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Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15) is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to 20 countries and one territory — which includes Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. While the official and more common umbrella term, “Hispanic” is something that most of us are familiar with, this does not represent the diverse races, cultures, and Indigenous languages that encompass this large community. This is why you may also see this recognized as Latino Heritage Month, Latinx Heritage Month, or Latine Heritage Month. If this sounds confusing or complicated just ask a member of the community which term they feel comfortable using! Personally, I prefer to use the gender-neutral term Latine to describe the community. Not only does it make efforts to capture the full spectrum of our communidad, but linguistically, it’s easier for me to say in Spanish! I’ll use Latine throughout this article for the sake of simplicity and clarity. Again, it’s a personal (very intentional) preference but something to keep in mind when you hear or see these terms moving forward.And while we should never wait for an annual event or holiday to take pride in or celebrate someone’s ethnic background, Latine and Hispanic Americans use this as an opportunity to honor their respective cultures and ancestral backgrounds. From concerts and parades to food fairs and “carne asadas,” this is a time meant for recognition, education, and (of course) celebration.By the way, some of the links in this article (like books!) are affiliate links, which means if you make a purchase after clicking a link, we may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. Thank you!First, why does Hispanic Heritage Month start in the middle of September?We’re quite used to having dedicated months to honor specific communities — think: Black History Month in February, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, or Pride Month in June. So, why is Hispanic Heritage Month spread across two months? It might seem random, however, the timing of Hispanic Heritage Month deliberately overlaps with several Latin American Independence Day celebrations. September 15th was chosen as the kickoff date since it coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of five countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), followed by Mexico on September 16th, Chile on the 18th, and Belize on the 21st.Another important date that falls within this 30-day period is Día de la Raza, or Indigenous Peoples Day, which is celebrated in Mexico on October 12th. The idea to celebrate Hispanic Heritage initially began as a week-long observance in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was later extended to a full month 20 years later by President Ronald Reagan. Keep reading to find more answers to frequently asked questions at the end of this article.Activities & Ideas To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage MonthLearnLearn why Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated.We often see people quick to celebrate holidays without much context behind the actual events — ahem, Cinco de Mayo. Relying on stereotypes or assumptions is not only hurtful but can keep us from truly understanding our neighbors. Hispanic Heritage Month is no exception.This TEDx Talk provides insight into what it means to be Hispanic and Latine, while also asking us to dig deeper into the common stereotypes and assumptions that many in this community face. If you’re feeling empowered to dive even deeper, the National Museum of the American Latino, offers bilingual resources like interactive activities. Explore resources from the Library of Congress.Each year, the Library of Congress partners with the National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (whew, that’s a lot) to jointly pay tribute to the generations of Latine and Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. They’ve made documents, exhibits, films, blog posts, and more available to the public — including a calendar of free online events.Watch a documentary about the Latine experience.While this month is primarily centered around vibrant celebrations, it’s also important to acknowledge the systemic issues that plague this community.For a moving love letter to immigrants and their children, Mija: A Disney Original Documentary directed by Isabel Castro, captures the emotional and complex stories of Doris Muñoz and Jacks Haupt, two daughters of undocumented immigrants from Mexico, navigating their careers in the music industry. Los Tigres del Norte at Folsom Prison documentary directed by Tom Donahue, follows a popular norteño band, Los Tigres del Norte as they decide to perform at Folsom State Prison in California — 50 years after Johnny Cash held his historic concert there. Through a series of intimate and emotional interviews, this documentary aims to illustrate the unique experiences of those who are Latine and incarcerated. Latino Americans, a PBS documentary series, is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and diverse history and experiences of the Latine population. It’s a story of the anguish, celebration, and gradual reconstruction of an American identity that connects and empowers millions of people today.Add a few new podcasts to your queue.Latino USA is a nationally syndicated public radio program distributed by NPR that brings together a diverse set of Latine voices to shed light on the current cultural, political, and social issues impacting the Latine community and our nation today. If you want to level up your TED Talks experience, you’ll love TED en Español (with multilingual subtitles), which includes a library of episodes specifically designed to help people think critically on topics ranging from disability to art and poetry. The Advanced Spanish podcast offers those who enjoy listening to the news a way to listen to global news stories in Spanish — and at a slower pace. Visit a museum. Check