

♥✕♥ PAN-AMERICAN DAY ♥✕♥

April 14

Since 1931, Pan-American Day has been observed in the United States and other republics of the Organization of American States. Many schools plan entertainment on April 14 that feature and promote the customs of Mexican and Central American nations.

The countries of Mexico and Central America are close neighbors to the United States. Simon Bolivar, a great South American leader, originated the idea of American unity. The first Treaty of Union was signed at the Congress of Panama in 1826. The first International Conference of American States, held in Washington D. C. in 1890, created the International Union of American Republics. All Mexican and Central American countries, with the exception of Santo Domingo, were present. The present organization, the Organization of American States (OAS), is an outgrowth of that union.

The Pan-American Union promotes goodwill and cooperation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. The union pledges three main goals:

1. Mutual Defense. Many Mexican and Central American countries are small and vulnerable to attack. The nations promised to defend one another if attacked by unfriendly forces.
2. Peaceful Settlements. Disputing countries are encouraged to bring their conflicts to the OAS for negotiating settlements. Fighting is discouraged.
3. Human Rights. There has been an on-going concern to improve living conditions in Mexico and Central America. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy proposed the Alliance for Progress. His intent for this alliance was to improve housing, schools, highways, and other community concerns of Mexican and Central American countries.

An outgrowth of the Pan-American alliance is the Pan-American Games. These games were organized to encourage friendships among nations of the Western Hemisphere and to give amateur athletes experience in international competition. The games are held every four years in the year prior to the Olympic Games. The first Pan-American Games were held in Buenos Aires in 1951.

In 1936, the United States and the Mexican and Central American republics signed an agreement to build the Pan-American Highway. The Pan-American Highway is not one road, but a system of roads nearly 17,000 miles long. It is one of the world's great international highways bridging North and South America—crossing rivers and mountains, jungles and deserts. Travelers may stop along the way and visit sights of the major civilizations—Aztec, Maya, and Inca. They may also see towns in transition, from colonial to modern. The Pan-American Highway is important because it is a lifeline of commerce and friendship in the Americas.

