



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

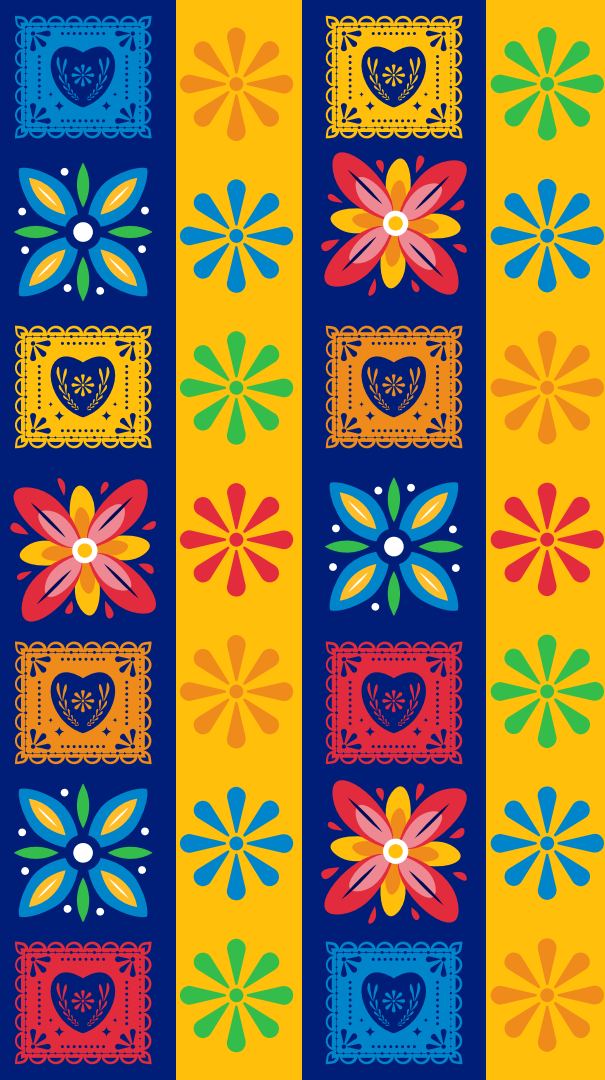
September 15th – October 15th

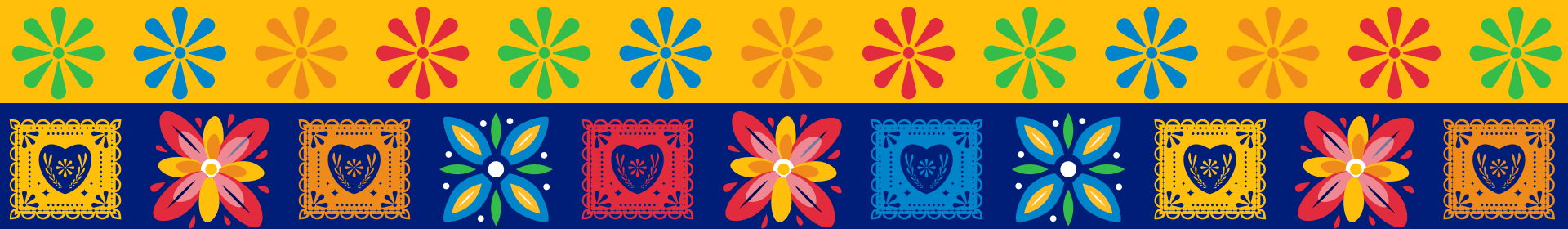


2026 Theme

“Pioneers of Change: Shaping
the Future Together”

Celebrating the leaders,
innovators, and changemakers
whose impact continues





**“Don’t be afraid to take risks.
It’s the only way to grow.”**

—

Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa



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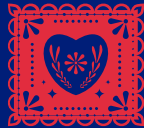
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Did You Know?

70.1 million

Hispanic and Latino people
call the United States home —
representing approximately
**21% of our nation's
population.**





01

HISTORY

What is Hispanic Heritage Month
and why do we celebrate it?



Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated mid-September to mid-October to highlight the independence of several countries. September 15 is the day that five Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Spain: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras.

We also celebrate and recognize the history, culture, and vital contributions of those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.



TIMELINE

Independence Days

Begin

September

15

September 15 marks independence anniversaries for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

September 16 is a day commemorating the **Chile's Independence** moment when Father Hidalgo, a priest and leader, called for Mexico's liberation from Spain in September of 1810.

Day

September

18

"Fiestas Patrias" or "El Dieciocho," is celebrated on September 18th. Commemorating the declaration of Chile's independence from Spain in 1810.

September
16

Mexico's Independence Day

Called the Día de la Raza, or 'Day of Race', in Mexico, the holiday is commemorated by millions across Latin America and Spain.