with your local museum to see if it’s hosting any events or exhibitions highlighting Hispanic and Latine heritage (and bring a friend). Visiting museums gives you the opportunity to get up close and immerse yourself in the art, festivities, or people showcasing their unique perspectives. You can find relevant exhibits and collections on the National Hispanic American Heritage Month website.Take a virtual tour. For those curious about Latin and Hispanic culture but unable to gain access to museums or experiences, we’ve got a solution: virtual tours. (Thank you, technology!)Nonprofits and institutions are eager to share their local cultures and traditions with the world, so they have made it increasingly accessible to visit famous sites and museums from the comfort of your couch. Here are a few that caught my eye: Check out the Mayan Pyramids by virtually visiting Mexico’s Chichén Itzá.Explore the ancient Mesoamerican city, Teotihuacan Pyramid (Pyramids of the Sun) of Mexico.Virtually trek through Machu Pichu in Peru with a guided 360-degree tour that grants viewers access to areas closed off to in-person visitors. Bonus: there’s an audio guide!If you love art, The Museu de Arte de São Paulo — Brazil’s first modern museum — offers online access to their artwork.Google offers up-close, 360-degree views of animals in the Galápagos Islands. There's even a “street view,” allowing viewers to tour the archipelago at their own pace.This eco-lodge in Panama's jungle has a live stream for those who love bird-watching or simply love the background sound of bustling wildlife. Said to be one of the best dive sites in the world, the Gardens of the Queen is an archipelago off the coast of Cuba. Airpano provides up close and personal 360-degree shots of diving experiences. Iguazu Falls, one of the most important destinations in Argentina and Brazil, offers viewers the opportunity to stand on one of the viewing platforms, gaze down into the Devil's Throat, or even get a birds-eye view of the natural attraction. Wander around the Amazon Basin in Brazil. From traveling down the epic river, to trekking a jungle trail, to even meeting a local tribe, this experience is a unique way to get a glimpse into the famed Amazon Basin.The Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California is offering an online experience (Forgotten Images Exhibition Online tour) as part of its Afro-Latinx Festival.Read books written by Latine or Hispanic authors and poets.To understand another culture or way of life, one of our go-to’s should always be the library. From the deeply horrific — but moving — books like “The Devil's Highway: A True Story” by Luis Alberto Urrea, to award-winning poetry like “Poet X” by Elizabeth Acevedo, and “Fresh Banana Leaves: Healing Indigenous Landscapes Through Indigenous Science” by Jessica Hernandez, Ph.D., we gain insight and increased knowledge into intimately human experiences faced by the Latine community. Start by looking through Bookshop.org or Goodreads’ Hispanic Heritage Month reading lists. Listen to audiobooks written or narrated by Latine or Hispanic authors and poets.We love Libro.fm and its mission to support locally-owned bookshops through audiobook purchases. (Plus, it’s a great Amazon alternative.) In honor of this month of festivities, they’re highlighting bookstores, authors, and narrators within the Latine and Hispanic communities. Listeners can browse through their playlist and find content aimed at empowering, learning, and celebrating the Latine and Hispanic experience. Plus, your audiobook download can support a Latine- or Hispanic-owned bookstore.Read inspiring Hispanic Heritage Month quotes.There’s no shortage of beautiful words from Hispanic and Latine leaders about what it means to carry these identities. Explore these curated quotes about Hispanic Heritage Month (and feel free to post them on social media).Take ActionAttend an event.A central part of this month-long celebration is the events that many cities across the U.S. work hard to put on. Events can include traditional dances, live music, art displays, and food stalls. Do some Googling to find out what events are happening near you — and then support your local community by showing up and joining in. Follow and support Latine and Hispanic influencers and advocates.Growing up in a Latine household, I often heard the “dicho” (or saying): “Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres,” in other words, “tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.”Our online community, too, can be a reflection of our values, interests, and aspirations, so we wanted to highlight just some of the many Latine and Hispanic influencers and advocates creating safe, inclusive, and informed spaces for the Latine community: Known for their popular Spanish ASMR TikTok videos, Andrés (or @asif.tv on social media) educates their viewers on all things Latinx and current events that affect the community. Daphne Frias (@frias_daphne on Instagram) is an activist, organizer, and storyteller who is proudly disabled. Not only is she a champion for the disabled community (and often uses her page to inform others on how to be a better ally to disabled people), but she also diligently advocates for pressing social issues such as climate change and gun violence. Sara Mora (@misssaramora on Instagram) is a Puerto Rican-born immigrant rights activist who immigrated to the United States with her family when she was just three years old. As an undocumented teenager in New Jersey, she joined the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). Today, she’s a leading voice in the fight for immigrants’ rights and is the co-president of Women’s March Youth Empower. Ramon Contreras (@ramon.contreras1 on Instagram) is an Afro-Latino public affairs strategist and activist based out of Harlem, New York. After losing his friend to gun violence, Contreras founded Youth Over Guns, an organization dedicated to bringing awareness to gun violence in Black and Latine communities.Donate to