



Hispanic Heritage Month Learning Resources

Sept./Oct. is National Hispanic Heritage Month

From September 15 to October 15 every year in the United States, we honor the contributions of Latino and Hispanic communities with the celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month while highlighting their diversity, culture and traditions.

Beginning in mid-September, the celebrations coincide with national independence days in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Chile.

Three Interesting Facts About Hispanics and Latinos in the United States:

1. Hispanics and Latinos are not necessarily the same. Hispanics are descended from Spanish speaking populations. Latinos are people of Latin American descent.
2. Currently, the Hispanic population in the United States stands at more than 56 million, making it the largest racial or ethnic group in the United States.*
3. It is estimated that by 2065 the Latino population in the United States will grow to 107 million people.*

*Pew Research Hispanic Trends Project Statistics & U.S. Census Bureau

The following resources have been compiled by the Equity and Family Engagement Department to be used as a learning tool for educators. Most of these resources are meant for personal/professional growth and education. However, some resources may be shared with students at your professional discretion. Please carefully preview any video or article that you plan on sharing with students for age-level appropriateness.

While it is wonderful to celebrate the heritage of our Latino/Latina/Latinx and Hispanic communities during this month, their voices and history should not be relegated to only one month out of the year. We urge you to integrate their stories and the stories of your students into your lessons year-round and continue to acknowledge and honor the diverse backgrounds of all our students and families.

Getting Started

Learn the basics about this heritage month and the demographic that makes up our Latino and Hispanic population.

[National Hispanic Heritage Month Infographic \(ASCD\)](#)

[Key Facts About U.S. Latinos for National Hispanic Heritage Month \(Pew Research Center\)](#)

[LGBTQ Students Celebrate Latinx Heritage](#)

[Hispanic Heritage Month is Confusing \(And That's Okay!\)](#) YouTube video

The Importance of Identity

People of Latin and Hispanic backgrounds define and discuss their diverse identities and the harm caused by misrepresentation and overgeneralization.

[Latinos own and disown 'Hispanic' in journey to harness identity](#) NBC News article

[Is it Hispanic, Chicano/Chicana, Latino/Latina, or Latinx?](#) Definitions of each term and identity

[The Problematic History of the Word "Hispanic"](#) Teen Vogue article

[The Difference Between Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish?](#) YouTube video



[Don't Call Me Puerto Rican, I'm Ecuadorian](#): A teen writer from New York discusses the power of identity and how it feels when adults think that Latino cultures are interchangeable.

- [Discussion Questions for "Don't Call Me Puerto Rican, I'm Ecuadorian"](#)

The Story of the People

Learn more about the people who make up our Hispanic and Latino communities, including those from indigenous, LGBTQ, Afro Latino, and other intersectionalities.

[8 Afro Latinos Who Made Important Contributions to US History](#): This article shares Afro Latinos in different fields that are trailblazers and have made a significant difference in the world, but is not usually covered in the classroom.

[Famous Afro Latinos Figures Who Changed the World for the Good](#)

[Hispanic Heritage Month: A Story of Protecting Indigenous Culture](#): This video illustrates the advocacy from and the diversity of indigenous communities in Latin American countries.

[Celebrate National Hispanic American Heritage Month with These Stories](#)

[Latinx LGBTQ Students | GLSEN](#): GLSEN has different resources to support and learn more about Latinx LGBTQ students in education.

[8 Unsung LGBTQ Latinx Heroes You Should Know \(remezcla.com\)](#): This article shares the trailblazing Latinx folks from the LGBTQ community that have shaped our country.

[Afro-Mexicans: One of the World's Most Forgotten Black Communities](#): This video shows an Afro-Mexican community in Mexico that is proud of their African roots and shares their struggles of racism and isolation.

A History Often Ignored

People of Latin and Hispanic backgrounds define and discuss their diverse identities and the harm caused by misrepresentation and overgeneralization.

[Who Put the 'Hispanic' in Hispanic Heritage Month?](#) An interview with sociologist Cristina Mora about history of the term 'Hispanic' and its use to define an entire demographic.

[The 10 Most Important Events in the History of Latin America](#): Listed in chronological order, these 10 events had the most significant effect on the people of Latin America and internationally.

[Latino Civil Rights Timeline, 1903 to 2006](#): A modern chronicle of important events in the fight for Latino civil rights in the United States.

[Latinos and the Fourteenth Amendment Handout](#): A primary document activity that explores the case of *Hernandez v. Texas* which recognized Latinos as being subject to discrimination and therefore covered by the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause

Documentaries

A short list of documentaries that can shed more light on the barriers Hispanics and Latinos face and their efforts to dismantle them.

[Indigenous Voices from Latin America: We Are the Document of the Earth](#): This documentary shows the perspectives, traditions, and diversity of indigenous communities in Latin America. Their advocacy has largely shaped the political and ecological landscape of their countries and the continent in general.

[Latino Americans Episode 5: Prejudice and Pride \(PBS\)](#): Part of a landmark documentary series that chronicles the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos who have helped shape North America.



[Precious Knowledge](#): A documentary that interweaves the stories of students at Tucson High School as they fight to save the Mexican American Studies Program from being shut down due to anti-immigration legislation in Arizona. Directed by Ari Luis Palos and Eren Isabel McGinnis

Books and Read Alouds

Use a read aloud or a book discussion to engage students in learning about Hispanic and Latino cultures. Books offer a window into other people's experiences and a mirror into our own, cultivating a climate of inclusivity and compassion.

Read Aloud Videos on YouTube

[Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos \(Literally Cultured Read Aloud\)](#)

[Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match \(Read Aloud\)](#)

[Teacher's Guide for Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match](#)

Books Recommended by Zinn Education Project

[Fictional Chapter Books](#)

[Non-Fiction and Informational Books](#)

[Picture Books](#)

Community Outreach and Organizations

These organizations are led by and serve local Latino and Hispanic communities of Washington State.

[Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle – Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle](#): Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle (Seattle Afrolatino Movement) is a grass-root 501(c)3 non-profit organization created by Afrolatino communities and artists that appreciate Afrolatino arts and culture coming together to ensure the sustainability of ongoing cultural and education arts activities focused on Afrolatinos and open to anyone who is interested in learning and preserving this rich cultural heritage.

[Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs](#): The Commission on Hispanic Affairs strives to improve public policy development and delivery of government services to the Hispanic community.

[Latino Community Fund of Washington](#): The Latino Community Fund cultivates new leaders, supports cultural and community based non-profit organizations, and improves the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

To achieve its mission and address the needs of Latinos, LCF programs create a vibrant community through civic engagement, healthy families, arts and culture.