 18th in *Casi Se Muere*)

WHAT? REALLY?

Your task:

Alright, you have been given the job of representing the “Truth League” in spreading the real story. Today, in class, you are going to work with a group to determine the best way to do this.

HOW:

First: You must review the articles, videos, and other links on my weebly page under Cinco de Mayo.

Second: You will work with your group to create a “news broadcast” or an “Educational History video” or “a Public Service Announcement” about the real story behind Cinco de Mayo or Mexican Independence Day.

Third: You may want to make this interesting and fun - bring on the debates, the arguments, the evidence, the support, the character actors, etc.

Things to remember:

We can only spend this class period working to prepare our presentations. You will have a little time to practice on Monday, May 13 or Tuesday, May 14 and then we will present.

This is not graded but I hope you will take it seriously and try to incorporate your own interests into this “exploration.”

Don’t go too crazy - No long-drawn out plans that are difficult to implement (An example of this would be trying to re-enact the battle scene or trying to do all of this in Spanish

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But, What about the celebration?

Of course, all good celebrations (whether they are ones with mistaken identity or not) benefit from some kind of eating and taking part in festivities. Thus, I propose we plan a celebration to celebrate the end of our year. I am open to any suggestions you have (provided they are not too crazy and that I can get them approved by Mr. Melton).

While you are researching, see if you can find **better** ways to represent Mexican culture or Chilean culture than having a class party with a piñata and typical Tex-Mex dishes.