



DISTANCE LEARNING PACKET

HIGH SCHOOL

SPANISH

Cinco de Mayo

Directions: Read each article about Cinco de Mayo and answer the questions that follow.

Cinco de Mayo is coming up! Many Americans have no idea what the holiday means or why we celebrate.

Article 1: Mexican Food History

The history of Mexican food is a long and diverse one. It is believed that authentic Mexican food might have been derived from the Mayan Indians. They were traditionally nomadic hunters and gatherers. Corn tortillas with bean paste were a common food item; but they also ate wild game, tropic fruits, and fish.

In the mid 1300's, The Aztec Empire was thriving, and though the Mayan food staples were still in use, chili peppers, honey, salt and chocolate found its way into their cooking. Some of the wild game, such as turkey and duck, had now become domesticated.

In 1521 Spain invaded Mexico. Spanish foods had the most influence on the Mexican cuisine. They introduced new livestock, such as sheep, pigs and cows and brought with them dairy products, garlic, herbs, wheat and spices.

A Brief History on Some of Our Favorite Foods

Salsa was sold in the Aztec market places. Salsa, the Spanish word for sauce, is uncooked and sometimes pureed until chunky, smooth, or chopped. Large red tomatoes, tomatillo, chipotle {a staple in the Aztec diet} and the avocado are found in the modern salsa, and are the same core ingredients used in the past. We can thank the Aztecs for Chocolate. It was through them that the Spaniards brought the product to Europe in 1657.

The term enchilada is first referenced in the US in 1885. Yet the concept of tortillas being used as a wrap can be clearly linked to the Aztecs. The word enchilada means "in chile."

Other foods that we associate with Mexican cuisine, are not traditionally so. The Flan was discovered in Medieval Europe. And ceviche is an Inca discovery, eating their catch of the day raw with only a few seasonings. It wasn't until the late 15th century when Native American chefs of Ecuador and Peru began to add the citrus fruits with the South American fish, and creating the dish that we know today.

Flavors from around the world have influenced Mexican dishes. The same can be said about Mexican traditional favorites affecting other countries menus. In just about every culture you look at, you can find a hint of Mexico.

Article 1: Questions:

1. What foods of the Aztec found their way into Mayan cooking? Name 5.

2. After their invasion of Mexico, _____ foods had the most influence on Mexican cuisine.

3. The Mayan Indians were traditionally _____ and _____. They commonly ate _____.

4. The _____ is not original Latin American but was discovered in Medieval Europe.

5. Salsa is the Spanish word for _____.

6. _____ is raw fish eaten with only a few seasonings and citrus fruit.

Article 2: The History of Cinco de Mayo and the Battle of Puebla

¡Viva México! ¡Viva México! ¡Viva México! Mexicans are truly festive; any excuse gives way for a celebration! But the most important and exciting are the 16th of September, Independence Day and Cinco de Mayo, the Fifth of May. They are good occasions to show the pride of being Mexican, the love of the Motherland, and the certainty of being a free country, thanks to the many men and women whose struggle made history.

The quest for independence started on the 16th of September 1810, following the will to become a free nation, no longer submitted to Spanish rule. The struggle went on for 10 years. Finally, in 1821, the first independent Mexican government was established. Being an independent nation was not easy. Over the years, Mexico received economic support from several nations, France and England among them. Later on, even Spain supported the new country. Thus, Mexico became indebted. Due to ongoing political unrest caused by many groups struggling for power, Mexico was not able to pay back the loans. On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez stated that debt payments would be suspended for a period of two years.

Spain, France, and Great Britain: In 1862, the three European countries dispatched their fleets to Mexican shores for money, land, and rights as payment for their loans. A government representative greeted them and explained that Mexico did acknowledge its debts, but it had no funds to pay them. They were offered payment warrants, which the Spaniards and the British decided to accept the warrants and withdrew from the scene. But the French government's representative did not accept the offer, and prompted his troops to invade the country and head toward Mexico City, the nation's capital. They had to cross through the state of Puebla to get to the capital.

