

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the accomplishments of Hispanic-Americans. Hispanic-American men and women embody the American values of devotion to faith and family, hard work, and patriotism through their countless contributions as leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and members of our Armed Forces. Today, Sept. 15, is the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month. Starting tomorrow and every day until Fall Break, you will learn an interesting fact about Hispanic Heritage.



THE BEGINNINGS

How did Hispanic Heritage Month begin? In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson from Texas first proclaimed a Hispanic Heritage Week. It was expanded to a month in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, who was from California. These two states have large Hispanic populations. Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month was made into a law on August 17, 1988. We celebrate this month every year from September 15th to October 15th.



STATISTICS

The latest statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau report that as of July 1, 2019, the Hispanic population of the United States is 60.6 million, which is the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States. California, Texas, and Florida are the states where 55% of the Hispanic population live.



EXPLORERS

There are many famous Spanish explorers, but our city has a special interest in **Hernando de Soto**. He is the first European to travel deep into the U.S.

Continent. Hernando de Soto is also the first known explorer to spot and cross the Mississippi River. The Interstate 40 bridge across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tennessee, to West Memphis, Arkansas, is named the **Hernando de Soto Bridge** in his honor.



Piñata

A Piñata is a paper-mache container decorated as a figure of an animal and filled with toys and candy. Piñatas are popular at birthday parties and other celebrations. The object is to break the piñata and enjoy the contents. China is where the Piñata custom began. It is now considered to be a Mexican tradition.



CESAR CHAVEZ

Cesar Chavez was an American labor leader, community organizer, businessman, and Latino American civil rights activist. He co-founded the National Farm Workers Association. He made people aware of the struggles of farm workers for better pay and safe working conditions. He died April 23rd, 1993.

From Wikipedia



CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo is observed on May 5, each year. This is in honor of when the Mexican army defeated the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. The day is celebrated with parades, carnivals, street fairs, and fireworks at night. People of Mexican descent and many non-Mexicans in the United States enjoy Cinco de Mayo.



HISPANIC FOODS

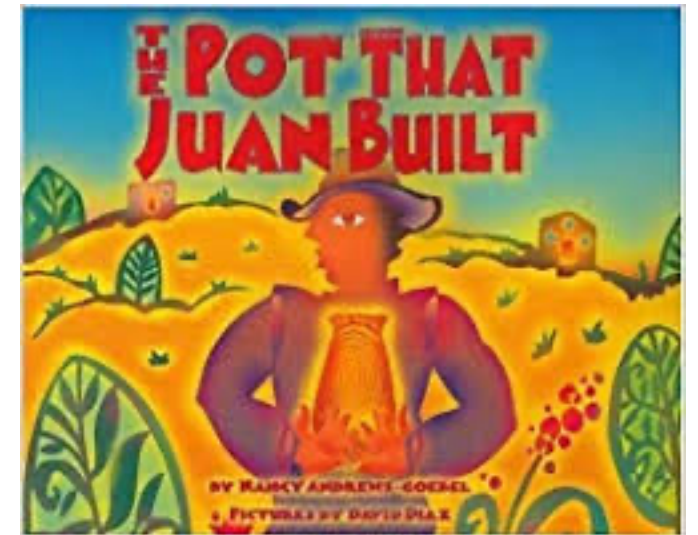
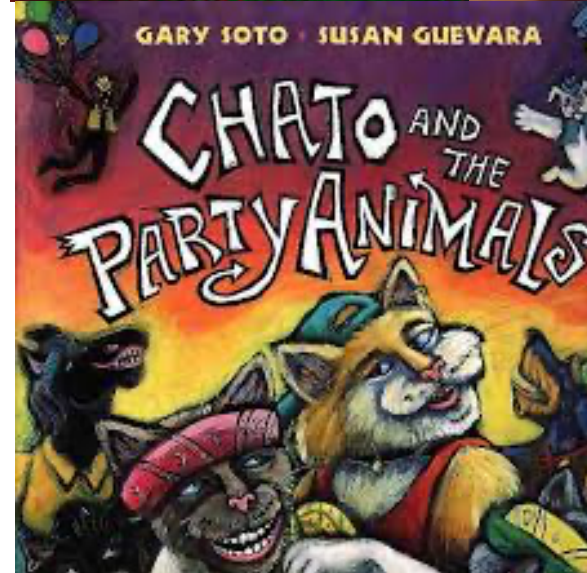
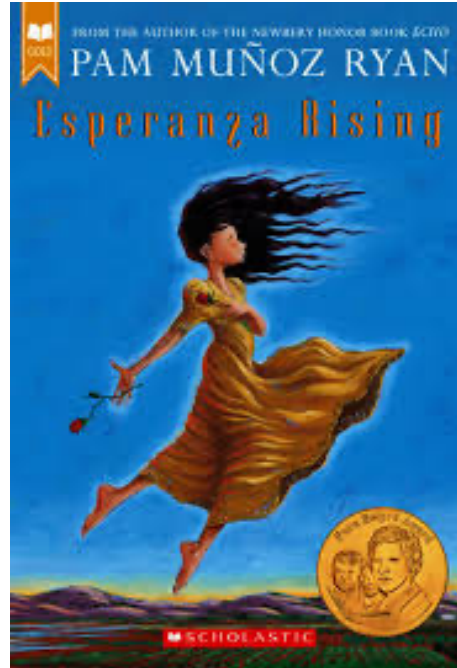
The most popular Hispanic cuisine in the United States is Mexican food. Despite basic menu items such as tortilla chips, salsa, tacos and quesadillas, Mexican cuisine is diverse with different ingredients and flavors depending on the region of Mexico it represents. Moving down to Central America foods become milder. Beans are small and red in color and are most often served whole instead of refried. White rice is typically served instead of yellow rice. September 15th to October 15th is the perfect opportunity to explore this diverse cuisine.