Latine or Hispanic nonprofits and community organizations.Latine and Hispanic organizations have long been the foundation of communities across the country. We can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by donating to organizations that understand the needs of diverse Latine and Hispanic communities.Here are a few nonprofit organizations to support: Organizations like RAICES — a Texas-based organization that provides free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees — are at the forefront of the immigration crisis and actively working toward short and long-term solutions. GreenLatinos is a national climate-based nonprofit that brings together a broad coalition of Latine grassroots leaders who are diligently advocating for national, regional, and local climate solutions. The organization fosters inclusive collaboration among its members to amplify minority voices, mentor Latine environmental leaders, and fight for our planet. The Rio Grande International Study Center is one of many organizations across the U.S. working with its local community to protect and preserve their water supply, its predominantly Mexican-American culture, and land (check out how they helped stop a proposed border wall and successfully advocated for a binational park).Support Latine- and Hispanic-owned businesses.Get your holiday shopping done early and help celebrate the culture and creativity of Hispanic and Latine makers by supporting their businesses. Etsy and NOVICA are two online marketplaces that curate beautifully handcrafted goods from Latine artisans living in and out of the U.S. You can also, of course, seek out Latine and Hispanic small business in your community.CelebrateSupport local panaderías (Mexican bakeries) or Latine restaurants.In Latine and Hispanic cultures, food could be considered a core love language. From our morning pan dulce con cafe (sweet bread with coffee) to Spanish tapas to savory empanadas, food is the magnetic field that brings people together.Supporting your local Latine bakeries or restaurants is a crucial way to show your appreciation and support for their labor of love. Want to take it a step further? Ask them if they offer gift cards so you can gift your family or friends a delicious experience too!Take a dance class with friends and family.Just like food, dancing is a vital part of the Latine and Hispanic culture. Look into local dance studios (or even restaurants or bars) that offer salsa, bachata, merengue, or flamenco classes. If you don’t have access to in-person classes, invite your friends over for a virtual dance class (like this one) instead! At WorkCreate an informative email auto-response.Whether or not you’re a part of the Latine or Hispanic community, creating a celebratory email auto-response during this month-long celebration is a thoughtful and inclusive way of shining a light on Hispanic Heritage Month. You can share information about the significance of celebrating this heritage month and can maybe even include a list of local events your colleagues can join in on! Sharing information with your network about the significance of this commemoration is a great way to further stand in solidarity with your Latine and Hispanic team members.Highlight Hispanic Heritage Month in your newsletter.Similar to the email auto-response message, utilizing your current email marketing platform to share more information around this celebratory month could be another opportunity to keep this celebration top-of-mind at work.This could mean including a sentence or two — or, hey, even an entire section — in your upcoming newsletter acknowledging the significance of this heritage month and how your readers can thoughtfully celebrate. (You can even share this article as a resource!)Turn your good intentions into real change.Thoughtful workplace actions should not only be reserved for holidays and awareness months. If you want to help ensure that your good intentions are actually recognizing an underrepresented group in your workplace, it’s going to take some intentional effort.The Diversity Gap, an organization that coaches race-conscious leaders and teams, offers great workplace resources that you can learn from and incorporate. Their podcast and their book are particularly great starting points.At HomeTake a Spanish language course.Learning or brushing up on your Spanish is a great way to immerse yourself in the Latine and Hispanic culture. Apps like Duolingo or Endless Spanish (for kiddos) are free to use and help provide you with a good foundation and understanding of the language. If courses aren’t for you, many people have also turned to Spanish kid's shows or cartoons as a fun and simple way to introduce the language into their home. “El Chavo Del Ocho” is what I grew up watching but online streaming services like Netflix offer a library of Spanish-language options for you to check out!Take an online cooking class.Okay, okay, we love our Taco Tuesdays, but there are so many more delicious (and equally simple) meals you can incorporate into your home. Food is another great way to foster an appreciation and understanding during this time. Cozymeal has an archive of recipes and cooking experiences for you to choose from, like this Culinary Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month class or this Seafood Paella From Scratch experience. You can also try checking out bilingual food-related content creators like Dora’s Table (@dorastable on Instagram) for easy, (mostly) healthy, and delicious vegan Mexican recipes!Watch a Spanish-language show.If you grew up in a Latine household, you probably know the sound of your favorite telenovela. Today, Netflix shows like “La Casa de Las Flores” (“The House of Flowers”) and “La Casa de Papel” (“Money Heist”) are carrying on that legendary legacy by dishing out all the drama — while centering diverse narratives to a global audience. For Kids, Students, and TeachersTalk to your kids about representation. People often tie a lot of their beliefs and values to what they learned at home growing up. We can help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by having conversations around the dinner table about what this month means to the Hispanic and Latine communities and how we can show support.Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium provides parents and teachers with a massive library of Hispanic Heritage Month resources like kid-friendly videos, podcasts, movie and documentary recommendations, and people to follow on Instagram!Incorporate books written by Latine or Hispanic authors in your school’s curriculum.Providing students with free, easy access to racially diverse literature through school or in-class libraries is a great way of providing independent learning opportunities in the classroom.However, we know that many school districts across the U.S. suffer from funding disparities — especially within low-income areas. As a result, many children (and consequently their teachers) are left with a limited selection of books, school supplies, and educational materials. The First Book Marketplace provides educators, librarians, and others working with low-income children with thousands of free and affordable high-quality, brand-new books, educational resources, and basic needs items at highly affordable prices — or for free. Half Price Books also donates books to classrooms and school libraries. Educators get a 10% discount and can even make a request for free books online. The Smithsonian Museum’s Latino Learning Center offers teaching collections grouped by themes from performances or interviews with experts.Have a movie day.Whether it’s in a classroom or home setting, choosing to show movies that center Hispanic and Latine culture, like The Book of Life, Encanto, and Coco, provide kids with a gorgeous introduction to time-honored cultural traditions that they might not have otherwise been exposed to.A bonus? These movies are perfect lead-ups to Dia de los Muertos, which is celebrated right after Hispanic Heritage Month!5 Facts About Hispanic Heritage MonthAccording to the latest U.S. Census data, the Hispanic or Latine population hit 62.1 million — making this community the largest minority group in the country. There were actually two different attempts to make Hispanic Heritage Month happen. In 1987, Representative Esteban Torres of California tried to expand National Hispanic Heritage Week into a month-long occasion, which would “allow our nation to properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.” Though it was unsuccessful in getting passed in Congress, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois later submitted a similar bill, which was eventually signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988.Instead of celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day, Mexicans observe the Día de la Raza (Race Day) on October 12th, which recognizes the mixed Indigenous and European heritage of Mexico.Love your cowboy hats? You have Mexican and Spanish ranchers or “rancheros” to thank for that! The traditions, which originated in Mexico and Spain, come from hard-working farmers who used cowboy hats as they worked over their crops and livestock.Although they are often used interchangeably, the terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” have different meanings. The term Hispanic refers to someone who comes from or is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country, whereas Latina or Latino (or the gender-neutral, Latine) refers to someone who comes from Latin America or is a descendant from any Latin American country. This means that a person can be both Hispanic and Latine, however, not all Latine people are Hispanic. For instance, Brazilians are Latinos, but their native language is not Spanish. Frequently Asked Questions:What is the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month theme?The national theme for Hispanic Heritage Month 2024 is “Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together,” as selected by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. The same theme is honored by U.S. government institutions such as HHS, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress.The 2024 poster for Hispanic Heritage Month by Mariana I. Purcell Rivera, a Puerto Rican artist and architecture student at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto RicoWhat was the 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month theme?The 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month theme was “Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America,” according to an announcement from the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers. The theme celebrates the communities’ population growth, increasing political representation, and economic success that continues to pave the way for rise and recognition of Latines as positive contributors to the country.What was the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month theme?The National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers, announced the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Theme: “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation.” The theme encouraged everyone to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed, an NCHEPM press release announced.What is Hispanic Heritage Month in Spanish?In Spanish, El Mes de la Herencia Hispana means Hispanic Heritage Month.What is the difference between Hispanic and Latino?While many people use Latino and Hispanic interchangeably, these terms mean two different things. A Hispanic person is someone who comes from or is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country. Latine (which is a gender-neutral alternative to Latino and Latina) 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 Latine, however, not all Latinos are Hispanic. For example, Spaniards are considered Hispanic, but not Latine, since they are not geographically located in Latin America. Which countries are represented in this celebration?In total, there are 20 Hispanic countries and one territory included in Hispanic Heritage Month: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.Is it called Hispanic Heritage Month or Latino Heritage Month?It is formally recognized as Hispanic Heritage Month, however, it’s important to acknowledge that, as discussed, the term does not fully represent every culture that falls under this umbrella. As a result, you may see it called Latino Heritage Month, Latinx Heritage Month, Latine Heritage Month — or all four. Hispanic Heritage Month is most widely used today — but each of these alternatives are used by different sub-communities. It’s important to be mindful of the context in which you use them. How long is Hispanic Heritage Month?Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year and lasts 31 days total. This heritage month honors the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic Americans. When was Hispanic heritage first celebrated in the U.S.?The U.S. government first commemorated Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988 through legislation. In 1989, President George H. W. Bush gave a Presidential Proclamation in celebration of the month — and every U.S. president since then has continued the tradition.Before Hispanic Heritage Month was commemorated in the United States, it was honored annually as Hispanic Heritage Week.Next month is Native American Heritage Month — get a head start learning how to celebrate Native American Heritage Month today.And don’t forget to learn about more Hispanic and Latin American holidays beyond Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage Month activities for kids offer an exciting way to celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities. Celebrated from September 15 to October 15, this observance is a great opportunity for teachers to introduce students to vibrant traditions and stories. In this blog, we’ll share a variety of engaging activities that are both fun and educational, helping young learners appreciate the importance of Hispanic heritage. What is Hispanic Heritage Month? Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities. It runs from September 15 to October 15, coinciding with the independence days of several Latin American countries, and provides an opportunity to recognize the impact of Hispanic individuals on society. What is Hispanic Heritage Month? Now that we know the significance of Hispanic Heritage Month, let’s discover some exciting and interactive activities that will make learning about Hispanic culture both enjoyable and inspiring for kids! 15+ Hispanic Heritage Month Activities for Kids Here are various engaging ideas that will make learning about Hispanic culture both fun and meaningful: 1. Create Paper Marigolds for Día de los Muertos Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a vibrant celebration of life and remembrance in many Hispanic cultures, especially in Mexico. Marigolds, known as “cempasúchil,” are symbolic flowers used to honor loved ones who have passed away. Hispanic Heritage Month educational activities for kids like creating paper marigolds not only introduce students to this cultural tradition but also enhance their crafting skills. This activity helps students connect with the values of remembrance, love, and celebration inherent in Día de los Muertos. Create paper marigolds for Día de los Muertos Materials Needed: Orange, yellow, and green tissue paper Scissors Glue sticks or tape Craft wire or string (optional) How to Do: Cut tissue paper into small squares (about 4×4 inches). Stack several pieces of tissue paper and fold them accordion-style (back and forth). Cut the edges into a rounded or scalloped shape to mimic flower petals. Carefully unfold the tissue paper to reveal the flower shape. Attach a piece of craft wire or string to the base for hanging or creating a bouquet. 2. Explore Latin American Music and Dance Music and dance are essential elements of Hispanic culture, reflecting history, emotion, and storytelling. Exploring Latin American genres like salsa, merengue, and bachata allows students to experience the rhythmic diversity that characterizes Hispanic heritage. By listening to traditional music and learning simple dance steps, students gain an appreciation for how dance forms a vital part of community expression and celebration. Explore Latin American music and dance Materials Needed: A variety of Latin music (salsa, merengue, flamenco) Space for dancing Optional: colorful scarves or ribbons How to Do: Play a selection of Latin American music, explaining its origins and significance. Show students basic dance steps for each type of music (salsa steps, merengue moves, etc.). Let students practice dancing to the music, encouraging them to add their own flair. If available, use scarves or ribbons to make the dance more colorful and interactive. 3. Create Hispanic Heritage Collage A collage is a powerful way to visually represent the richness and diversity of Hispanic heritage. This activity encourages students to research Hispanic cultural icons, traditional symbols, and significant events. By creating a collage, they not only practice artistic expression but also deepen their understanding of how different countries and traditions contribute to the broader Hispanic identity. This collaborative project fosters creativity and cultural awareness. Create Hispanic Heritage collage Materials Needed: Magazines, printouts, or photos of Hispanic cultural icons (artists, activists, historical figures) Glue sticks or tape Large poster board Scissors Markers or crayons for labeling How to Do: Have students research or select notable Hispanic figures such as Frida Kahlo, César Chávez, or Lin-Manuel Miranda. Collect images from magazines, newspapers, or printouts. Arrange the images on the poster board, creating a collage that represents Hispanic culture. Label each image with the name of the individual and a short description of their contributions. Encourage students to add their personal reflections or draw symbols related to Hispanic culture. 