The Mexican President, Benito Juarez, prepared the defense. He commanded Ignacio Zaragoza, a young and brave General, to fortify the City of Puebla and repel the French invaders. The Battle was by no means even. The French Army was considered the greatest military force on the globe. France sent more than six thousand men to invade Mexico. But the courage and the love of freedom impelled the Mexicans to fight back.

General Ignacio Zaragoza led 5,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians called Zacapoaxtlas. On the 5th of May 1862, the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, in the city of Puebla, became the scene of the historical defeat of the great European army.

Article 2 Questions:

1. Mexico's Independence Day is on _____.
2. What 3 countries arrived in Mexico for debt repayment back to their countries?

3. Who was the president of Mexico during the time of the battle? _____
4. General _____ led 5,000 soldiers to battle in the city of Puebla.
5. At the time of the battle, the _____ army was considered the greatest on the globe.

Article 3: Facts You Didn't Know About Cinco de Mayo

While it's been widely celebrated throughout the United States as a way to honor the heritage and ancestry of Latino communities and culture, it's also one of the most misconceived holidays on the calendar.

It's not a big holiday in Mexico. Cinco de Mayo might have deep roots in Mexico's history, but it's actually not as big of a celebration as it is in the United States. In fact, the biggest celebrations in Mexico are relatively limited to the country's capital Mexico City and the town of Puebla that stands as the foundation for the holiday.

Cinco de Mayo isn't Mexico's Independence Day. It's also been erroneously said that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Fourth of July. Even though it recognizes an important victory in the country's strive for freedom, it is not the traditional day of independence for Mexico. That honor is called 'El Grito de la Independencia' and it's normally celebrated on Sept. 16th.

Mexico's win in Puebla could have changed the American Civil War. Another part of Napoleon III's reasons for taking over Mexico was so he could provide aid to the Confederate Army and expand his empire across Mexico and into the US. Puebla delayed those plans.

The holiday's original intention was to reach out to Latino communities and culture. In the 1950s and 60s. President Franklin Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy" was enacted to improve relations and communication with Latin American countries and communities. Under this policy, Cinco de Mayo was recognized as a national holiday.

It is celebrated outside the US and Mexico. Thanks to the spread of the Cinco de Mayo holiday, other countries have picked it up mostly as a way to get people to the bars. Countries such as Canada, Malta, Australia and the Cayman Islands have their own small Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Interestingly, Spain does not celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Instead, they celebrate Dos de Mayo to commemorate another key defeat against French forces in 1808.

The margarita wasn't invented until well after the first Cinco de Mayo. The origin story of the margarita depends on who is telling it, but all of the stories date far after the Battle of Puebla. The earliest version dates back to 1938.

Article 3 Questions:

1. Write down three facts that you found the most interesting:

2. Instead of Cinco de Mayo, Spain recognizes the date _____.

3. The Good _____ Policy was enacted by President _____.

4. Margaritas can be dated back to the year _____.

After finishing, use the information you from all of the articles to answer the following:

5. What is Cinco de Mayo? Why is it celebrated? What date does it take place on?

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Understand Why 'Usted' Is Sometimes Abbreviated 'Vd.'

By **Gerald Erichsen**

Updated August 14, 2019

To understand why *usted* is abbreviated as *Vd.* we need a quick lesson in the etymology of the word, and the story of that pronoun also answers another question about Spanish, namely why the second-person pronoun *usted* (those used when talking to somebody to refer to that person) uses third-person verbs (those used to refer to someone other than the speaker and listener).

Why Usted Is Abbreviated

Usted had its origins during the colonial era, where it was common to address nobility and other people held in esteem (or people who thought they were held in esteem) as *vuestra merced*, meaning "your mercy." *Vuestra merced* was used in much the same way as "your honor" is used in English today, with third-person verbs, i.e., we say "your honor is" rather than "your honor are." It began as an extremely formal type of address, eventually becoming the standard way of addressing people in higher positions as well as persons who aren't friends or family.

As is often the case with much-used terms, *vuestra merced* became shortened over the centuries. It changed to *vuesarced* to *vusarced* and eventually to *vusted*, which you may still hear, especially among older speakers, in some regions. *Vd.* was adopted as an abbreviation for that word or earlier forms and remains in use today, although *Ud.* is more common.

