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2020
Pura
Belpré
Author
Award
Winner

Celebrate Latino Heritage Month

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.



Papel Picado

You've probably seen this traditional Mexican Folk art plenty of times at celebrations and other festive events. The literal translation, pierced paper, perfectly describes how it's made. Artisans stack colored tissue paper in dozens of layers, then perforate the layers with hammer and chisel points.



1,2,3 Calabaza PLAYGROUND GAME

From: [Spanish Playground](#)

1, 2, 3 Calabaza is a playground game kids play in Mexico, and in South America, this game is called 1, 2, 3 Momia es. This is a great game to learn during Latino Heritage Month games because it is active, fun and the only words you need to learn are “uno”, “dos”, “tres” and “calabaza”.

To play, one player (the leader) faces a wall or a tree (the base) with the rest of the group behind her at a distance.

The group then tries to move forward while the leader's back is to them.

The leader says “uno, dos, tres, calabaza”, spins around, and tries to catch someone moving.

Everyone must stand perfectly still, like a pumpkin (calabaza), and if someone moves, that person must return to the starting line.

The first person to reach the base takes the leader's place, and the game continues.

Watch a video of 1, 2, 3 calabaza:
<https://tinyurl.com/123calabaza-mvcl>



Mar y tierra

is a traditional Spanish playground game that is very simple and can even be played inside on a rainy day.

Players stand beside a line that they can jump sideways over. One side of the line is “mar” (sea) and the other side is “tierra” (land). The leader calls out mar or tierra, and the players jump across the line (or stay in their place) to be on the correct side. Anyone who makes a mistake and jumps to the wrong place is out.

Watch a video of mar y tierra:
<https://tinyurl.com/mar-tierra-mvcl>

Mexican Folk Art: AMATE PAINTINGS

From: [Kid World Citizen](#)



As long as humans

have existed, art has been an important part of social culture. Amate (pronounced “ah-MAH-tay”) is a type of paper produced from the fibers of the bark of fig trees. Beginning in pre-Hispanic times, different indigenous

groups used the amate to communicate with others. For example, the Aztecs used the amate paper to register data, or as a gift for soldiers. In today's Mexico, the Otomí people of Central Mexico produce this paper in a way similar to its historical origins. However, now Nahua artisans paint intricate birds, colorful plants, and whimsical animals on the amate so that it can be used for decoration.

Materials:

- Brown paper bags, cut into large rectangles
- Black markers (sharpies are great)
- Bright Tempera Paint

Directions:

1. Look at some images of Mexican Amate art for inspiration by doing a Google search for “Mexican Amate Art”
2. Crush up and smooth out the brown paper bag several times to achieve the “softer” appearance. You can draw flowers, animals, and birds with the black markers on their brown paper (or grownups can help with the littlest ones!).
3. Next, they can paint inside their drawings with the bright colors, using white to accent their creations. Typically, Amate paintings do not have any background colors, and are usually painted within the thick black lines.



ELLEN OCHOA

Americans of Hispanic descent have made notable contributions to science, engineering and technology. They include Ellen Ochoa, a 1968 Physics Nobel laureate, the current head of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the first Latina astronaut and former director of NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center.

Check out this video series from NASA and see inside the everyday lives of NASA's Hispanic Community:

<https://tinyurl.com/ellen-ochoa-mvcl>

FEATURED RECIPE:

The Mexican drink *agua fresca* ("fresh water" or "cool water")

is made with water and fruit, but it is much more than just water and much different from the juice.

Agua fresca starts with fresh drinking water, and the fruit is blended or squeezed into it, resulting in a much lighter and more refreshing drink that is composed mostly of water.

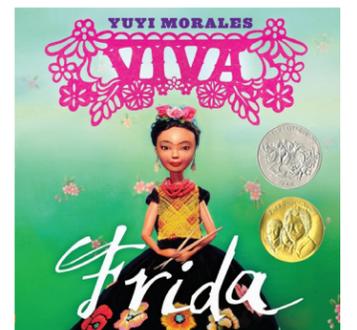
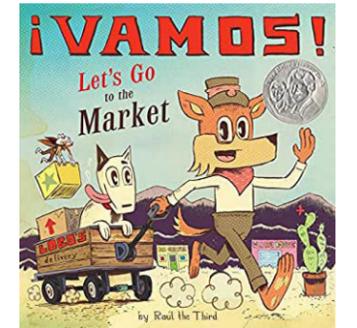
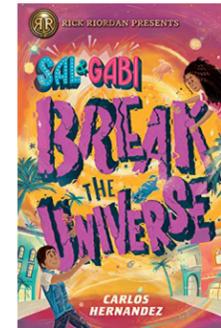
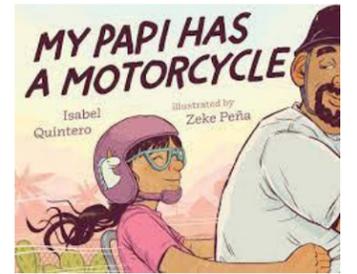
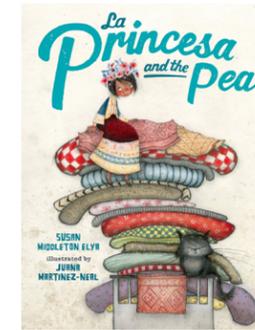
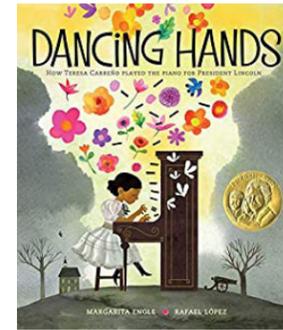
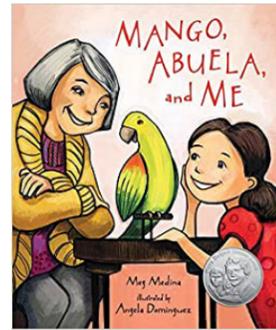
Agua Fresca- by The Spruce Eats

- 4 cups drinking water
- 2 cups fresh fruit
- 1/4 cup sugar (or equivalent in another sweetener)
- 2 teaspoons fresh-squeezed lime juice
- Lime wedges for garnish (optional)
- Ice (optional)

In a blender combine water, sugar, and fruit. Puree until smooth. Pour mixture (through a sieve, if desired) into a pitcher. Stir in lime juice. Taste, then add additional sugar, if necessary. Garnish with a lemon or lime wedge.

Serve over ice, if you like—though if you are striving for an authentically Mexican agua fresca, you will want to put ice in pitcher or refrigerate your drink beforehand and avoid the ice altogether.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS



The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. All of the books above are award winners!