October
12

Día de la Raza Day



02

Celebrate

Ways you can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month





Ways to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month



READ

Explore books and stories by Hispanic and Latino authors and illustrators.



CONNECT

Attend a cultural event, visit a museum, support a Hispanic-owned local business, or learn from members of your community.



CREATE

Discover art, murals, textiles, and other artistic traditions from Hispanic and Latino cultures.



EXPLORE

Learn about the diverse countries, regions, cultures, and traditions represented within Hispanic heritage.



TASTE

Try a traditional dish or learn about foods and recipes from different Hispanic cultures.



LISTEN

Experience music and dance traditions such as salsa, mariachi, cumbia, merengue, and flamenco.



03

RESOURCES

Elementary and
Secondary lessons and materials



PRIMARY RESOURCES



Coloring Pages



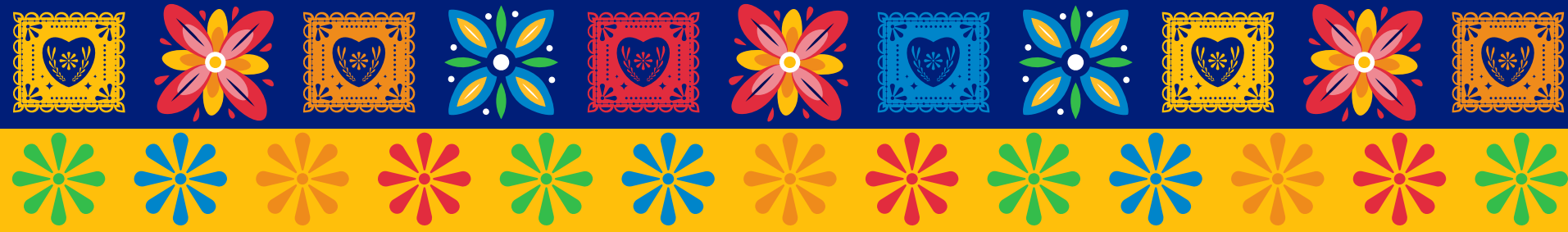
Read Aloud



Craft

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19

Mayan Base-20,
Geometric Patterns, and
Cultural Measurement



SECONDARY RESOURCES



National Museum of the American Latino

A particularly good source for bilingual resources. Their materials include background information, activities, vocabulary, and additional resources.



Facing History and Ourselves

Excellent source for discussion-based and inquiry-oriented lessons rather than a simple celebration activity.



Learning for Justice

Great for primary-source analysis and civil rights.