4. Hispanic Heritage Storytime Stories from Hispanic cultures are filled with rich narratives, moral lessons, and folklore. Storytime sessions featuring Hispanic legends, folktales, and historical accounts allow students to immerse themselves in storytelling traditions that have been passed down for generations. Whether through reading aloud or interactive storytelling, this activity helps students explore cultural themes and develop a deeper appreciation for oral traditions. Hispanic Heritage storytime Materials Needed: A collection of Hispanic folk tales, stories, or books about Hispanic heritage Comfortable reading space Optional: props for storytelling How to Do: Select a few Hispanic heritage books or stories to read aloud (e.g., “The Story of Ferdinand” by Munro Leaf or “Abuela” by Arthur Dorros). Gather the students and read the stories, pausing to ask questions about the characters and lessons learned. After the story, discuss the cultural themes and traditions found within it. Optional: Use props or costumes to make the storytelling more interactive. 5. Taco Tuesday Cooking Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with fun and tasty Taco Tuesday cooking activities for kids. This hands-on cooking activity promotes teamwork, food safety, and an appreciation of how food can reflect cultural heritage and community. It’s also a great way to explore the rich culinary traditions of Mexican cuisine. Making tacos in class helps students learn about the diverse ingredients and regional variations that make this dish so beloved across Hispanic cultures. Taco Tuesday cooking activity Materials Needed: Soft taco shells Ground beef or chicken (pre-cooked) Toppings (cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, salsa, sour cream) Plates and utensils How to Do: Set up a taco bar with various toppings and fillings. Teach students about the origins of tacos and their importance in Mexican culture. Allow children to assemble their own tacos, choosing the fillings and toppings they prefer. Discuss the flavors and traditions behind the ingredients, making sure everyone enjoys their creations. 6. Explore Hispanic Art with Pinatas Piñatas are festive, colorful crafts traditionally used during Hispanic celebrations like birthdays and holidays. Creating piñatas introduces students to the cultural significance of these decorations, which symbolize joy, abundance, and celebration. This hands-on activity allows students to practice artistic skills while learning how piñatas vary between countries and how they are used to bring communities together. Explore Hispanic art with Pinatas Materials Needed: Paper mache materials (balloons, glue, flour, water, newspaper) Colorful crepe paper or tissue paper Scissors Paint or markers How to Do: Inflate a balloon to the desired size for the pinata. Mix flour and water to create a paper mache paste. Tear newspaper into strips and dip them in the paste. Apply them to the balloon, layering to create a strong shell. Once dry, pop the balloon and remove it. Decorate the pinata using colorful tissue paper and paint. Once finished, hang the pinata and let students take turns trying to break it open! 7. Hispanic Heritage Month Bingo Bingo is a fun, interactive way to reinforce learning about Hispanic heritage. This customized version of Bingo includes cultural icons, famous Hispanic figures, and traditional symbols. As students mark off items on their cards, they learn interesting facts and gain a broader understanding of Hispanic contributions to history, arts, and science. The game format makes learning enjoyable while fostering cultural awareness. Hispanic Heritage Month bingo Materials Needed: Bingo cards with images or terms related to Hispanic heritage Markers or chips for marking the cards Prizes for winners How to Do: Create Bingo cards featuring key words or images related to Hispanic culture (e.g., maracas, Frida Kahlo, Día de los Muertos). Call out the words or show the images, and have students mark them on their cards. The first student to complete a row or column calls out “Bingo” and wins a prize. After the game, discuss the meaning of the words or images on the cards to reinforce learning. 8. Make a Salsa with Fresh Ingredients Salsa is a staple in many Hispanic dishes, known for its bold flavors and fresh ingredients. Making salsa in the classroom allows students to explore the importance of fresh produce while practicing basic culinary skills. This activity highlights how salsa recipes can vary between regions, offering a taste of culinary diversity within Hispanic culture. Plus, students develop a hands-on appreciation for traditional cooking methods. Make a salsa with fresh ingredients Materials Needed: Fresh tomatoes, onions, cilantro, lime, and jalapeños Salt and pepper Mixing bowls and spoons Cutting boards and knives (for older students or supervised use) Tortilla chips for tasting How to Do: Wash all ingredients thoroughly. Dice the tomatoes, onions, and jalapeños into small pieces. Finely chop the cilantro. Mix all ingredients in a bowl and squeeze fresh lime juice over the mixture. Add a pinch of salt and pepper to taste. Serve with tortilla chips and discuss how salsa varies across Hispanic cultures (like pico de gallo in Mexico or chimichurri in Argentina). Let students taste their creation and share their thoughts on the flavors. 9. Hispanic Countries Mapping Activity Geography plays a key role in understanding the cultural diversity within the Hispanic world. This mapping activity helps students identify Spanish-speaking countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. By locating countries on a map and discussing cultural highlights from each, students build geographic literacy while exploring how diverse regions contribute to the collective Hispanic identity. Hispanic countries mapping activity Materials Needed: Blank world map or map of the Americas Markers, colored pencils Stickers or flags for marking countries Fact sheets on each Hispanic country How to Do: Hand out blank maps and markers. Explain that Hispanic countries are primarily those where Spanish is the official language. Have students locate and color the countries where Spanish is spoken. Use stickers or flags to mark the capital cities. Allow students to present one interesting fact about each country (e.g., a traditional dish or a famous cultural celebration). Display the completed maps around the classroom. 