

Mexican Independence Day

A Lesson Plan by Eric Dunn

www.TeachingHouse.com



Level	Intermediate
Lesson Aims	Learners will develop their abilities to read for the main idea and for more detail/deeper comprehension, as well as improving their ability to speak fluently in the context of national holidays.
Approximate Timing	40-60 minutes
Notes to the teacher	This lesson is based on the theme of national holidays.
Text Link	https://www.tripsavvy.com/mexican-independence-day-p2-1588893

1) Lead-in: Set the context of the lesson

- Stimulus: The teacher shows a few pictures of an American flag & fireworks to elicit the phrase 'National Holiday' and tells a story of how they typically celebrate July 4th.
- Pair-Speaking Activity: Students discuss what they did for the last national holiday they celebrated.
- Whole Class Feedback: The teacher calls on a couple of students to describe their specific experiences.

2) Gist Reading: Matching Sub-titles

- Task Setting: The teacher introduces the text (see below attached) with the gist task of matching sub-titles to their correct blank.
- Gist Reading: Students do the task individually.
- Pair-Checking: Students check answers in pairs.
- Whole Class Feedback: The teacher asks for students to give their answers and writes them on the whiteboard (1. d; 2. c; 3. b; 4. g; 5. a; 6. f).

3) Vocabulary: Pre-Teaching

- Task Setting: The teacher gives students the matching handouts, folded so they only focus on the vocabulary part, and tells the students to match the words with their definitions.
- Vocabulary Matching: Students work individually.
- Pair-Checking: Students discuss their answers in pairs.
- Whole Class Feedback: The teacher asks students what their answers are (1. c; 2. f; 3. b; 4. a; 5. g; 6. d; 7. e) and further clarifies the words' meanings (perhaps with some visual aids), forms (what part of speech), and pronunciations (how many syllables, where the main stress is, and perhaps some challenging individual sounds).

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4) Detailed Reading: Comprehension

- a. Task Setting: The teacher tells students to unfold the paper and look over some more detailed questions. Students must read the text and answer True or False for each one.
- b. Detailed Reading: The students read individually.
- c. Pair-Checking: The students discuss their answers in pairs.
- d. Whole Class Feedback: The teacher asks for each of the answers and writes them on the board (1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T).

5) Production Activity: Holiday Celebration Discussion

- a. Task Setting: The teacher instructs students to think of a national holiday(s) that is celebrated in their country and to take some quick notes on it.
- b. Mingle Activity: Students get up and walk around, finding new partners to discuss the different national holidays that are celebrated in their countries.
- c. Summarizing and Explaining: After the students get ample time speaking for fluency in the mingle activity, the teacher instructs students to get into small groups and/or pairs to discuss which national holiday celebration seems the most fun and why.
- d. Whole Class Feedback: The teacher calls on some of the small groups and/or pairs to discuss which holiday seems fun to celebrate and why.
- e. Delayed Error Correction: The teacher turns the students' attention to the board, which has some errors written on it (overheard in the previous stages) and elicits from the students how they can be corrected.

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Directions: Place the letter of the correct sub-title in the correct blank below.

a. How to celebrate it?	b. El grito de dolores	c. When is it?	d. Everything you need to know
e. The Mexican War of Independence	f. Patriotic Mexican Foods	g. Mexico's National Symbols	

Mexican Independence Day

1. ____

Mexico's independence from Spain is celebrated every year in September. From the beginning of the month, Mexico's streets and buildings are festooned with an explosion of green, white, and red, but the main events occur on the evening of September 15 when crowds gather in town squares across the nation to shout "Viva México!" and on September 16 when you'll find parades and other civic celebrations. Mexican patriotic spirit is embodied in a multitude of popular traditions. Find out more about Mexican Independence Day—an important national holiday for the country.

2. ____

This holiday is also referred to in Mexico by the date of the event: *el dieciséis de Septiembre* (the 16th of September). It is one of *Las Fiestas Patrias* (the patriotic festivals) and is celebrated on the night of September 15 and all day on September 16. This is one of the most important fiestas of the year in Mexico, and the whole month of September is referred to as *el mes de la patria* (month of the homeland). Some people outside of Mexico may confuse Mexican Independence Day with *Cinco de Mayo* (5th of May), but that is a different celebration (and a much less important one in Mexico).

3. ____

Mexico's War of Independence officially began in the early hours of September 16, 1810, when the priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the church bell and cried out to the townspeople to take up arms and rise up against the Spanish Crown, an event that is known as *el grito de Dolores* (the cry of Dolores), named after the town in Guanajuato state where it took place. Within no time the priest had assembled a large and unruly but resolute mob to march with him toward Mexico City, sparking the uprising against Spanish rule.

4. ____

Mexico's flag, the coat of arms, and the national anthem are Mexico's national symbols (*los símbolos patrios*), and they feature prominently in Independence Day celebrations and decorations.

5. ____

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated with fireworks, flags, food, and parades. On the night of September 15, the cry of Dolores is re-enacted by local politicians in the public squares of most cities and towns throughout the country. On September 16, there are parades and civic ceremonies commemorating Mexico's independence. September 16 is a national holiday in Mexico, so all schools, banks, and government offices are closed.

6. ____

Chiles en Nogada is a Mexican dish that has the colors of the Mexican flag, and it's a favorite food for this holiday. *Pozole*, a soup made of hominy and pork, is also a popular food for Independence Day celebrations. As for drinks, tequila and mezcal fit the bill. For a really festive touch, try a Mexican flag shooter.

(Adapted from: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/mexican-independence-day-p2-1588893>)

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Vocabulary:

1. Mexican Flag Shooter	a. Firmly determined
2. Re-enact	b. A visual design on a shield that symbolizes some form of heredity.
3. Coat of arms	c. Alcoholic drink with the colors of red, white, and green.
4. Resolute	d. To be decorated in a line hanging between two points.
5. Embodied	e. A large and disorderly group of people
6. Festooned	f. To perform or to act a past event.
7. Mob	g. To represent

Fold Here

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Further Questions: Circle either True (T) or False (F) for each of the following questions based on the reading.

1. **T or F** Mexico celebrates its independence from England.
2. **T or F** The celebration starts and ends on September 16th.
3. **T or F** Mexican independence Day is more important than *Cinco de Mayo*.
4. **T or F** The uprising began in a town called Dolores.
5. **T or F** Patriotic symbols aren't that important in the celebrations.
6. **T or F** Public figures act out the uprising like a play.
7. **T or F** Food and drink are decorated with patriotic colors.

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National Holiday Notes:

Name of holiday/When it is celebrated:	
Why is it celebrated?	
How is it celebrated?	
Anything special about it?	

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