



# Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla is known as the Father of Mexican Independence. In the early 1800s he led a major uprising against Spain, which then ruled Mexico.

Hidalgo was born on May 8, 1753, near Guanajuato, Mexico, northwest of Mexico City. He earned a degree in theology, or religion. In 1778 he became a Roman Catholic priest.

Father Hidalgo worked as a priest in the town of Dolores. He worked to improve the lives of the people there. He taught them new farming techniques. He also helped them to start pottery and brick-making businesses.

In 1808 France invaded Spain. The French forced the Spanish king to step down. These events encouraged many poor Mexicans to begin fighting for independence from Spain. Spanish soldiers fought back fiercely. They destroyed many Mexican farmlands. Moved by the problems of his people, Father Hidalgo joined the fight for independence. On September 16, 1810, he rang a church bell and called the people to revolt against Spain. His call became known as the Grito de Dolores (the cry of Dolores). Thousands of Mexicans joined Hidalgo to march against the Spanish.

Hidalgo and his army of rebels won a number of battles. In the end, however, the Spanish defeated them. The Spanish captured Hidalgo on March 21, 1811. On July 30 they put him to death for being a traitor. Ten years later Mexico finally won its independence from Spain. But Mexicans did not forget that Hidalgo had started it all. Mexico still celebrates its Independence Day on September 16—the date of Hidalgo's cry for freedom.

Escoge la contestación correcta. / Choose the correct answer.

- 1- Father Hidalgo was known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2- He was born on \_\_\_\_\_ 8, 1753.
- 3- His homeland was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4- He became a Roman Catholic priest on \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Mexicans were fighting for independence from \_\_\_\_.
- 6- In 1810, he rang a church \_\_\_\_ to called the people.
- 7- His call is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8- In 1811, the Mexicans were defeated by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9- Ten years later, Mexico \_\_\_\_\_ its independence.
- 10- Father Hidalgo is remembered for the first \_\_\_\_\_.

