

# Mexican Independence Day

Mexican Independence Day is an important celebration for Mexico and Mexicans around the world. It is a two-day celebration. The celebration begins each year on September 15 and ends on September 16.

In the 1500s, the Spanish conquered Mexico. They renamed it “New Spain.” After claiming Mexico for Spain, the Native peoples were treated as slaves. The Native peoples included the Aztecs and Mayans. Many were treated poorly by their conquerors.

In the 1700s, revolutions occurred in both the United States and France. It is said that these revolutions encouraged Mexico to declare its independence. Also, the Age of Enlightenment encouraged better governments. This may also have inspired the Mexicans to revolt against Spain.

In the 1800s, a priest named Father Hidalgo planned a revolt against the Spanish. He had many followers. They planned to revolt on October 2, 1810. The Spanish found out about Father Hidalgo’s plan. So, Father Hidalgo moved up the date of the revolt.



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On the evening of September 15, 1810, Father Hidalgo rallied his followers. He delivered a famous speech called "Grito de Delores." In this speech, he shouted "Viva Mexico!" and "Viva la Independencia!" These became famous rallying cries for the Mexican War of Independence.

The revolt for Mexican Independence began on September 16, 1810. Father Hidalgo was put to death, and the fighting lasted over ten years. Finally, in 1821, Mexico received its independence from Spain. After gaining their independence, Mexicans elected their first president in 1823.

Each year, the Mexican president delivers a speech similar to Father Hidalgo's "Grito de Delores." Mexican Independence Day is celebrated with parties, fireworks, parades, and food. Many in Mexico have Mexican Independence Day off of work and school. People all around the world celebrate, especially cities with large populations of people with Mexican heritage.



# Questions

1. Who was Mexico declaring their independence from?

- France
- the United States
- Spain
- England

2. What was a rallying cry of the Mexican Revolution?

- Viva Mexico!
- Fight for Independence!
- Viva Life!
- Viva Spain!

3. How long did the Mexican War of Independence last?

- two days
- 10 days
- two years
- 10 years

4. In what year did Mexico declare its independence?

- 1800
- 1823
- 1810
- 1821

5. Why do you think Father Hidalgo's speech is remembered each year?

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6. What did Father Hidalgo do to help Mexico win its independence?

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