

## **English Language Development - May 4th- May 8th**

Please read the 2 options below for your assignments for the week of May 4th - May 8th.

### **Option 1 - If you can access your Google Drive:**

1. Fill out the short Google

Forms survey that was sent to your school e-mail. (5 minutes or less)

Here is the link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/HtM7ozSn2n6bmiUL8>

2. Read the article about Cinco de Mayo. Please answer the questions, and send a picture of your work to my email.

### **If you cannot access our unit folder in the Google Drive:**

1. Read the article about the history of Cinco de Mayo. Please answer the questions, and send a picture of your work to my email.

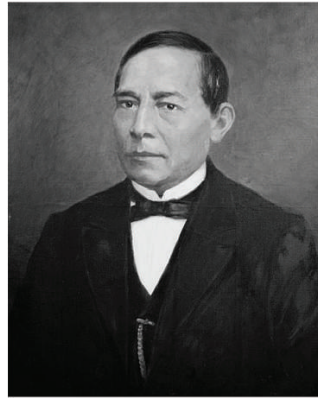
Directions : Read the following article and answer questions #1-9

# CINCO DE MAYO

Everyone loves Cinco de Mayo! The holiday provides the perfect opportunity to honor Mexican culture, listen and dance to some festive music, and munch on some crunchy tacos. But what's this holiday really about?

## WHAT IS CINCO DE MAYO?

- 1 Cinco de Mayo celebrates a victory by the Mexican Army over the French Army in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.
- 2 Mexico was in massive debt and owed many countries money, including France, Great Britain, and Spain. Unfortunately, Mexico was bankrupt at the time, so President Benito Juarez decided to suspend all payment of foreign debt. Mexico simply didn't have the money. This angered Great Britain, Spain, and France. The three nations agreed to work together to force Mexico to pay. In December 1861, they arrived off the coast of Veracruz in order to battle for the money they were owed. Desperate last-minute **diplomatic** efforts by the Juarez administration persuaded Britain and Spain that a war would only further devastate the Mexican economy (which was in no one's best interest). Spanish and British forces left with promise of future payment. France, however, was unconvinced and French forces remained on Mexican soil.



President Benito Juarez



- 3 Early on May 5, 1862, General Laurencez led 6,000 well equipped and well trained French troops toward Puebla, Mexico. The Mexican army, on the other hand, consisted of 4,000 troops (many of them agricultural workers armed with **antiquated** rifles and machetes). It was no surprise that the French had already beaten the Mexicans a few times as they made their way into the city of Puebla. No one thought the Mexicans were going to win the battle... except maybe the Mexicans!

- 4 The Mexicans had made defenses around the city of Puebla. The French attacked three times, and each time they had to retreat. When the French cannons ran out of ammunition, the Mexican commander, Ignacio Zaragoza, ordered an attack. The Mexican attack forced the French to retreat for good.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

- 5 The importance of the Battle of Puebla was the concept that a smaller, poorly equipped army could defeat a larger, well-equipped one. The Mexican people also showed that they were willing to defend their homeland from invaders. This victory also provided a stunning revelation to the rest of the world, which held the belief that European governments and armies were by their very nature more powerful than other, smaller countries and their armies.
- 6 President Juarez was so proud of his army's accomplishment that he declared May 5th a national holiday. It was referred to as "Battle of Puebla Day" or "Battle of Cinco Mayo Day".

## CELEBRATE

- 7 Mexicans love Cinco de Mayo! It's a day that makes them feel very proud. There are parties, parades, and lots of food. There are festivals with concerts and dancing. Mariachi bands are everywhere (see sidebar).
- 8 Celebrations in the city of Puebla are probably the best. After all, that's where the big battle was! There is a huge parade with over 20,000 participants and a re-enactment of the battle. There is also a mole festival. Mole, pronounced mo-lay, is a spicy/sweet, rich sauce that originated in Puebla. The festival includes discussions and demonstrations about how to create the savory sauce, along with tastings of mole sauce prepared by leading international, national, and regional chefs.

## Mariachi

Mariachi is a type of musical ensemble that originated in Mexico. The size of the group can vary quite a bit, but ideally there are six violins, two trumpets, and three rhythm instruments including a guitar, a vihuela (a high-pitched, five-string guitar) and one guitarrón (a small-scaled acoustic bass guitar). There is not a lead singer in Mariachi. Everyone in the ensemble does some vocalization even if it is just during the chorus parts. Different members sing the lead in different songs. It is common practice to match the voice with the type of song that is being performed so that the emotion of the piece is conveyed in the most artistic way possible.



