



Cinco De Mayo Celebrations

BY HEATHER AULISIO

The 5th of May is quickly approaching! Be sure to set up some fun Cinco De Mayo celebrations for your students or children at home to enjoy! Here is a little background about this special day and some activities that you can complete.

Cinco De Mayo

On May 5, 1862, Mexico defeated France during the Franco-Mexican War at the Battle of Puebla. The holiday not only celebrates this victory, it honors Mexican culture and heritage, bringing awareness, and an open invitation for all to acknowledge and enjoy!

Many celebrate Cinco de Mayo by attending parades, playing music, hitting pinatas, putting up decorations, dressing festively, and enjoying food like tacos, guacamole, and salsa.

In order for parents to complete the activities attached, they will need a few key supplies, a little patience, and a lot of creativity!

Don't forget to suggest they set aside time to enjoy a Mexican feast as a family. Allow all to help out in the kitchen while awesome festive tunes are played.

It is always nice to expose your students and their families to a new and interesting culture and their traditions.

Happy Celebrating!

Heather

Activity 1-Make Musical Instruments

Music is a huge part of Cinco de Mayo. In fact, genres such as mariachi, merengue, salas, and latin are often featured on the fifth of May. You can invite your students to create their own musical instrument through the use of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and music).

- Here are the instructions for making their own musical instruments:
- Place a large box filled with odds and ends gathered from a junk drawer, the recycling bin, or the pantry. Items can range from shoe strings, to rubber bands, pasta pieces, rice, toilet paper or paper towel rolls, foil, parchment paper, beads, stickers, markers, glue-anything goes!
- Ask the child to explore their materials and sketch out a few instrument designs as part of their planning process.
- The last step is implementing their design.
- Once their musical instruments are created, play the musical genres listed above and encourage students to move, dance, sing, and play along to the beats with their homemade instruments!

Extension-Not in session? Ask that a parent record a video or audio recording to share with you!

Conco De Mayo Activities

Activity 2–Talking Tacos

Because food is a huge part of this celebration, have students create tacos. After their taco is designed, have them watch a link to learn some Spanish words!

Here are the instructions for making Talking Tacos:

- Gather a few paper plates, brown and yellow paper, scissors, glue, crayons, and markers.
- Fold the paper plates in half and color them yellow to represent the taco shell.
- Using scissors, cut up the brown paper into small squares. Glue the paper on the inside of the taco, layering the pieces and ensuring that they pop out above the shell and are able to be seen. Repeat the process with the yellow paper, shredding it so that it looks like cheese.
- Log into a computer and view the following video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz5SLt5u4Oc>
- On each taco created, write a Spanish word and its meaning.

Extension-Try using it in a sentence a few times each day!

Activity 2–Bean Math

Your early elementary students will love counting in Spanish and even working on their basic addition and subtraction facts!

Here are the instructions for Bean Math

- Print a copy of the digit cards in this resource packet. Gather white lima beans or dried beans.
- Play a basic Spanish counting song such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d09tN91mOXs>.
- After singing along and practicing a bit, spread out the number cards. Be sure to cut each one out.
- Provide your child with a handful of beans.
- Shuffle up the number cards and see if they put the correct number of beans on each card.

Extension-After they've mastered matching the Spanish numbers with the correct amounts, give students basic addition and subtraction problems to solve (Example: uno + tres = ?). Students should put the correct number of beans in front of them to solve the equation.

Activity 4–Fact Sheet Hat

- Keep the content regarding Cinco de Mayo simple, to the point, yet informative with this hat fact sheet.
- Here are the instructions for the activity:
- Print the Cinco de Mayo fact sheet strips and sombrero. Gather glue and crayons.
- As you cut out each fact strip, read them together.

Conco De Mayo Activities

- Paste the strip on the hat.
- Color the hat using vibrant colors that are usually featured in authentic sombreros.

Extension-follow up with a Cinco de Mayo story:

- [Cinco de Mouse-o](#)
- [Marco's Cinco de Mayo](#)

Cinco de Mayo may be a holiday that your students have never heard of before. These four activities will help them develop an appreciation for its culture and its significance in history!

My Musical Instrument Sketches

Fill Each Blank With a Spanish Word!

Digit Cards 1-5

uno
(oo-no)

dos
(doss)

tres
(trace)

cuatro
(kwah-tro)

cinco
(seen-ko)

Digit Cards 6-10

seis
(say-ees)

siete
(see-ay-tay)

ocho
(oh-cho)

nueve
(nuay-vay)

diez
(dee-ace)

Fact Strips

CINCO DE MAYO MEANS THE “FIFTH OF MAY.”

