

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is a special time of year where we celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This month is about learning and appreciating the rich cultures that have shaped our country in many beautiful ways.



The history of Hispanic Heritage Month started in 1968. It was first called Hispanic Heritage Week because it was only a week long! It was established by President Lyndon B. Johnson. But in 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded it to a month. It now begins on September 15 and ends on October 15 every year.

You might wonder why it starts in the middle of the month. That's because September 15 is a very important day for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. They all celebrate their independence day on this date. Other countries like Mexico, Chile, and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, people participate in many different types of celebrations. Schools often have special lessons about Hispanic history and culture. They may study famous Hispanic artists, writers, scientists, and other important figures. Students might also learn about traditional music, dance, and food from different Hispanic countries.

There are also many festivals and events that take place during this month. These can include concerts, art exhibits, parades, and food festivals. It's a time when people come together to celebrate and enjoy the colorful and vibrant traditions of Hispanic culture.

Remember, Hispanic Heritage Month is about celebrating diversity and recognizing the many ways Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation. It's a time to learn, celebrate, and appreciate Hispanic heritage!

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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the purpose of Hispanic Heritage Month?
2. When was Hispanic Heritage Month first established and who expanded it to a month?
3. Why does Hispanic Heritage Month start on September 15?
4. How do schools often celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?
5. What types of events take place during Hispanic Heritage Month?