Note to Reader: Although Cinco de Mayo is a significant holiday in Mexico, it is not quite as popular as Mexico's Independence Day (from Spain) which is celebrated on September 16th.

## CINCO DE MAYO IN THE UNITED STATES

9 In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is widely interpreted as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with substantial Mexican-American populations. Today, revelers mark the occasion with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing, and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano (see recipe below).

10 Some of the more popular festivals are held in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston. Fiesta Broadway is the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in the world. Up to half of a million people come out for this annual street party in downtown Los Angeles. There is food, fun, and games for the whole family.

### Vocabulary

**diplomatic** – the skill of managing international relationships

**antiquated** - old-fashioned or outdated

**ensemble** - a group of musicians, actors, or dancers who perform together

### MOLE POBLANO

Total Time: 1 hr 5 min

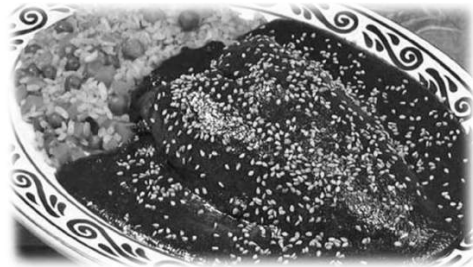
Prep: 45 min

Cook: 20 minutes

Yield: 2 servings

#### Ingredients

- 1/4 pound sesame seeds
- Olive oil, for cooking
- 1/4 pound almonds
- 1/4 pound peanuts
- 3 bananas or plantains
- 1 pound raisins
- 1/4 pound tomatoes
- 1 pound fire roasted poblano chiles, rehydrated in water
- 1/4 teaspoon aniseeds
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ounce unsweetened Mexican chocolate
- 2 pre-cooked turkey legs



#### Directions

In a medium saute pan, toast sesame seeds and place in food processor. In same saute pan add oil and fry almonds. Remove almonds, place in food processor, and fry peanuts. Remove peanuts, place in food processor, and fry plantains. Remove plantains, place in food processor, and fry raisins. Remove raisins and place in food processor. Remove all but one tablespoon oil and fry tomatoes.

In a food processor grind together sesame seeds, almonds, peanuts, plantains, raisins, tomatoes, poblanos, aniseeds, and cinnamon; this is the mole. Thin with left over chile water. In large sauce-pan, heat oil. Add mole and cook in oil to bring out flavors. Add chocolate. When melted, add pre-cooked turkey legs and simmer until the turkey is heated through.

## Questions

1 Why did the Spanish and British troops decide against war with the Mexican army?

- A They were promised that the money they were owed would be repaid in the future.
- B They understood that a war would not result in getting back the money they were owed.
- C They were convinced that the French could win the battle on their own.
- D all of the above
- E a and b only

2 Which of the following details supports the idea that the Mexican army were expected to lose the battle against the French?

- A The French army outnumbered the Mexican army.
- B Many of the Mexican soldiers were farmers.
- C The Mexican troops were armed with antiquated rifles and machetes.
- D all of the above
- E a and b only

3 Based on the passage, all of the following words describe Benito Juarez except:

- A proud
- B stingy
- C diplomatic
- D determined

4 Read the following sentence from paragraph 2:

**Unfortunately, Mexico was bankrupt at the time, so President Benito Juarez decided to suspend all payment of foreign debt.**

Which of the following is the best synonym for the word "suspend"?

- A delay
- B attach
- C continue
- D complete

## Questions

5 Based on the text, which of the following statements is not true about a mariachi band?

- A There is no one "star" of a mariachi band.
- B There is always 6 violins in a mariachi band.
- C Everyone in the ensemble has singing abilities.
- D Different mariachi bands use a different number of musicians.

6 All of the following statements about Cinco de Mayo are true except:

- A For Americans, Cinco de Mayo is an opportunity to celebrate the Mexican culture.
- B Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican independence from Spain.
- C President Juarez is the founder of Cinco de Mayo.
- D On Cinco de Mayo, Mexicans remember the Battle of Puebla.

7 What conclusion can you draw about mole poblano?

- A People with nut allergies should not consume this dish.
- B Creating this dish requires cooking experience.
- C Every citizen of Puebla enjoys mole poblano.
- D all of the above
- E a and b only

8 Read the following sentence from paragraph 4:

**The Mexican attack forced the French to retreat.**

Which of the following is the best definition of the word "retreat"?

- A move back or withdraw
- B seek shelter
- C fight back
- D declare war

9. What aspect of Cinco de Mayo would you enjoy the most? Use at least two details to support your answer.

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