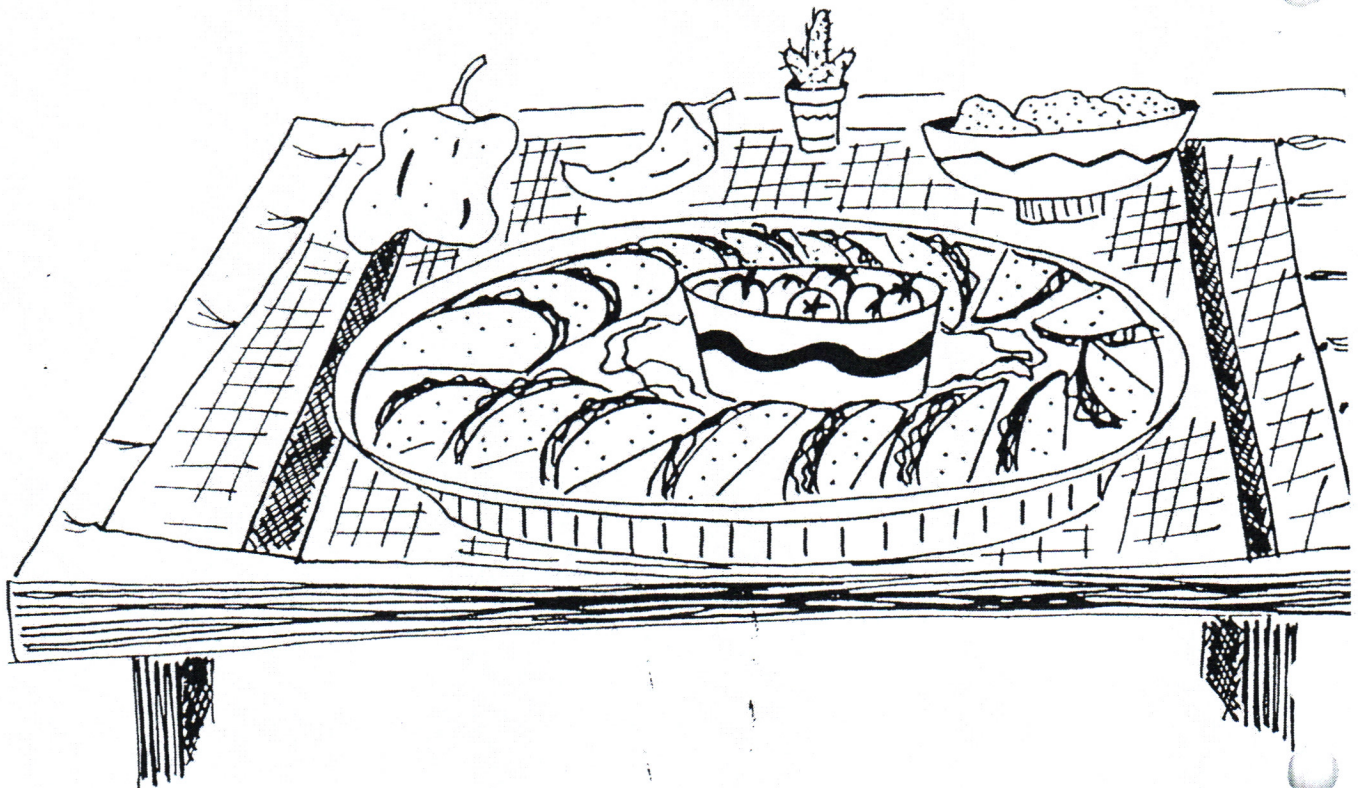
♥×♥ CINCO DE MAYO ♥×♥

May 5

In 1861, Napoleon, the emperor of France, wanting to rule Mexico, sent Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian to Mexico to serve as its emperor. The Mexicans wanted their freedom, not a ruler from France. Discontent built until, at last, on May 5, the Mexican general, Zaragoza, led a revolt against Maximilian and the French. He defeated the French in Puebla in the battle by that name. It wasn't a huge victory, but it was symbolic of what was to come. Five years later, the French were driven out and Mexico was at last free.

Every year on May 5, a mock battle takes place in Puebla to relive and remember the Mexican army for its great victory at the Battle of Puebla. This has turned into a great drama that includes uniforms, theater in the round, and half a day of exhausting acting. Interestingly, there was, at the same time as the Battle of Puebla, a small Aztec battle fought nearby. The Aztecs recreate their battle in theater yearly as well.

Cinco de Mayo has become a big Mexican holiday in some parts of the United States. Americans hold parades, break piñatas, have fireworks displays, and sponsor fiestas that feature Mexican food.



El Día de la Raza



el 12 de octubre

América – America

El barco – The ship

- Nina, Pinta, Santa María – 3 of the ships used to explore the New World

Cristóbal Colón – Christopher Columbus

El conquistador – The conquistador

El Día de la Raza – Christopher Columbus Day

España - Spain

El marinero - The sailor

El mundo nuevo – The new world

El océano – The ocean

El oro – the gold

Los Reyes Católicos – The Catholic Monarchs

- La Reina Isabel – Queen Isabel
- El Rey Ferdinando – King Ferdinand

La tierra – The land



Descubrir – To discover

Explorar – To explore

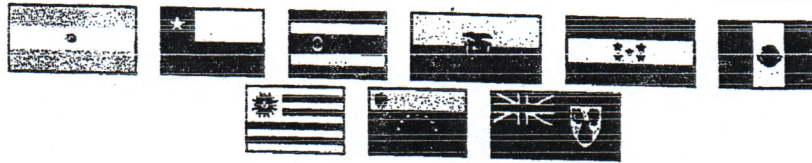
FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

June

The day the Feast of Corpus Christi falls on in June varies according to the lunar calendar. The Feast of Corpus Christi honors, among other things, the arrival of the first fruits of the season in Mexico. This holiday is so blended with Native American celebrations that its flavor changes from place to place.

In the Zocolo (square) in Mexico City, this day is traditionally honored with a parade. Priests dressed in beautiful robes lead the parade followed by young men wearing crates of fruits and vegetables on their backs. People don glorious masks and young children carry little pots of herbs, small rattles, clay miniatures, and other items to encourage good spirits. The parade route is gloriously strewn with flowers.





Columbus Day, Día de la Raza, Native American Day

Columbus Day, traditionally the 12th of October, celebrates Christopher Columbus's (Cristóbal Colón's) arrival in the Americas in 1492.

Christopher Columbus, born in Genoa in 1451, made three expeditions on behalf of the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella. The first, with three ships, the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria, was a voyage to discover a new route to China or the East Indies. It resulted, on 12 October, 1492, in Columbus arrival in the Bahamas and later Cuba and Hispaniola (the island of the Dominican Republic and Haiti). The second voyage, in 1493, with 17 ships, explored Puerto Rico and the Leeward Islands and founded a colony on Hispaniola. In 1498, he finally reached the mainland in Venezuela. Columbus was admiral and governor general of the new colonies until 1500 when he was returned to Spain in disgrace. He made a final voyage in 1502, reaching Central America, but died, disgraced and virtually forgotten in 1506.

Columbus was not, of course, the first human being to visit the Americas and, as a reminder of this, Columbus Day is known in some places in the USA as **Native American Day** (e.g. South Dakota). In other locations, however, Native American Day has been set on other dates. For instance, it is celebrated in Delaware on the 1st Saturday after Labor Day.

Columbus Day is nowadays celebrated in the United States on the 2nd Monday in October. It is celebrated on 12 October in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela and on 17 October in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Día de la Raza, literally the "Day of the Race", is an effort to celebrate the Hispanic heritage of the Americas and, by extension, the multicultural heritage of all those races and cultures which contributed to it.



The Landing of Columbus Oct. 11th 1492