Spanish speakers tend to soften their consonants, so *vusted* eventually gave way to today's *usted* (which in some areas has its last letter softened so it sounds like *usté*). Like the earlier *vuestra merced*, it still uses third-person verbs (i.e., *usted es* for the formal "you are" but *tú eres* for the familiar/informal "you are").

As all living languages do, Spanish continues to change, and these days *usted* itself is being heard less often. In a change that has its parallels in English, much Spanish usage is becoming more informal or egalitarian. Whereas at one time, strangers were frequently addressed as *usted*, it is common in some areas, especially among younger people, for peers to immediately

address each other as *tú*. On the other hand, there are areas in which *usted* is used even among family members, and others where *vos* is preferred over *tú* for family or close friends.

1. In the colonial era, how were nobility addressed?
2. How did 'vuestra merced' change over the years?

Hispanic Myths and Legends: El Basilisco Chilote

Directions: Read the article about El Bascilison Chilote and answer the questions.

Paso 1: Read the story to learn about the legend of El Basilisco Chilote as told in Chile

A Basilisco Chilote is said to be a creature that is part bird and part reptile. It has a rooster's head with a large red crest, and a long neck like a snake. It's body looks like that of a typical rooster, but with smaller wings and feet.

During the day, the Basilisco Chilote hides under the house. However, at night, while everyone is sleeping, it comes inside. It sings a sweet lullaby that causes everyone to stay asleep so that it can feed on the breath and saliva of all those inside.

Eventually, the people of the house would lose the desire to eat, growing thinner and thinner, and their faces would turn pale. Over time a persistent cough would develop, and breathing would become difficult. Eventually, the people would die.

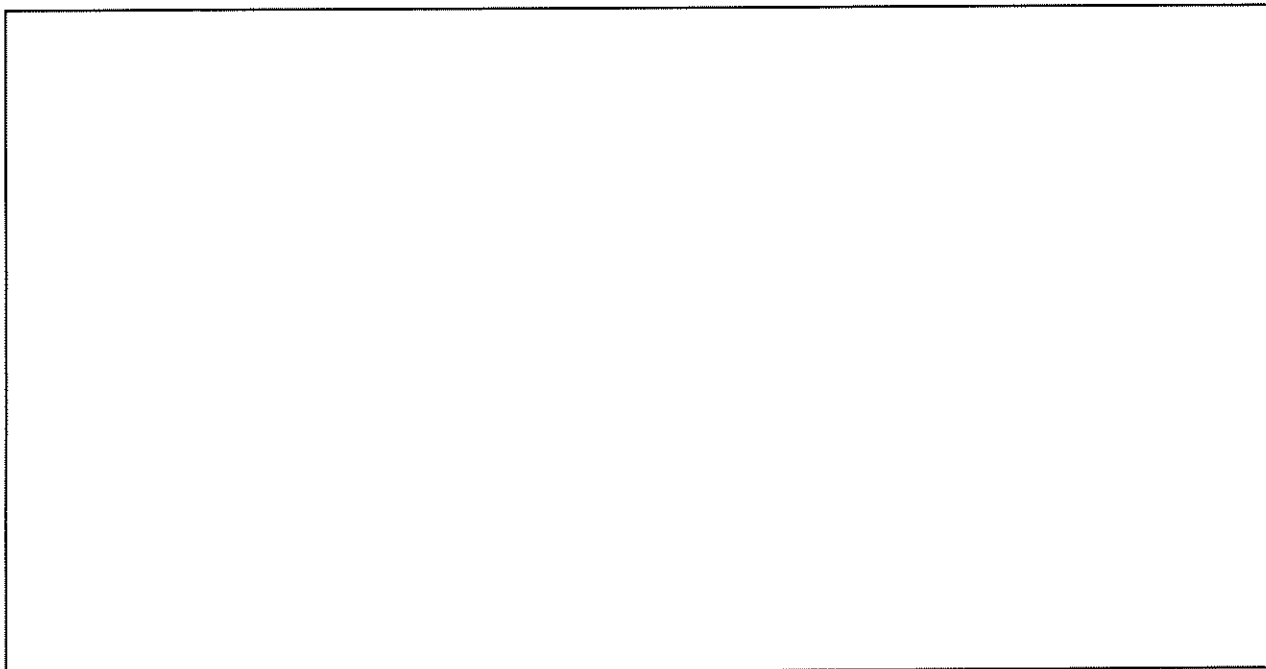
The Basilisco Chilote hatches from a small, round egg. The egg is greyish in color with a rough texture. If you ever see one, you should get rid of the egg immediately and kill the chicken that laid it. Once the shell has broken, the only way to get rid of it is to set fire to the house where it attacks.

