



# The Mini Page

Issue 38, 2022

Founded by Betty Debnam

**Next Week:**  
Amazing  
armadillos

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of State

Americans celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. "Hispanic" often refers to Spanish-speaking people of Latin American birth or descent.

This week in The Mini Page, we learn more about a few Latin American countries.

### Mexico

Mexico is the northernmost Latin American country. It is bordered by the United States to the north (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California) and Guatemala and Belize to the southeast. To the east lies the Gulf of Mexico; to the west is the Pacific Ocean.

Before conquerors arrived in the 1500s from Spain, Mexico was home to Aztec and other civilizations. The Spanish brought their religion and language to the region and called it New Spain. Mexico declared its independence from Spain on Sept. 16, 1810.



### Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico (Spanish for "rich port") is a territory of the United States. This means that Puerto Ricans are citizens and can move freely to the continental United States. But while they live in Puerto Rico, they can't vote in presidential elections, and they do not pay federal income taxes.

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### Mini Fact:

Hispanic Americans number nearly 60 million and represent over 18% of the U.S. population.

### Cuba

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea. It lies just 90 miles away from Florida. Christopher Columbus claimed the island for Spain in 1492. Spain gave up its hold on Cuba in 1898, and four years later, Cuba gained its independence from the United States.

### Belize

Belize (beh-LEEZ) was the last country in the Americas to gain its independence, in 1981. Until then, it was part of the British Empire. Agriculture and tourism are important industries in Belize.

### Costa Rica

Costa Rica ("rich coast") is known for its work to protect the environment. It is also famous for its coffee beans. Because it lies close to the equator, Costa Rica has only two seasons: a rainy season and a dry season.



### Panama

Panama gained its independence from Spain in November 1821. The land is covered in many areas with rainforests, where unique species of animals live.

### Argentina

This huge South American country is home to about 42 million people. It is the largest Spanish-speaking nation. It is also the world's eighth-largest country. Argentina manufactures cars and auto parts, chemicals, steel and other products.



### Colombia

Colombia is named after Christopher Columbus, who arrived there in 1499. It became independent from Spain in 1810. Colombia's climate is just right for growing coffee. Many of the cut flowers sold in the U.S. are grown in Colombia.

"Modern Family" actress Sofia Vergara was born in Colombia. She was the voice of Carmen in "Happy Feet Two" and of Odile in "The Smurfs." The singer Shakira was also born in Colombia.

### Venezuela

Venezuela was named by Spanish explorers after the Italian city Venice. The country has large reserves of oil and natural gas, which are important exports. Baseball is Venezuela's most popular sport.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [hispanicheritagemoth.gov](http://hispanicheritagemoth.gov)

### At the library:

- "Esperanza Rising" by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- "Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics" by Margarita Engle

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Hispanic Heritage Month are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AMERICA, ARGENTINA,  
COFFEE, COLOMBIA,  
CUBA, EQUATOR,  
HERITAGE,  
HISPANIC, HISTORY,  
INDEPENDENCE, LATIN,  
MEXICO, MONTH,  
PANAMA, POPULATION,  
SPAIN, VENEZUELA.

A	E	Q	U	A	T	O	R	L	A	T	I	N	C	W
B	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	P	O	P	D	K	I	A
U	M	E	X	I	C	O	C	O	F	F	E	E	N	N
C	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	K	D	S	S	A	I
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	S	P	T
N	K	G	A	M	A	N	A	P	S	J	W	P	S	N
J	V	E	N	E	Z	U	E	L	A	O	I	A	I	E
W	M	O	N	T	H	X	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	G
G	Q	V	A	I	B	M	O	L	O	C	Z	N	A	R
P	U	A	C	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	C	R	N	A

## Cook's Corner

### Mexican Pinto Beans

#### You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons cumin

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 (15-ounce) cans pinto beans, drained
- 3/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- salt to taste



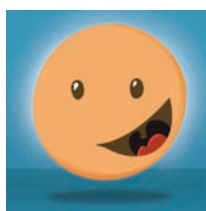
\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan.
2. Add onion, peppers and garlic; cook until onions are soft and translucent.
3. Stir in cumin and chili powder.
4. Add beans and chopped cilantro. Season with salt as desired.
5. Heat through and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. where food is digested (7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. it heats your house (7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. what you eat after supper (7) \_\_\_\_\_
4. not empty (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. someone attending school (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. crunchy green vegetable (6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. what you color with (6) \_\_\_\_\_

STOM	LE	LL	FUR
ERT	ON	ACH	STU
DENT	SS	CE	CRAY
DE	FU	NACE	RY

Answers: stomach, furnace, dessert, full, student, celery, crayon.

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## Mini Jokes



- Hector:** How do trees get on the internet?  
**Helena:** They log in!

## Eco Note



Global heating is resulting in more frequent sandstorms across the Middle East. A single storm can swirl for days. Storms this summer have caused hospitals to be flooded with patients suffering from respiratory ailments. Schools and businesses have been forced to close many times this year because of choking sand. Officials and environmental groups say the hotter climate, altered weather patterns and poor management of agriculture and water resources are turning the region's soil into sand.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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