



LATIN AMERICAN
& IBERIAN INSTITUTE

Hispanic Heritage Month

begins September 15th and ends October 15th.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the U.S. each year to recognize and honor past and current Hispanics, Latinxs and their diverse cultures. This celebration began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson's administration as a week-long holiday; however, it was expanded into the month-long celebration it is today 20-years later by President Ronald Reagan. Although not all Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Europe during Hispanic Heritage Month, this 30-day period does include eight countries' independence days in addition to Indigenous People's Day, which is celebrated throughout the Americas, and Día de la Hispanidad, which is celebrated in Spain. This month-long celebration reminds Hispanics and Latinxs in the U.S. to cherish their cultures, histories, and identities. We hope that you enjoy this activity and that it helps your students learn about this special month.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES This resource incorporates activities aligned to the following [Common Core Standards](#):

1. Reading Standards for Informational Text:

- **Key Ideas and Details & Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:** Through the video and news article about Hispanic Heritage Month, students will analyze the evidence provided to discern the differences between terms like Hispanic and Latinx in addition to identifying the importance of this month-long celebration. (1) *"Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text;"* (2) *"Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas;"* (7) *"Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words;"* (9) *"Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take."*

2. Writing Standards:

- **Text Types and Purposes & Production and Distribution of Writing:** After watching the video and reading the video on Hispanic Heritage Month, students will reflect on their previous knowledge and apply evidence and details from the video and article to their creative writing presentation in the final activity. (1) *"Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence;"* (2) *"Write informative / explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content;"* (4) *"Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience;"* (5) *"Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach;"* (6) *"Use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others."*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15th and ends on October 15th. In the following activities, you will learn about Hispanic Heritage Month, important Latinx figures, and more!

Before reading:

1. What's the difference between being "Spanish," "Hispanic" and "Latino/Latina"?
2. Is "Latino" or "Latina" a race?
3. Which countries are in Latin America?
4. What languages are spoken in Latin America?
5. What does Hispanic Heritage month celebrate?

Watch the video below from *Bustle on YouTube*, correct your responses above as needed, and answered the questions below. <https://youtu.be/gS2tdjzla8Y>



YouTube Search

What's the difference between Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish?

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Hispanic, Latino and Spanish are often used interchangeably in describing race. But what's the right terminology? Kat Lazo lays down some wisdom.

What are 2 surprising things you learned from this video?

What is 1 question you still have about Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish identities?

Hispanic students have mixed feelings about Heritage Month



By Hanna Guerrero, adapted by Newsela staff
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Alpha Cindy Avitia High School, East San Jose, California, students (from left) Cesar Lopez, Zuleyma Ponce, Abraham Espino, Itzel Linares and Michelle Ortega.
photo by: Christina Pirzada

Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15. Hispanic students gathered to talk about it. They go to school in East San Jose, California.

"Do you know what Hispanic Heritage Month is?" the students were asked.

"No," they said.

Hispanic Heritage Month is meant to celebrate Hispanic Americans. September 15 is the Independence Day of several Spanish-speaking countries. They include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. On September 16, Mexico celebrates its independence. On September 18 Chile celebrates its independence.

Michelle Ortega is a sophomore. She said that Hispanic Heritage Month sounded like something for people whose parents are from Latin America. She thought it was not for her.

What Is Hispanic Culture?

Hispanics are similar in some ways. They are different in other ways. They come from 20 different Spanish-speaking countries. Some are born in the United States and learn Spanish as their first language. Some learn English and Spanish at the same time.

There is no single history of Hispanics coming to the United States. Each story is different.

Also, each country has its own culture and traditions. Including all of these in Hispanic Heritage Month is hard. Day of the Dead is an example. Several countries have the holiday. However, each country celebrates it differently. Zuleyma Ponce is from El Salvador. She says Day of the Dead is not celebrated there like it is in Mexico. It is sadder. It is not as colorful. People visit cemeteries instead of having parties.

Celebrating All Americans: Hispanic Heritage

From September 15 to October 15, we celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Who is Hispanic?

Hola, ¿Cómo estas?



Hispanic
People who speak Spanish as their first language

Latino/Latina
People in the U.S. who are from, or descendants of people from, Latin America



Latin America

All of the countries in Central and South America, as well as Mexico which is part of North America.

Spanish is a gendered language. Adjectives end in -o or -a depending on whether you're talking about a boy or a girl. In order to include people of all gender identities, the term "Latinx" is often used.

Not everyone in Latin America speaks Spanish. For example, Brazil is a Latin American country, but people there speak Portuguese. Also, millions of people in Latin American countries speak an indigenous language, such as Quechua or Aymara.

Mexico Gets the Most Attention

Many people focus on Mexico during Hispanic Heritage Month. Mexico is nearby. The United States has a history with Mexico that goes back many years. Many Hispanics in the United States come from Mexican families. Not all of them do, though.

The words "Hispanic" and "Latino" can be confusing. "Hispanic" means Spanish-speaking people from Spain and most of Central and South America, except for a few places. Brazil is in South America. In Brazil, Portuguese is spoken, not Spanish.