Paso 2: Comprehension Questions

1. What two animals is the creature said to be made of? _____
2. Where does the Basilisco Chilote hid during the day? _____
3. What does the creature do when it comes in at night? _____

4. What happens to people over time? _____

5. Once the shell is broken, what is the only way to get rid of the creature? _____

Paso 3: Draw a picture of El Basilisco Chilote based on what you read

Paso 4: The indigenous tribes of South America all used different healings and rituals to cure illness. Many of their descendants continue to practice these rituals today. Considering this and the legend of the Basilisco Chilote, respond to the following questions.

1. In the legend of El Basilisco Chilote, a family living in a home being attacked by the creature will develop a persistent cough and have difficulty breathing. In the story, these symptoms are blamed on the Basilisco Chilote. What might be a more scientific explanation for the family's symptoms?

2. In many parts of the developed world, people no longer perform rituals or healings when they are ill. They take medicines and visit doctors. What might explain the fact that in many indigenous cultures that is not the case and their members still rely on herbs and rituals instead of medical treatment?

3. In some versions of the Basilisco Chilote, the creature is able to turn anyone who looks at it into stone. What other mythical creature, from Greek mythology, is capable of this?

The Running of the Bulls

Directions: Read each article about The Running of the Bulls and answer the questions that follow.

Part 1: Pamplona Bull Running

The festival of San Fermin is more commonly known as the Running of the Bulls outside Spain. The festival officially begins at midday on 6th July every year with the 'Chupinazo' (opening ceremony) that takes place on the balcony of the Casa Consistorial in Pamplona. The ceremony is marked by a rocket being launched from the city hall and an explosion of fireworks. Thousands of people congregate in the square awaiting the mayor's official announcement that the fiestas (parties) have begun, a rocket is launched, and the partying begins.

History of the Running of the Bulls

The history of the bullrunning in Pamplona is not clear. There is evidence of the festival from as far back as the 13th century when it seems the events took place in October as this coincided with the festival of San Fermin on October 10th. It seems that the modern day celebration has evolved from this as well as individual commercial and bullfighting fiestas which can be traced back to the 14th century.

Over many years the mainly religious festival of San Fermin was diluted by music, dancing, bullfights and markets such that the Pamplona Council proposed that the whole event be moved to July 7th when the weather is far more conducive to such a celebration. To this day, San Fermin remains a fixed date every year with the first bullrun at 8am on July 7th and the last at the same time on July 14th.

The joining together of the religious, commercial and bullfighting festivals and the move to July 7th led to the first official celebration of San Fermines in 1591. The fiesta was a low key affair in comparison to the modern day festival, as it only lasted two days. Dancing and fireworks became features of the festival over the next few years and the event was extended to July 10th.

It was thanks to the writing of American writer Ernest Hemingway that San Fermin developed the notoriety of today. The publication of his novel "The Sun Also Rises" in 1926 told the world about the Pamplona bull running festival, which attracted people from all over the world to this annual festival.

Part 1 Questions:

1. The festival of San Fermin takes place in _____, Spain.
2. What is the opening ceremony called? _____
3. What signals the beginning of the festival?

4. What time and date does the festival begin?

5. When it first began, the festival was mainly a _____ festival that grew to include music, dancing, and bullfights.
6. The festival gained notoriety when it was written about in _____'s novel, The Sun Also Rises.