10. Learn about Hispanic Inventors and Innovators One of the best interactive activities for kids during Hispanic Heritage Month is learning about Hispanic inventors and innovators. It’s a great way to show students the amazing impact Hispanic individuals have made in areas like science, technology, and the arts. Researching these figures helps students appreciate creativity and perseverance. Plus, talking about their contributions can inspire kids to value diversity in innovation. This activity also builds critical thinking and teamwork skills during group presentations. Learn about Hispanic inventors and innovators Materials Needed: Research materials (books, internet access) Poster boards, markers, and printouts of inventor images Presentation tools (optional) How to Do: Assign each student or group an inventor or innovator from Hispanic heritage (e.g., Ellen Ochoa – astronaut, Guillermo González Camarena – TV color system inventor). Students research their chosen figure’s life, achievements, and contributions. Create a poster with pictures, a brief biography, and an explanation of their innovation. Present the posters to the class, discussing how these contributions impacted society. Display the posters as part of a Hispanic Heritage Month showcase. 11. Create a “Gracias” Gratitude Tree Gratitude is an essential value in many Hispanic cultures, often expressed through words and thoughtful actions. The “Gracias” Gratitude Tree encourages students to reflect on what they are thankful for and express it in both English and Spanish. This creative project not only fosters a positive classroom atmosphere but also helps students practice expressing gratitude in a meaningful way, linking language skills with personal reflection. Create a “Gracias” gratitude tree Materials Needed: Brown construction paper (for the tree trunk) Colored paper (for leaves) Scissors, glue, markers Large poster board How to Do: Cut out a large tree trunk and branches from the brown paper. Create leaf cutouts from colored paper. Have each student write a Spanish word or phrase expressing gratitude on a leaf (e.g., “Gracias por mi familia” – Thanks for my family). Glue the leaves onto the tree branches. Display the tree in the classroom and encourage students to add more leaves throughout the month. 12. Hispanic Heritage Month Poem Writing Poetry offers a creative way for students to explore cultural identity and personal expression. Writing poems inspired by Hispanic traditions, famous figures, or personal reflections allows students to connect emotionally with the themes discussed during Hispanic Heritage Month. Sharing their poetry with peers builds confidence in public speaking while celebrating the power of words to convey cultural pride. Hispanic Heritage Month poem writing Materials Needed: Paper and pens Examples of poems by Hispanic poets (e.g., Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral) Optional: Art supplies for illustrating the poems How to Do: Introduce students to a few short poems by famous Hispanic writers. Discuss themes commonly found in Hispanic poetry, such as love, struggle, and nature. Allow students to write their own poems reflecting Hispanic culture or their own heritage. Encourage them to illustrate their poems with symbols or motifs related to the theme. Share the poems aloud in a poetry reading session. 13. Create Mexican Papel Picado Papel picado, or “perforated paper,” is a traditional Mexican craft used to decorate for celebrations like Día de los Muertos. These colorful banners showcase intricate designs and reflect the festive spirit of Hispanic culture. Creating papel picado helps students develop fine motor skills and understand the cultural significance of this beautiful art form, fostering both creativity and cultural appreciation. Create Mexican papel picado Materials Needed: Colored tissue paper Scissors String Glue How to Do: Fold a piece of tissue paper accordion-style. Cut shapes and patterns along the edges and through the folded layers. Carefully unfold to reveal the intricate design. Glue the top of each papel picado piece onto a string to create a banner. Hang the banner around the classroom as a festive decoration. 14. Exploring Hispanic Cuisine: Empanada Making Empanadas are savory or sweet pastries popular in many Hispanic countries, known for their flaky crust and flavorful fillings. Making empanadas introduces students to regional culinary traditions while developing basic cooking skills. This activity highlights how food can tell a story about heritage and how recipes vary between countries, offering a delicious way to explore Hispanic culture. Exploring Hispanic cuisine: Empanada making Materials Needed: Pre-made dough or pie crusts Filling options: ground beef, chicken, cheese, or fruit Spices: cumin, paprika, salt, pepper Baking trays, parchment paper Small bowls, spoons, and a pastry brush Oven (or toaster oven for classroom use) How to Do: Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Roll out the dough and cut into circles. Add a spoonful of filling to each circle, fold in half, and seal edges with a fork. Brush the top with a beaten egg and bake for 20-25 minutes. Let cool and discuss how empanadas vary in different Hispanic cultures. 