ON MAY 5, 1821 MEXICO FOUGHT FRANCE IN THE BATTLE OF PUEBLO

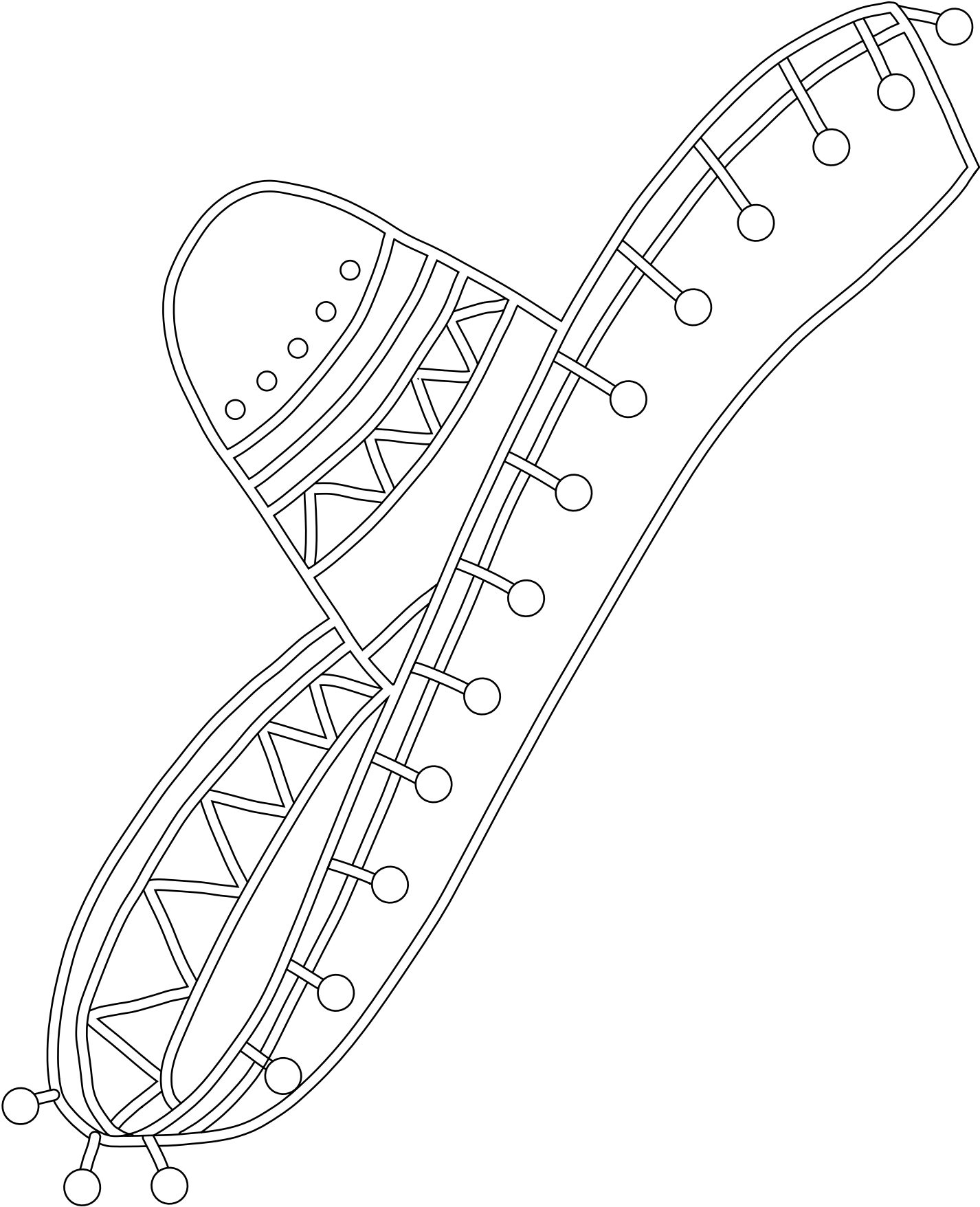
MEXICAN TROOPS WERE POORLY ARMED BUT WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT FRANCE’S WELL EQUIPPED SOLDIERS.

THE COLORS OF MEXICO’S FLAG ARE GREEN, WHITE, AND RED.

CINCO DE MAYO IS A CELEBRATION OF MEXICAN HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND PRIDE.

THE 5TH OF MAY IS NOT MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, WHICH IS CELEBRATED ON SEPTEMBER 16TH.

FACT SHEET HAT





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