Part 2: The Bull Run – El Encierro

The Pamplona bull run (el encierro) takes place at 8am every morning from 7th to 14th July. There are eight runs in total. Runners must be in the running area by 7.30am. The actual run stretches from the corral at Santo Domingo where the bulls are kept to the bullring where they will fight that same afternoon. The length of the run is 825 meters (.51 miles) and the average time of the run from start to finish is about three minutes. Each day six fighting bulls run the route as well as two herds of bullocks.

Runners (called *mozos*) dressed in white with a red handkerchief around their necks pray to San Fermin, then a second rocket announces that the bulls have left. The bulls and the runners then proceed along the route.

A third rocket is set off once all the bulls have entered the bullring and the fourth, and final, rocket means that the bulls are now in the bullpen and the bull run has finished. The vast number of people taking part in the bull run adds to the danger of running alongside wild bulls weighing in the region of 700kg (1500 lbs) each.

A word of warning ... With the drinks flowing and the party in full swing you could be forgiven for forgetting that running the bulls is an extremely dangerous activity. Under no circumstances should you even consider running if you're intoxicated. Not only are drunken people a risk to themselves, they are also a risk to everyone else. There are plenty security guards and first aid personnel, but there is little they can do during the running of the bulls such that 15 people have died and over 200 been seriously injured since 1924.

Watching the Bullrunning

You can stand behind the fences that mark the route of the bull run, but you need to arrive by around 6.30am to get the best spots on the top of the fence directly overlooking the run. Another good spot is in front of the museum on Santo Domingo where there isn't a fence but the best spots here are usually taken before 6am leaving you with a cold two hour wait before the run starts. A great alternative is to **get yourself onto a balcony** overlooking the bullrun. You might be lucky enough to meet someone who invites you onto their terrace, alternatively, ask in the tourist information office. Your only other options are to go to the bullring and watch the end as the bulls arrive in the arena or to head for a bar and watch the bull run which is shown live every morning on national TV.

Watching the Bullfights

On every evening of the fiesta beginning at 6.30pm on 7th July, there is a bullfight in the Pamplona bullring. Tickets for the bullfights are sold out well in advance as the arena only holds 12,500 people. Every evening after the day's bullfight some tickets go on sale for the next evening's event at the 'taquillas' at the bull ring. You'll usually find ticket touts operating around the Plaza de Toros during the day and before the bullfight selling at elevated prices.

Part 2 Questions:

7. Write the significance of each rocket signal:

- a. First rocket: _____
- b. Second rocket: _____
- c. Third rocket: _____
- d. Fourth rocket: _____

8. What is the length of the bull run? _____

9. In Spanish, the bull run is called *el* _____.

10. _____ people have died and over _____ have been seriously injured since 1924.

11. On the evening of every bull right, there is a _____.

12. Name three possible places to view the bull run:

Article 3: Rules of the Bull Run

Runners should arrive at the start location before 7:30am. The rest of the run must be completely clear of runners until a few minutes before 8am.

People under 18 years of age must not run or participate.

Crossing police barriers placed is not permitted.

Before the bulls are released, do not wait in corners, blind spots, doorways or in entrances to other establishments located along the run.

Shop and apartment owners along the bull run must close their doors.

You cannot be in the bull run while drunk, under the effects of drugs or in any other improper manner.

You must wear appropriate clothes or footwear for the run.

Do not run backwards towards the bulls.

Holding, harassing or maltreating the bulls and stopping them from moving or being led to the pens in the bullring is not allowed.

Do not stop along the run or block the path for other runners.

Taking photographs inside the run is forbidden.

Part 3: Answer true or false:

1. Runners are allowed to run in any direction along the path, as long as they do not bump in to anyone.

True	False
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2. It is not allowed to take pictures inside the run.

True	False
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3. The race begins at 7:30 a.m.

True	False
------	-------
4. The bulls know the route by memory, and run freely.

True	False
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5. Only clothing that is appropriate for running is allowed.

True	False
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ThoughtCo.

Varieties of Spanish

Regional Differences Significant but Not Extreme

by Gerald Erichsen

Updated May 08, 2017

Spanish varies significantly from country to country — but the differences aren't so extreme that if you're learning a Mexican variety of Spanish you need to worry about communicating in, for example, Spain or Argentina.