From Micfood.com



PURA BELPRE AWARD

The Pura Belpre Award was established in 1996. It is presented yearly to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The award was named for Pura Belpre, the first Puerto Rican librarian at the New York Public Library. She was a writer, puppeteer, and collector of folktales.

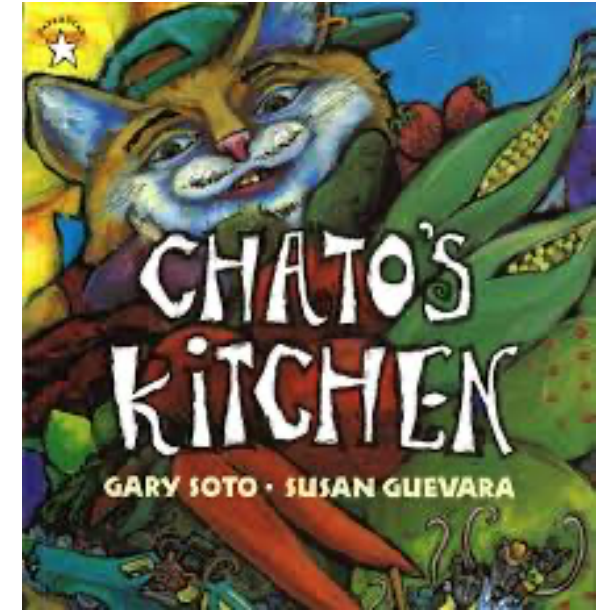


AUTHORS

There are many award-winning Hispanic authors and illustrators. Dexter's Library has a wide selection of Hispanic books. Just two are listed below:

Too Many Tamales, written by Gary de Soto, is the story of Maria who loses her mother's ring in a batch of tamales and her attempt to find it. He also wrote Chato's Kitchen about a cat who makes a big dinner and invites his new neighbors who are mice.

Abuela, written by **Arthur Dorros** is about a little girl who imagines that she and her grandmother fly over the sights of New York City.



POINSETTIA

The poinsettia is a red shrub that blooms in the winter. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Guatemala. Mexicans have included poinsettias in their Christmas celebrations since the 1600s. The first U.S. Minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, brought some shrubs back to the U.S. in 1825. In America, the flower was renamed Poinsettia for him. The U.S. has a National Poinsettia Day in December.



FAMOUS ARTISTS

Freda Kahlo was a painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by nature and artifacts of Mexico. Life experience is a common theme in Kahlo's paintings, sketches, and drawings.

Pablo Picasso produced an estimated 50,000 artworks of paintings, sculptures, ceramics, drawings, and prints. He pioneered cubism and invented collage.



SONIA SOTOMAYOR

Sonia Sotomayor born June 25, 1954 is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was nominated by President Barack Obama in 2009. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic and Latina member of the Supreme Court in United States History.