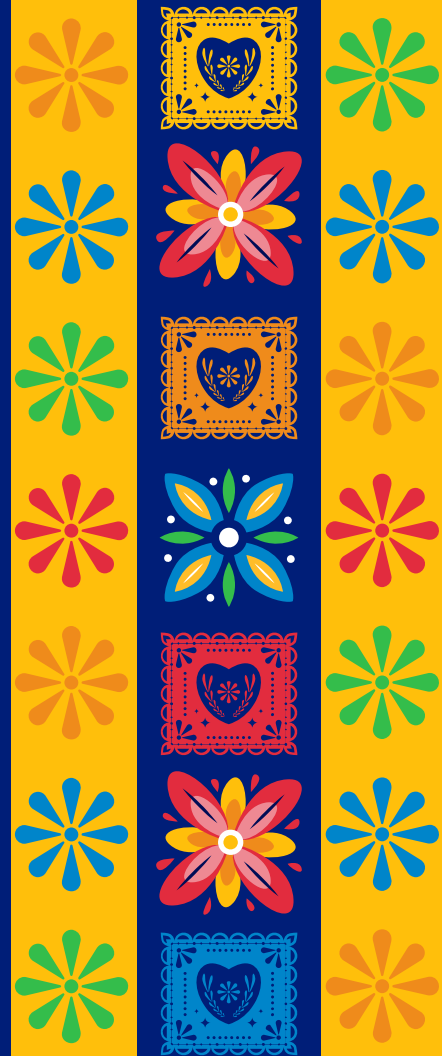
Hispanic Heritage Math Lessons



Patriotic Exercises



Primary
Secondary





04

Notable Figures

Figures who exemplify the 2026 theme



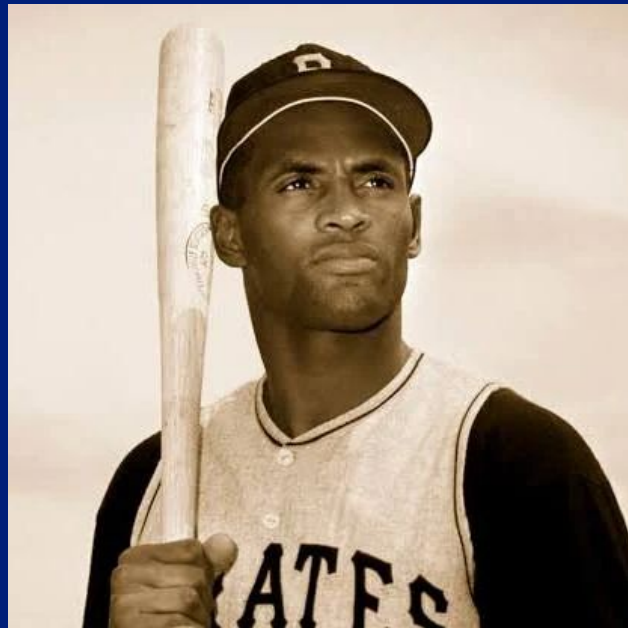


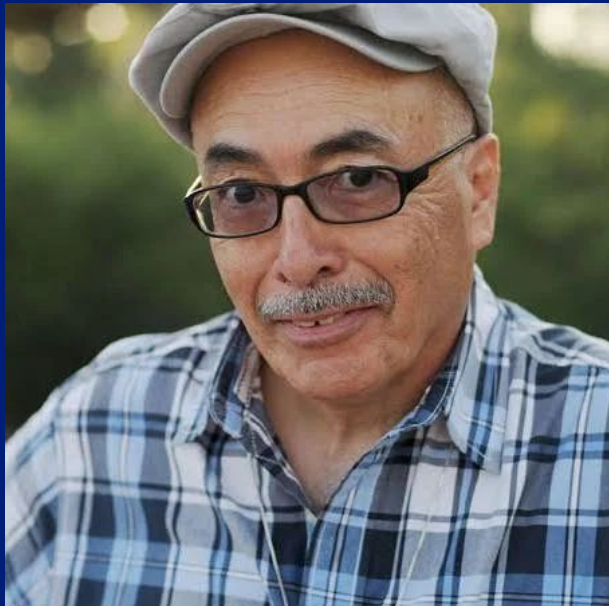
Sylvia Méndez

Sylvia Mendez is an American civil rights activist and retired nurse. At age eight, she played an instrumental role in the Mendez v. Westminster case, the landmark desegregation case of 1946. The case successfully ended de jure segregation in California.

Roberto Clemente

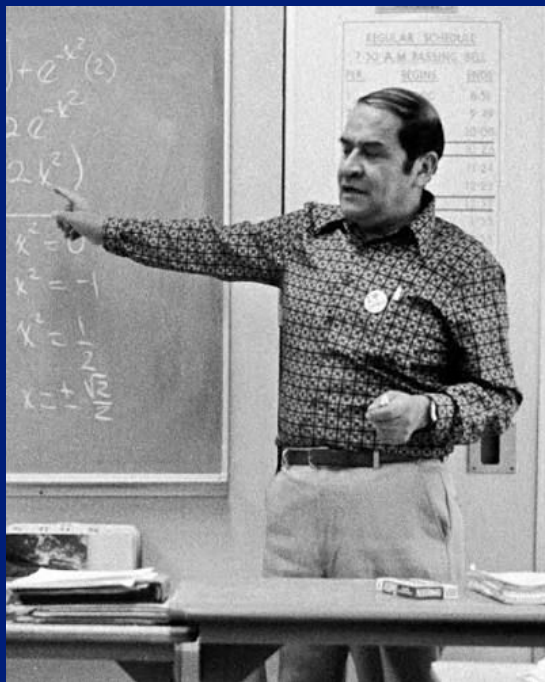
Roberto Clemente, the legendary Puerto Rican Pittsburgh Pirates right fielder and humanitarian, is a central figure celebrated during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15). Major League Baseball officially marks Roberto Clemente Day on September 15 each year to coincide with the opening day of Hispanic Heritage Month.





Juan Felipe Herrera

Juan Felipe Herrera made history as the first Latino U.S. Poet Laureate. A bilingual writer and former California Poet Laureate, he uses poetry and storytelling to celebrate culture, uplift diverse voices, and bring communities together. His work shows how creativity and language can inspire change and help shape a more inclusive future.



Jaime Escalante

Jaime Escalante was a Bolivian-American educator who played an instrumental role in guiding 18 Mexican-American students from East LA's Garfield High School to pass the 1982 AP Calculus exam. When testing officials invalidated their scores over suspicious similarities, Escalante publicly fought the decision to defend his students against systemic bias. Retaking a heavily monitored exam months later, all twelve participating students successfully passed, validating their mastery. His work shows how high expectations and perseverance can break down barriers, uplift diverse voices, and inspire lasting change in STEM education.