Questions about the regional varieties of Spanish come up frequently from Spanish students. Many have heard so much about how the Spanish of Spain (or Argentina or Cuba or fill-in-the-blank) is different than what they learned that they're worried their months of study won't do them much good.

While the comparison isn't completely accurate, the differences between the Spanish of Spain and the Spanish of Latin America are something like the differences between British English and American English. With a few exceptions — some local accents can be difficult for outsiders — people in Spain watch movies and TV shows from Latin America without subtitles, and vice versa. There are regional differences, more so in the spoken language than in writing, but they aren't so extreme that you can't learn the differences as you need them.

Also, while it's easy to think of Latin American Spanish as one entity, as textbooks and lessons often treat it, you should note there are differences in the Spanish of various countries in the Western Hemisphere. Guatemalan Spanish isn't Chilean Spanish — but residents of those two countries and many others communicate all the time with little difficulty.

If your pronunciation is reasonably good, whether your accent is Castilian or Mexican or Bolivian, you will be understood. You might want to avoid slang or extreme colloquialisms, but standard educated Spanish is understood anywhere in the Spanish-speaking world.

Here, however, are some of the differences you may notice:

PRONUNCIATION DIFFERENCES IN SPANISH

One of the pronunciation differences most often mentioned is that many Spaniards often pronounce the z and the c before i or e like the "th" in "thin," while many Latin Americans pronounce it the same as the s. Also, speakers in some areas (Argentina in particular) often pronounce the ll and y like the "s" in "measure" (this is sometimes called the "zh" sound). In some areas, you will hear speakers drop s sounds, so está sounds like etá. In some areas, the j sounds like the "ch" in the Scottish "loch" (difficult for many native English speakers to master), while in others it sounds like the English "h." In some areas, the l and the ll at the end of a word sound alike. If you listen to a variety of spoken Spanish, you'll notice other differences as well, particularly in the rhythm in which it is spoken.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN SPANISH GRAMMAR

Two of the biggest differences from country to country in grammar are the leísmo of Spain and the use of the pronoun vos in some areas instead of tú (meaning "you"). Another major difference is that vosotros is usually used as the plural of tú in Spain, while in Latin American ustedes is usually used. There are also numerous small differences, many involving colloquial usage.

Although it may sound unusual to Spaniards to hear *ustedes* used where they are expecting *vosotros*, you not need fear not being understood. The Latin American form will be familiar to the Spaniard even though it may seem a bit foreign.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN SPANISH VOCABULARY

Other than slang, probably the biggest class of vocabulary differences you'll come across is in the use of suffixes. A *lápiz* is a pencil or crayon everywhere, but a *lapicero* is a pencil holder in some areas, a mechanical pencil in others, and a ball-point pen in still others.

There are also a fair number of blatant differences, such as a computer being *un ordenador* in Spain but *una computadora* in Latin America, but they are probably no more common than the British-American differences. Names of foods can also vary, and it isn't unusual in Latin America for the indigenous names of vegetables and fruits to have been adopted.

Travelers should be aware that there are at least a dozen words, some of them of local usage only, for a bus. But the formal word *autobús* is understood everywhere.

Of course, every area also has its quirky words. For example, a Chinese restaurant in Chile or Peru is a *chifa*, but you won't run across that word in many other places.

CITE

Questions for the article 'Varieties of Spanish'

1. What would you want to avoid in speaking Spanish to make sure you are understood?
2. What is a pronunciation that marks someone as being from Spain?
3. Is there a pronunciation difference that marks you as being from Georgia or another state?
4. What is another pronunciation difference you might hear when travelling to Spanish-speaking countries?
5. What is a grammatical difference that marks someone as being from Spain?
6. Is there a grammatical difference that marks you as being from Georgia or another state?
7. What are some vocabulary differences among Spanish speakers?
8. Are there vocabulary differences that mark you as being from Georgia or another state?
9. What pronunciation/vocabulary differences are there between English speakers?
10. What grammatical differences are there between English speakers?