15. Learn Basic Spanish Phrases Learn Basic Spanish Phrases is a great way to introduce kids to a new language while celebrating culture. One fun way for kids to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month is by combining activities like learning Spanish greetings, introductions, and polite phrases to help them build cultural awareness and language skills. This activity makes language learning fun and approachable, while also fostering respect for linguistic diversity. Learn basic Spanish phrases Materials Needed: Flashcards with common Spanish phrases (e.g., “Hola” – Hello, “Gracias” – Thank you) Whiteboard and markers Worksheet for practice How to Do: Introduce simple greetings and everyday phrases on the board. Practice pronunciation as a group, then quiz with flashcards. Have students work in pairs to practice short dialogues. Complete a worksheet matching English phrases to their Spanish counterparts. Wrap up with a group activity using the phrases in conversations. 16. Create a Hispanic Heritage Month Time Capsule A time capsule is a meaningful way to preserve memories and reflections from Hispanic Heritage Month. Students collect items, crafts, or written thoughts representing what they learned about Hispanic culture. Sealing the capsule and setting a future date to open it reinforces the idea of cultural continuity and personal growth, making it a thoughtful and engaging project. Create a Hispanic Heritage Month time capsule Materials Needed: A sturdy box or container Art supplies: markers, paper, glue Small objects related to Hispanic heritage Printed handouts summarizing activities Decorative items for the box (stickers, washi tape) How to Do: Discuss the concept of a time capsule and its purpose. Let each student contribute a small item or a written reflection. Decorate the box together and seal it. Agree on a date to open it, like next year’s Hispanic Heritage Month. Display the capsule as a reminder of cultural exploration. Sum up Hispanic Heritage Month activities for kids go beyond fun—they provide valuable opportunities to promote cultural awareness, creativity, and empathy in the classroom. Through hands-on learning, children can connect with Hispanic traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation for diversity. By incorporating these activities, teachers create an environment where every voice is celebrated and cultural respect is nurtured. Ready to start? Let’s use these meaningful ideas and make this month a time of learning and growth! Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of the history and culture that makes up the Latino community. From September 15th to October 15th, join us in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and learning more about Hispanic & Latinx culture with these Hispanic Heritage Month activities! What is Hispanic Heritage Month? Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of the culture and history of individuals from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. President Ronald Reagan established this month-long celebration in 1988 to recognize the contributions Hispanic & Latin American people have made to our country, and it’s still widely celebrated today! Why You Should Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month At Work Hispanic Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to learn about the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people throughout history. It’s a time to reflect on the history of Latinx people in America, and it’s also a time to recognize that there is still work to be done to ensure that all people have equal opportunities. So, without further ado, let’s get into some of the best Hispanic Heritage Month ideas for work! 9 Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month Activities For Teams 1 Learn About the Hispanic Heritage of Your Coworkers Why not challenge each other with trivia questions about Hispanic & Latinx history? Hispanic Heritage Month games can be a fantastic learning tool! You can even make it competitive by awarding prizes to the winning team. Try this: Latino History & Culture Trivia Step on up to this virtual live game show all about Hispanic & Latinx history and culture! A live Quiz Host will help your team through 3-4 incredible rounds of trivia, featuring questions about famous people, pop culture, history, and more. Why this is a great way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at work: Latinx & Hispanic Trivia is an easy way for new employees to learn about Hispanic Heritage Month and connect with their coworkers’ heritage without feeling left out or intimidated. 2 A Culinary Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month Cooking classes are among the most popular ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. If you’re feeling ambitious, ask your coworkers what they’d like to cook together! These work cooking classes are great for team bonding, especially when they involve food from different cultures. Try this: Mexican Cuisine Cooking Class In a Mexican Cuisine Cooking Class, you’ll choose between two unique Mexican dishes: chilaquiles or Mexican tacos, and get those ingredients shipped straight to your doorstep! The class starts with an overview of the cultural origins of the dish. Then a culinary expert will go over cooking preparations and techniques, so you’ll be able to leave the virtual class feeling confident in your ability to make authentic Mexican cuisine at home! Why this is a great way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at work: This idea encourages your coworkers to get out of their seats or out from behind their desk to participate in a new activity! They can learn something about Mexican cuisine while bonding with their team in the process. 3 Friendly Competition As the start of Hispanic Heritage Month nears, setting up a team event might be just the thing to get your team invested to learn more about why we celebrate this heritage month. With friendly competition, you can tap into your colleagues’ competitive spirit to participate in a fast-paced virtual team building activity while learning a bit about Hispanic heritage in the process. Try this: Hispanic Heritage Month Team Showdown This team competition sets up teams to test their knowledge of all s