"Latino" means people from countries in Latin America. Latin America is the countries in Central and South America. Latin America includes Brazil even though Spanish is not spoken there. The word "Latino" refers to people who live in the United States. It does not include everyone in the U.S. who speaks Spanish, though. It does not include people from Spain.

The students do not call themselves Latino or Hispanic.

In fact, the words were not created by Spanish speakers or people from Latin America. Both of the words were created for the U.S. Census. The Census is a count of the population. It takes place every 10 years. In 1976, a law was passed. The law created "Hispanic" and "Latino." People thought this would make it easier for the census to collect information.

A Language in Common

The Spanish language is one thing Hispanics share. Different places speak differently, though.

Cesar Lopez talks about making his journey to the United States. He is from Honduras. He had to stop talking with an accent and use Mexican words while in Mexico. In the U.S., people often think he is Mexican.

Some people think that all Spanish speakers are from Mexico. Zuleyma shares that she is mistaken for being Mexican.

Even in Mexico, Spanish is not the only language. Tenth-grader Abraham Espina is from Mexico. He pointed out that there are Indigenous people in Mexico. Many of them do not speak Spanish. Indigenous people lived in Central and South America before Spanish colonizers came.

Language and traditions can be very different. Does anything unite Hispanics and Latinos in the United States?

Michelle believes that Latinos have something in common. They share values like "hard work, education and better opportunities." These are some of the reasons people come to the United States, she says. Michelle wants to give back to her community by becoming a lawyer.

Did you know...

- ▶ There are **470 million** native Spanish-speakers.
- ▶ Spanish is the official language of **20 countries**.



- ▶ There were probably around **1,750 languages** spoken in Latin America at the time that European colonization began.

Why is it in the middle of the month?

Several countries celebrate their Independence Day during the month of September.

September 15:



El Salvador



Costa Rica



Guatemala



Honduras



Nicaragua

September 16:



Mexico

September 18:



Chile

Comprehension check: After reading the text, answer the following questions. Be sure to mark in the text where you find your answers.

1. The group of students featured in this article do not call themselves "Hispanic" or "Latino." **Why is that?**
 - a. They identify more as Hondurans.
 - b. They identify more as Mexicans.
 - c. They identify more as Americans.
 - d. They all identify with different histories.
2. What did Abraham Espina want to explain in the section "A Language in Common?"
 - a. that all Latinos in America share common values
 - b. that people often forget about Indigenous languages
 - c. that it's important to give back to your community
 - d. that there are many variations of the Spanish language
3. What does the graphic titled "Celebrating All Americans: Hispanic Heritage" show about Latin America?
 - a. It shows where Indigenous people lived.
 - b. It names the countries included in Latin America.
 - c. It shows the area that makes up Latin America.
 - d. It shows flags from Latin American countries.
4. Which question is answered in the final graphic containing the flags?
 - a. In which 20 countries is Spanish the official language?
 - b. Where is El Salvador located in South America?
 - c. Why is Hispanic Heritage Month held in September?
 - d. How many native Spanish-speakers live in Latin America?

Main idea statement: In 1-2 sentences, summarize the main idea of this article using your own words.

Reflection activity: Use the text and video to support your answers to the questions below.

In your own words, what is the difference between "Hispanic" and "Latino"?

What does Hispanic Heritage Month celebrate? And, why is this month special?

Creative writing activity: Now that you have learned about the differences between “Hispanic” and “Latino,” and about Hispanic Heritage Month, research an important Latinx figure to celebrate this special month. There are some options in the table below; feel free to choose someone that was not included on this list and conduct research online to answer the questions below about your important Latinx figure. Use the space below to take notes about your person; feel free to add any other interesting and surprising details about the person you choose! Lastly, use your notes to create a poster or digital poster to present your person and to argue why they are important and deserve to be celebrated during this month.

Latinx figures:

Activists:	Art, Film & Music:	Athletes:	STEM:	Writers:
César Chávez	Yalitza Aparicio	Saul “Canelo” Álvarez	Stephanie Castillo (Latina Girls Code)	Isabel Allende
Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales	Diane Guerrero	Fabiana Claudino	Jaime Escalante	Julia Álvarez
Dolores Huerta	Salma Hayek	Oscar De La Hoya	Nicole Hernández Hammer	Luis W. Álvarez
Alexandria Ocasio Cortez	Frida Kahlo	Laurie Hernández	Ellen Ochoa	Jorge Luis Borges
Oscar Romero	Diego Luna	Al Horford	Severo Ochoa	Sandra Cisneros
Sonia Sotomayor	Maluma	Mariana Pajón	Carlos Slim Helú	Junot Diaz
	Ozuna	Alex Rodríguez	Mirna Román	Reyna Grande
	Diego Rivera	Amy Rodríguez		Piri Thomas

Name:	
Place of birth (city & country):	
Current age <u>OR</u> Dates of birth and death:	
Career(s):	
Passions, interests, and/or hobbies:	
Interesting fact about this person:	
Notable accomplishment or way in which they have been influential:	
In your opinion, why is this person important for the Latinx community? Why does this person deserve to be celebrated during Hispanic Heritage Month? <i>(be sure to include relevant evidence to defend your response)</i>	