History

LIVEWORKSHEETS

While reading you have to highlight the words you do not understand.

The Independence of Guayaquil

October 9th, 1820 is among the most major events in Ecuador's history because it **symbolizes** the start of the country's liberation from Spanish colonial control. On this day, a group of patriots in Guayaquil took down the Spanish **government** under the **leadership** of important people such as José Joaquín de Olmedo, Gregorio Escobedo, and León de Febres Cordero. The Enlightenment ideas and the wave of independence that was sweeping Latin America—inspired by previous revolutions in France and the United States—were the driving forces motivating the movement. After the **patriots** controlled important government and military structures, Guayaquil proclaimed itself a free and autonomous province and established a provisional administration known as the "Junta de Gobierno de Guayaquil."

The independence of Guayaquil was not just a local event; it had far-reaching implications for the broader struggle for independence in South America. Guayaquil's strategic location as a major port city made it a crucial hub for trade and military operations. The patriots in Guayaquil quickly sought to spread the **revolution** to other regions, and their success inspired uprisings in nearby cities such as Cuenca and Quito. The leaders of the movement also reached out to Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín, the great liberators of South America, for support. Guayaquil's independence became a catalyst for the eventual liberation of the entire Audiencia de Quito (modern-day Ecuador), which was consolidated with the Battle of Pichincha on May 24, 1822.



This day, October 9th is celebrated as a national holiday in Ecuador, particularly in Guayaquil, where it is commemorated with parades, cultural events, and patriotic ceremonies. The date is a symbol of **courage**, unity, and the enduring spirit of freedom that defined the struggle for independence. The document called "Acta de Independencia de Guayaquil," signed by the patriots on that day, remains a cherished artifact of Ecuador's history. The independence of Guayaquil not only marked the birth of a free city but also set the stage for the creation of the Republic of Ecuador, which would emerge as an independent nation in 1830. This historic event continues to be a source of pride and identity for Ecuadorians, reminding them of their hard-fought journey to sovereignty.

Objective: To study the events and significance of Guayaquil's independence on October 9, 1820, and its role in the broader struggle for Ecuadorian and South American independence.

Before reading...

What do you know about key historical events in Ecuador, such as the Independence of Guayaquil or the Battle of Pichincha? Why do you think these events are so important to the country's identity?

Why do you think many historical stories feature figures who faced great challenges or sacrifices? What can we learn from their struggles?

How do you think the setting of a historical event—like a battlefield, a city square—shapes its significance and the way it's remembered?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Post Reading Activity

Activity: "The Spirit of Independence"

Instructions:

Work in pairs or small groups. Reflect on the events of the Independence of Guayaquil and discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the patriots of Guayaquil took such a bold step to declare independence on October 9, 1820? What risks did they face?
- If you were living in Guayaquil at the time, how would you have supported the independence movement?
- How does the story of Guayaquil's independence reflect the values of courage, unity, and freedom that are important to Ecuadorian identity?

Create:

- Write a short dialogue between two patriots planning the uprising.
- Design a poster or symbol that represents the spirit of October 9, 1820.

Presentation:

Share your dialogue or poster with the class. Explain and discuss the choices you made and how they connect to the historical event.

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- The independence of Guayaquil _____ the beginning of Ecuador's fight for freedom.
- After declaring independence, the _____ established a new _____ to lead the city.
- The _____ on October 9, 1820, was a bold step toward ending Spanish colonial rule.
- The _____ of the people of Guayaquil inspired other regions to join the independence movement.
- Strong _____ from figures like José Joaquín de Olmedo was crucial to the success of the uprising.

Read again and then answer the following questions

Why do you think the patriots chose Guayaquil as the starting point for the independence movement? What advantages did the city offer?

_____

_____

How did the independence of Guayaquil influence other regions in Ecuador? Why was it a turning point in the country's history?

_____

_____

- **Write** a summary of the event in your own words and share it with your classmates. **Highlight** the main figures involved and the impact of the event. **What** lessons or values can we learn from this moment in history?

Key Words

Symbolizes

Government

Leadership

Patriots

Revolution

Courage

What If...?

What if the patriots of Guayaquil had failed in their uprising on October 9, 1820? How might Ecuador's history have been different?

What if the people of Guayaquil had not united to support the independence movement? Would the revolution have succeeded?

