

CINCO DE MAYO



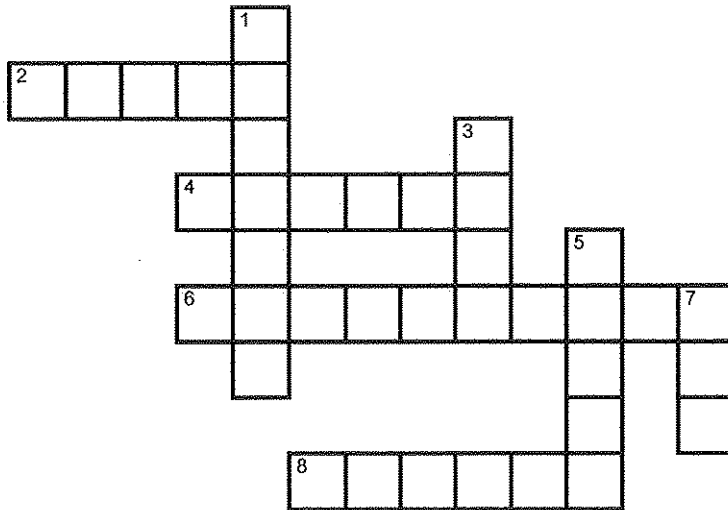
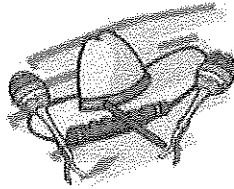
Cinco de Mayo means “the fifth of May” in Spanish. Cinco de Mayo is a day of celebration for the people of Mexico and for Mexican-Americans. Between 1846 and 1848, Mexico was involved in the Mexican-American War. After the war ended, Mexico had very little money and many debts. The country was in a national crisis.

Under Napoleon III, France invaded Mexico in 1862. The Battle of Puebla occurred on the 5th of May. There were less than five thousand Mestizo and Zapotec Indians fighting for Mexico during this battle against more than eight thousand French soldiers. The Mexicans had very few weapons, but they were able to defeat, or win the battle against, the French army. This victory represents Mexican unity and patriotism, or love for their country.

Cinco de Mayo should not be confused with Mexican Independence Day. Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th every year. Fiestas, or celebrations, also occur on the 16th of September.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans in the United States. It is a much larger celebration in the United States than in Mexico. Fiestas are held with music, dancing, parades, and food on the 5th of May every year. Cinco de Mayo is a very important day to the Mexican and Mexican-American people. It is a celebration of their rich history.

CINCO DE MAYO CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 2. Spanish word for fifth
- 4. A Mexican celebration
- 6. Love and respect for your country
- 8. The Mexican Army defeated the _____ army at the Battle of Puebla.

Down

- 1. Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican _____.
- 3. Spanish word for May
- 5. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on the ____ day of the month.
- 7. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in the month of _____.