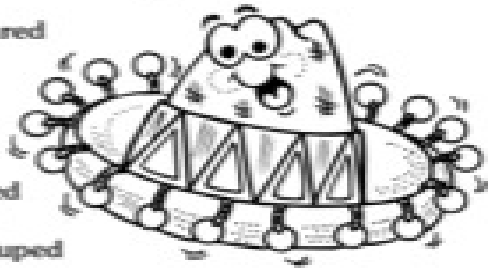


## Cinco de Mayo - May 5th!

The tiny town of Puebla, Mexico, stood prepared and ready. It was the morning of May 5, 1862, and the small Mexican army waited patiently in the forts, ready to fight.



Over six thousand French soldiers had come to take the village. As the French forces moved closer to the forts, the Mexican army opened fire. This did not stop the French. They regrouped and pushed closer until the Mexican soldiers charged on horseback and drove the French back with their swords. The Mexican cannons fired on the French. It became obvious that the mighty French soldiers, in their fancy uniforms, had been defeated by the tiny Mexican army. The Mexican army had only 2,000 men, many without weapons. The French had been too confident and thought that the taking of Puebla would be easy. They never counted on the pride and bravery of the Mexican people.

The battle of Puebla showed the world that the Mexican people would fight to keep their country and their freedom. General Zaragoza sent a report to President Benito Juarez that stated: "The Mexican army has covered itself with glory!"

Today the fifth of May, or Cinco de Mayo, is an important holiday in Mexico. It is also celebrated by Mexican-Americans here in the United States. On every Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican people stop to remember how their fathers and grandfathers fought to save the tiny town of Puebla on that great day in 1862.

### ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT CINCO DE MAYO!

1. What is the name of the town remembered on May 5th? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many French soldiers fought the Mexican army? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the name of the president of Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many men were in the Mexican army? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the Mexican people fight against the French? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. On what day do we celebrate Cinco de Mayo? \_\_\_\_\_