What if Guayaquil's independence had not been recognized by other nations? How would this have affected Ecuador's future as a free country?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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The Battle of Pichincha

A key event in Ecuador's fight for independence from Spanish colonial control was the Battle of Pichincha, which took place on May 24th, 1822. General Antonio José de Sucre, one of Simón Bolívar's most **accomplished** commanders, led the battle, which was fought on the sides of the Pichincha **volcano**, close to Quito. The Spanish royalist army engaged Sucre's forces, which were made up of patriotic warriors from modern-day Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela, in a bloody battle. The patriots won a **resounding** victory despite the difficult terrain and high elevation, guaranteeing Quito's liberty and putting an end to Spanish rule in the area. In the larger struggle for South American freedom, this triumph marked the beginning of change.

Along with being a decisive military victory, the Battle of Pichincha served as a **catalyst** for national unification. Guayaquil's independence in 1820 marked the conclusion of years of conflict and encouraged nearby regions to join the war for independence. The triumph guaranteed that the lands of the former Audiencia de Quito (present-day Ecuador) would be incorporated into the Gran Colombia, Simón Bolívar's dream republic that comprised modern-day Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia. The conflict illustrated the value of leadership, strategic planning, and the patriots' will to succeed in the face of impossible challenges.



Each year, on May 24th , Ecuador commemorates the Battle of Pichincha as a national holiday. General Sucre, a national hero, is honored on this day for his valor and sacrifice in the fight for independence. The legacy of the conflict, which stands for bravery, solidarity, and the **unwavering** spirit of liberation, is profoundly embedded in Ecuadorian identity. Monuments honoring this momentous occasion, like Quito's Pichincha Battle Monument, make sure that future generations never forget the costs taken to guarantee the country's freedom.

Objective: To explore the Battle of Pichincha (May 24, 1822), its key figures, and its importance in securing Ecuador's independence from Spanish rule.

Before reading...

What do you know about the Battle of Pichincha and its role in Ecuador's independence? Why do you think this event is so significant to the country's history and identity?

Why do you think figures like General Antonio José de Sucre, who led the patriots at Pichincha, are remembered as heroes? What can we learn from their leadership and sacrifices?

How do you think the setting of the battle —on the slopes of the Pichincha volcano— shaped its outcome and the way it is remembered in history?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Echoes of Pichincha"

Instructions:

Work in pairs or small groups. Reflect on the events of the Battle of Pichincha and discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think General Antonio José de Sucre chose the slopes of the Pichincha volcano for the battle? What strategic advantages did it offer?
- If you were a soldier in Sucre's army, how would you have prepared for the challenges of fighting at such a high altitude?
- How does the Battle of Pichincha reflect the values of bravery, strategy, and unity that are central to Ecuador's national identity?

Create:

- Write a journal entry from the perspective of a patriot soldier the night before the battle, describing their thoughts and emotions.

Presentation:

Share your journal with the class. Explain and discuss the choices you made and how they connect to the historical event.

Read again and then answer the following questions

Why do you think General Sucre chose the slopes of the Pichincha volcano for the battle? What strategic advantages did this location provide?

_____

_____

How did the victory at the Battle of Pichincha influence the broader independence movement in South America? Why was it a turning point for the region?

_____

_____

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- The patriots achieved a _____ victory at the Battle of Pichincha, securing Ecuador's independence.
- The battle took place on the slopes of the Pichincha _____, a challenging and strategic location.
- General Antonio José de Sucre's _____ leadership inspired his troops to fight bravely against the Spanish forces.
- The Battle of Pichincha served as a _____ for the liberation of the rest of Ecuador and the region.
- Sucre's _____ determination ensured the success of the patriots' mission.

❖ **Write** a summary of the event in your own words and share it with your classmates. **What** lessons or values can we learn from this moment in history?

Key Words

Accomplished

Volcano

Resounding

Catalyst

Unwavering

What If...?

What if General Antonio José de Sucre had not been chosen to lead the patriot forces at Pichincha? Would the battle have had the same outcome?

What if the Spanish royalist forces had received reinforcements before the battle? How might this have changed the course of the conflict?