From Wikipedia



ELLEN OCHOA

Ellen Ochoa born May 10, 1958 is an American engineer, former astronaut and former director of the Johnson Space Center. She was the first Hispanic director and the second female director. In 1993, Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. She went on four missions with NASA.

From Wikipedia



"Being an astronaut is a wonderful career. I feel very privileged. But what I really hope for young people is that they find a career they're passionate about, something that's challenging and worthwhile."

Ellen Ochoa

ATHLETES

Lorena Ochoa Reyes is a former professional golfer. She was the top-ranked female golfer in the world from 2007-2010.



Rafael Nadal is a professional tennis player currently ranked world No. 2 in men's singles tennis.



Oscar De La Hoya is a former professional boxer who became a boxing promoter. He won 11 world titles.



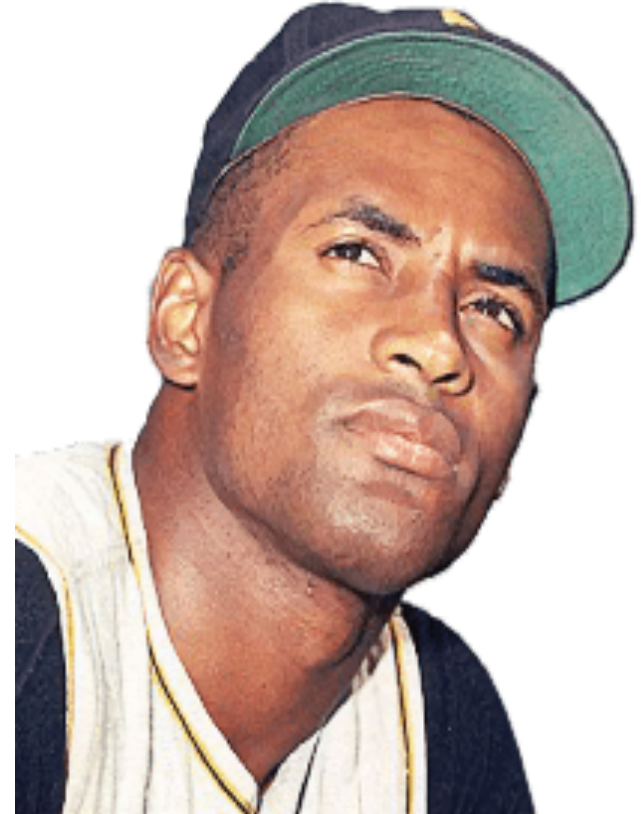
Chihuahuas

Chihuahuas are named for the Mexican state Chihuahua where they became popular in the 1800's. The smallest dogs in the world, they weigh between 2 and 6 pounds. They are about five inches high with tiny, delicate bodies, big ears, and rounded heads. Chihuahuas love to be close to their people and follow them everywhere. They are intelligent, fast learners, and affectionate. They are not afraid of bigger dogs because they do not think their size is a disadvantage!



Roberto Clemente

Roberto Clemente was a baseball player and humanitarian. Born in Puerto Rico, he had a great career with the Pittsburgh Pirates playing 15 All-Star Games and being named MVP of the year. Roberto Clemente is also remembered as a humanitarian, who organized charity drives and donated his time and money. In 1972 he was flying to Nicaragua to deliver supplies to earthquake victims when he died in a plane crash. He once said "If you have a chance to help others, and you fail to do so, you're wasting your time on this Earth."



Demi Lovato

Born in Albuquerque, NM, she began as a child actor on *Barney & Friends*. In 2007, she was in the Disney show *As the Bell Rings*, and then had the starring role in the movie *Camp Rock*.

Demi Lovato has used her star power since her early Disney days to empower young girls. She is an official ambassador for Free the Children, and her work revolves around anti-bullying, mental health, and gender equality.



Did you Know?

We think of cowboys as American. However the original cowboys were Mexican ranch workers called vaqueros. American cowboys copied the ways of the vaqueros.

American Southern Barbecue began when the Spanish brought pigs to the New World. They saw that Caribbean natives cooked things slowly over indirect heat and with a lot of smoke. In fact, the word barbecue comes from the Spanish barbacoa.

America's first Superhero was Zorro. Zorro was a wealthy man who, like Superman, had two identities. He acted mild-mannered to people in power, but disguised himself by wearing a mask and a cape to fight against corruption for poor people. He gave money and help to the poor.

