

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is an important holiday celebrated by Mexican and Chicano communities. The “Batalla de Puebla” occurred on May 5, 1862. It was a battle between the French military and the Mexican Army. Although the French eventually won this war and ruled until 1867, this particular battle was significant because the ill equipped, outnumbered Mexican Army defeated the French. The battle came to be a symbol of Mexican patriotism and unity. They were able to demonstrate to the world that all of Latin Americans were willing and able to defend their freedom.

Many people believe this holiday to be Mexico’s Independence Day, however their independence from Spain occurred in 1810. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more among Mexican-Americans than Mexico itself. The celebration includes folklorico dancing, mariachi music, feasting, as well as parades.