What if the Battle of Pichincha had not inspired other regions to join the independence movement? How might this have delayed the liberation of South America?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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The Cenepa War

The Cenepa War was a brief but intense armed conflict between Ecuador and Peru in early 1995, centered on a disputed region in the upper Cenepa River valley in the Cordillera del Cóndor. This area had been a point of **contention** since the 19th century, with Ecuador rejecting the 1942 Rio Protocol that defined the border, arguing it was imposed under duress and flawed in its **demarcation**. Tensions escalated in late 1994, leading to **skirmishes** in January 1995. Both nations accused each other of incursions, and the conflict quickly escalated into a full-scale war, with ground battles, artillery exchanges, and aerial **dogfights** in the rugged, jungle-covered terrain.



Ecuador, though militarily smaller, **leveraged** its knowledge of the difficult terrain to mount a strong defense. Key outposts like Tiwinza became symbols of Ecuadorian resistance, as its forces used guerrilla-style tactics to repel Peruvian advances. Peru, with a larger military, sought to dislodge Ecuadorian troops but struggled due to the challenging environment and Ecuador's strategic preparations. The conflict drew international attention, prompting the Organization of American States (OAS) to mediate. A **ceasefire** was brokered in February 1995, and both sides agreed to withdraw their forces, paving the way for peace talks.

The war ultimately led to a historic resolution in 1998 with the signing of the Brasilia Presidential Act, which definitively settled the border dispute. Ecuador renounced its territorial claims in the Amazon, and both nations agreed to promote economic and cultural cooperation. The Cenepa War is remembered as a turning point in Ecuadorian Peruvian relations, showcasing the importance of diplomacy in resolving long-standing conflicts. For Ecuador, it became a source of national pride, while for Peru, it underscored the challenges of territorial disputes and the value of peaceful resolution.



Objective: To understand the causes, events, and outcomes of the Cenepa War (1995) between Ecuador and Peru, and its impact on national identity and regional diplomacy.

Before reading...

What do you know about the Cenepa War and its role in the relationship between Ecuador and Peru? Why do you think this conflict is so significant to Ecuador's national identity and history?

Why do you think the Cenepa War, despite being a relatively short conflict, is remembered with such pride in Ecuador? What does it reveal about the country's resilience and sense of sovereignty?

How do you think the challenging terrain of the Cordillera del Cóndor shaped the strategies and outcomes of the Cenepa War? What role did geography play in the conflict?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Voices from the Cenepa"

Instructions:

Work in small groups. Reflect on the events of the Cenepa War and discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the Cenepa Valley, with its dense jungle and rugged terrain, became the focal point of the conflict? What strategic advantages did it offer to both Ecuador and Peru?
- If you were a soldier in the Ecuadorian army during the war, how would you have prepared for the challenges of fighting in such a remote and difficult environment?
- How does the Cenepa War reflect the values of resilience, sovereignty, and national pride that are central to Ecuador's identity?

Create:
Write or record a news report from 1995, covering the events of the Cenepa War as if you were a journalist reporting from the frontlines or analyzing the conflict's impact on both nations.

Presentation:
Share your creation with the class. Explain the choices you made and how they connect to the historical context of the Cenepa War.

Read again and then answer the following questions

Why do you think the Cenepa Valley became the focal point of the conflict between Ecuador and Peru? *What strategic advantages did this remote and rugged region provide to both sides?*

_____

_____

How did the outcome of the Cenepa War influence the relationship between Ecuador and Peru? *Why was the 1998 Brasilia Presidential Act considered a turning point for both nations?*

_____

_____

What role did the challenging terrain of the Cordillera del Cóndor play in shaping the strategies and outcomes of the war? *How did it impact the soldiers who fought there?*

_____

_____

Why do you think the Cenepa War is remembered with such pride in Ecuador? *What does this conflict reveal about the country's values and national identity?*

_____

_____

- **Write** a summary of the event in your own words and share it with your classmates. **Highlight** the key events, the main figures involved, and the impact of the event.

Key Words

Contention

Demarcation

Skirmishes

Dogfights

Leveraged

Ceasefire

What If...?

What if he 1942 Rio Protocol had been fully accepted by Ecuador from the beginning? Would the Cenepa War have still occurred, or could the conflict have been avoided entirely?

What if the Cenepa War had not drawn international attention? Would Ecuador and Peru have been able to resolve their dispute on their own, or could the conflict have dragged on for years?

What if the 1998 Brasilia Presidential Act had not been signed? How might the relationship between Ecuador and Peru have evolved?

