



Mexican Independence Day

What is Mexican Independence Day?

Mexican Independence Day (Día de la Independencia) is an important Mexican holiday celebrated on September 16.

After Spain invaded Mexico in the early 1500s, life was hard for the Mexicans. Many of them were forced into slavery. It wasn't until 1810, 300 years later, that Father Miguel Hidalgo started to plan a revolt.

When Father Hidalgo heard that he was about to be arrested, he rang a bell and gave a famous speech know as "El Grito de Dolores" (Cry of Dolores). He told Mexicans to fight for their freedom and end Spanish rule. This was the start of a long war with Spain that didn't end until 1821 when Mexico finally became independent.

Although Mexican Independence Day is September 16, the celebration begins the night before when Mexico's president rings a bell and reads

Father Hidalgo's famous Cry of Dolores. The event ends with three shouts of "Viva México!"

Independence Day is one of the biggest holidays in Mexico. Everyone has the day off school or work to celebrate with special food, music, parades, and fireworks.

Many people confuse Cinco de Mayo with Mexican Independence Day. Cinco de Mayo (May 5) celebrates the Mexican army's victory over the French in 1862. In Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is much less important than Mexican Independence Day.

Read the story then choose and answer the questions.

1. Mexican Independence Day and Cinco de Mayo are the same.
2.
 - a) True b) False c) Is not mentioned in the story.
3. When is Mexican Independence Day?
 - a) May 5 b) September 15 c) September 16
4. Mexican Independence Day is a school holiday in Mexico.
 - a) True b) false c) Is not mentioned in the story
5. Who is considered the father of Mexican Independence?
 - a) Miguel Hidalgo b) Allende c) Dolores

6. What did Father Hidalgo tell Mexicans in his famous speech?
- a) To fight for Independence b) to go to church c) to go to Spain
7. When did Spain first invade Mexico?
- 8.
- a) Early 1500s b) 1810 c) early 1800s d) 1821
9. Who started the Mexican fight for Independence?
- a) Miguel Hidalgo b) Iturbide c) Ignacio Zaragoza
10. What is "The Cry of Dolores"?
- a) A speech b) a song c) a fight
11. Who rings the bell on the night of September 15 to start Independence Day celebrations?
- a) The Mexican bishop b) The Mexican president
- c) Miguel Hidalgo