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## Product 4

Activity 1 "An Historical Event": Look at the report on an historical event. Label its parts with the next words.

Image caption

Subtitle

Picture

Author

Title

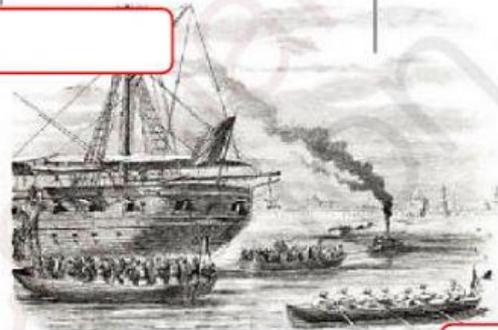
# The First French Intervention in Mexico

## Background: The Pastry War

by Alicia Juárez

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the French attacked Mexico two times. These two conflicts were later called "The French Interventions." The first French Intervention was short and did not have too many serious consequences. This first intervention happened in the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, there were many French business owners living in Mexico, and they had many shops and restaurants, particularly in Mexico City.

In 1838, the French ambassador to Mexico presented President Bustamante with a **claim** of 600,000 pesos for **damages** French citizens had suffered during the riots of 1828 in Mexico City. These riots were violent protests against the results of the presidential elections that had not been decided yet, and many businesses in Mexico City's Alameda were robbed and destroyed in the confusion. For example, when Bustamante was reading the claims, he found one made by a French baker. This baker said he had lost 60,000 pesos worth of pastries. Bustamante thought this was absurd and he did not pay the baker. As a result, on



The French fleet arriving in Veracruz.

April, 16, 1838, the French **fleet** from Martinique were ordered to block the port of Veracruz until an **agreement** was reached. This meant no ship could leave or arrive in the port.

The **blockade** had lasted seven months when the commander of the fleet added another 200,000 pesos on the claim to cover the **expenses** of the blockade; in addition, he ordered a bombardment of Veracruz. After the first bombardment, Bustamante agreed to pay the debt in full and the French fleet sailed away. Since then, historians have referred to this incident as the "Pastry War."