

Who was Pancho Villa? Who was César Estrada Chávez? What is Cinco de Mayo? What is the hispanic population of the United States? Who is the current president of Mexico 2010? What is National Hispanic Heritage Week? Who are the Hispanic/Latinos?

**Who was Pancho Villa?** Born Doroteo Arango on June 5, 1878, in Río Grande, Mexico. Villa helped out on his parents' farm. After his father's death, he became head of the household and shot a man who was harassing one of his sisters. He fled, but was caught and imprisoned. Villa escaped again and later became a bandit.

While living as a fugitive, Villa joined Francisco Madero's successful uprising against the Mexican dictator, Porfirio Díaz. Because of his skills as a fighter and a leader he was made a colonel. Another rebellion removed Madero from power in 1912 and Villa was almost executed for his efforts to defend the former government. He fled to the United States for a time, but he later returned to Mexico and formed his own military force known as Division del Norte (Division of the North).

He joined forces with other revolutionaries Venustiano Carranza and Emiliano Zapata to overthrow Victoriano Huerta. The different forces were not wholly successful at working together, and Villa and Carranza became rivals. For a number of years, he was involved in a series of clashes with other Mexican military groups and even fought with U.S. troops from 1916 to 1917. In 1920, Villa reached an agreement with Adolfo de la Huerta, the Mexican leader, which pardoned him for his actions in return for Villa putting an end to his independent military activities. Three years later, he was assassinated on June 20, 1923.

**Who was César Estrada Chávez?** (March 31, 1927 – April 23, 1993) was an American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW).

A Mexican American, Chávez became the best known Latino civil rights activist, and was strongly promoted by the American labor movement eager to enroll Hispanic members. His public-relations approach to unionism and aggressive but nonviolent tactics made the farm workers' struggle a moral cause with nationwide support. By the late 1970s, his tactics had forced growers to recognize the UFW as the bargaining agent for 50,000 field workers in California and Florida. However, by the mid-1980s membership in the UFW had dwindled to around 15,000.

**What is Cinco de Mayo?** Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a special day for people of Mexican origin around the world. It marks the anniversary of a Mexican military victory over France. A national holiday in Mexico, it has become a day to celebrate Hispanic history and culture. Parades, festivals, and other special events are held each year on this day.

**What is the hispanic population of the United States?** The nation's Hispanic population increased 1.4 million to reach 45.5 million on July 1, 2007, or 15.1 percent of the estimated total U.S. population of 301.6 million. Hispanics remained the largest

minority group, with blacks (single race or multiracial) second at 40.7 million in 2007. The black population exceeded 500,000 in 20 states. Blacks were the largest minority group in 24 states, compared with 20 states in which Hispanics were the largest minority group

**Who is the current president of Mexico 2010?** Felipe Calderón

**What is National Hispanic Heritage Week?** In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a monthlong celebration (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15). America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

**Who are the Hispanic/Latinos?** It is a great error to assume homogeneity among Hispanics. Hispanic/Latinos have diverse origins. Hispanics come from more than 21 different countries. The label Hispanic was created by the US Federal Government in 1970 in an attempt to provide a common denominator to a large, but disparate, population. The term is not used in everyday parlance by Latinos, although most people understand its intent.

Hispanics are not a racial category and may, in fact, be of many-usually mixed-race backgrounds.