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The Bank Holiday

The 1999, the Bank Holiday in Ecuador was a critical event during one of the country's worst **economic** crises. By the late 1990s, Ecuador faced severe economic instability, including **hyperinflation**, a collapsing currency (the sucre), and a massive fiscal deficit. External factors like the El Niño weather disaster and falling global oil prices worsened the situation, while the banking sector teetered on the brink of collapse due to **mismanagement** and bad loans. On March 8, 1999, President Jamil Mahuad declared a bank holiday, freezing all bank accounts to prevent a bank run. This move, however, sparked widespread panic and anger, as people lost access to their savings, and the economy ground to a halt.



The bank holiday and the broader financial crisis had devastating consequences. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) contracted sharply, unemployment and poverty rates soared, and the sucre experienced a massive devaluation. The crisis deepened social unrest and eroded public trust in the government and financial institutions. In response, President Mahuad announced in January 2000 that Ecuador would adopt the US dollar as its official currency, a process known as **dollarization**. This drastic measure aimed to stabilize the economy and restore confidence, but it also marked the end of the sucre as Ecuador's national currency.

The crisis and its aftermath had long-term effects on Ecuador. Dollarization helped curb inflation and stabilize the economy, but it also limited the government's ability to control monetary policy. Politically, the crisis led to the **ousting** of President Mahuad in a coup in January 2000, though his vice president, Gustavo Noboa, continued the dollarization process. The 1999 bank holiday remains a stark reminder of the fragility of financial systems and the profound impact of economic crises on society. It also underscored the need for stronger financial regulation and oversight in Ecuador.

Objective: To understand the causes, impact, and consequences of Ecuador's 1999 Bank Holiday, including its economic collapse, social effects, and the shift to dollarization, while reflecting on the lessons learned from this crisis.

Before reading...

What do you know about the 1999 Bank Holiday and its impact on Ecuador's economy and society? Why do you think this event is so significant to Ecuador's modern history and its relationship with global financial systems?

Why do you think the 1999 Bank Holiday, despite being a temporary measure, had such lasting effects on Ecuador's economy and national identity? What does it reveal about the country's vulnerability to external economic pressures and its ability to adapt to crises?

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Post Reading Activity

Activity: "Ecuador 1999: Crisis and Resilience"

Instructions:

Work in groups. Reflect on the events of the 1999 Bank Holiday and the economic crisis in Ecuador. Discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the banking sector collapse and the subsequent bank holiday had such a profound impact on Ecuador's economy and society? What does this reveal about the role of trust in financial systems?
- If you were an Ecuadorian citizen during the bank holiday, how would you have coped with the sudden loss of access to your savings and the economic uncertainty?
- How does the decision to dollarize the economy reflect Ecuador's resilience and adaptability in the face of crisis? What trade-offs did the country make in terms of economic sovereignty?

Create:
Write a Diary Entry: Imagine you are an Ecuadorian citizen living through the 1999 Bank Holiday. Write a diary entry describing your experiences, emotions, and thoughts during this turbulent time. Consider how the crisis affected your daily life, your family, and your hopes for the future.

Presentation:
Share your creation with the class. Explain the choices you made and how they connect to the historical context of the 1999 crisis. Highlight the human, economic, and political dimensions of the event.

Order the Events of the 1999 Bank Holiday

Number the events in correct chronological order.

(__) The Ecuadorian government declares a bank holiday, freezing all bank accounts to prevent a bank run.

(1) Ecuador faces a severe economic crisis, with hyperinflation, a collapsing currency, and a struggling banking sector.

(__) President Jamil Mahuad announces the adoption of the US dollar as Ecuador's official currency.

(__) The sucre is officially replaced by the US dollar, completing the dollarization process.

(__) Public anger and panic erupt as people lose access to their savings, and the economy comes to a standstill.

(__) President Mahuad is ousted in a coup, but his vice president continues the dollarization plan.

- **Write** a summary of the event in your own words and share it with your classmates. **Highlight** the key events, the main figures involved, and the impact of the event.

Key Words

Economic

Hyperinflation

Mismanagement

Dollarization

Ousting

What If...?

What if the Ecuadorian government had not declared the bank holiday in 1999?

What if Ecuador had not adopted the US dollar as its official currency in 2000? How might the economy have evolved without dollarization? Would the sucre have survived, or would the crisis have deepened?

What if the public had been more supportive of President Jamil Mahuad's policies during the crisis? Could his government have implemented reforms more effectively, or would the outcome have been similar?

LIVEWORKSHEETS