

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month: Resources for Teaching About the Holocaust

Five Things to Know About Hispanic Heritage Month

It's a national celebration to honor the history, culture and influence of past generations that came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America

Hispanic Heritage Month has been a big celebration in the U.S. for more than 40 years. Hispanics across the country celebrate this month with pride and joy, while commemorating the importance of diversity. Here are five things you should know, related to the Hispanic Heritage Month.

What is Hispanic Heritage Month? It's a national celebration to honor the history, culture and influence of past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

U.S. & World: The observance started in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson's administration as a one-week celebration called Hispanic Heritage Week. Years later, President Ronald Reagan proposed extending this celebration into a month-long event. It was [enacted into law](#) on Aug. 17, 1988, officially designating the 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

When is Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated? [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The celebration starts mid-month because Sept. 15 marks the independence anniversary of five countries: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. It is followed by Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16 and Chile's on Sept. 18. Another important date that falls within this 30-day period is Día de la Raza, or Columbus Day, which is celebrated on Oct. 12.

What does Hispanic mean? While many people use Latino(a) and Hispanic interchangeably these two words mean different things. A Hispanic person is someone who comes from or is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country. Latino(a) is used when referring to someone who comes from Latin America or is a descendant from any Latin American country. A person can be both Hispanic and Latino(a), but not all Latinos are Hispanic. Brazilians, for example, are Latinos, but their native language is not Spanish. Conversely, not all Hispanics are Latino(a). Spaniards are considered Hispanic, but not Latinos, since they are part of the European Union. Hispanic countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Latin American countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

How many Hispanics are there in the U.S.?

[The Pew Research Center says](#) the U.S. Hispanic population is the nation's second-fastest-growing ethnic group after Asians. The Hispanic population in the U.S. as of July 1, 2017 is 58.9 million, according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). Hispanics account for 18.1% of the total U.S. population.

How to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?

People use this celebration to show the importance of Hispanics in the U.S. by donating to Hispanic charities, eating food from any of the countries that are being celebrated, learning from their cultures and honoring influential Hispanics who have made an impact on society.

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month: Resources for Teaching About the Holocaust

Florida Atlantic University Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education – *Honoring Hispanic Heritage: Resources for Teaching about the Holocaust*