

Cinco de Mayo

What does Cinco de Mayo celebrate?

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican heritage, culture, and pride.

When is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?

May 5th. This is in honour of when the Mexican army defeated the French in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Who celebrates this day?

The day is mostly celebrated by people of Mexican heritage in the United States. It is also celebrated in some areas of Mexico, especially the state of Puebla. Many non-Mexicans in the United States celebrate the day.

What do people do to celebrate?

The day is celebrated with parades, carnivals, street fairs, and sometimes fireworks at night. There are some traditional Mexican celebrations such as the Baile Folclórico dance along with mariachi music. People dress up in traditional Mexican clothing as well. Some parades or festivals may include a re-enactment of the Battle of Puebla.



The day is also used to educate people on the heritage of Mexican Americans. This includes programmes put on by schools and libraries. Important icons and people are studied including Cesar Chavez and Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Many celebrations include Mexican food and music.

History of Cinco de Mayo

The day marks a historical battle between the Mexican army and the French. The Battle of Puebla took place on May 5, 1862. The Mexicans were largely outnumbered by the French. However, led by Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin they managed to hold off and defeat the French.

It is thought the day was first celebrated by Mexicans living in California during the American Civil War. The holiday became more popular in the 1960s and then became widespread in the United States with commercialization in the 1990s.

Fun Facts About Cinco de Mayo

- The 5th of May is not Mexico's Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16th.
- Not too long after winning the Battle of Puebla, the Mexicans lost their capital to the French and the French took control of the country. The French rule only lasted a few years, however.
- The holiday is more celebrated in the United States than in Mexico.
- Around 70 million pounds of avocados are eaten on Cinco de Mayo in the US.

