



# CELEBRATIONS

## BIG IDEA

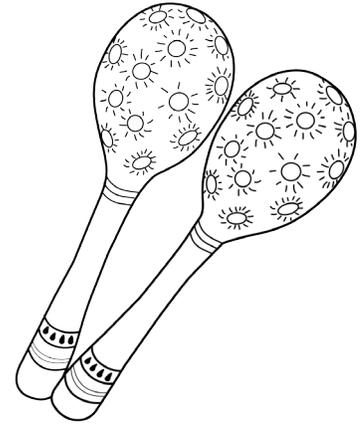
Children begin to recognize events and routines that occur in a predictable order. Comparisons of family and community celebrations help children understand past and present events and identify similarities and differences between him-/herself and others.

### Content objective(s):

The child will identify Mexican traditions pertaining to the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

#### Materials needed:

- ◆ Unit book: *Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance*, by Alma Flor Ada
- ◆ Mexican flag, not colored (Handout 1)
- ◆ Maracas (Handout 2)
- ◆ Crayons
- ◆ Empty plastic water bottle, with lid (extension)
- ◆ Rice, beans, pebbles, or something similar to put inside the bottle (extension)
- ◆ Stickers, tape, tissue paper, glue (extension)



#### Lesson vocabulary:

- ◆ Cinco de Mayo—May 5th
- ◆ trumpet—trompeta
- ◆ guitar—guitarra
- ◆ maracas—maracas
- ◆ Mexican flag—Bandera Mexicana
- ◆ green—verde
- ◆ red—rojo
- ◆ white—blanco

#### Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (Revised) domains addressed:

##### Language and Communication:

II.B.3. The child provides appropriate information for various situations.

##### Social Studies:

VII.D.4. The child identifies similarities among people like himself and classmates as well as among himself and people from other cultures.

##### Physical Development:

IX.B.1. Child shows control of tasks that require small-muscle strength and control.

## Activities:

### 1. The home educator models and demonstrates for the parent.



Model for the parent a discussion of Cinco de Mayo. Remind the parent and child of previous learning, saying,

*Remember, we're learning about celebrations! A celebration is a party or event to honor a special day. Today we are going to learn about the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.*

Read the first part of the unit book, *Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance*, by Alma Flor Ada.

*Cinco de Mayo is a time for bright colors, dancing, parades, good food and traditional music. Have you ever been to a Cinco de Mayo celebration? (Pause) Tell me about it. (Pause) Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of a great battle that Mexicans won. It is a time to celebrate the beauty and history of Mexico.*

Put your hand up with your fingers extended and say,

*Cinco means five. (Help the child count fingers in Spanish.) Mayo is the Spanish word for the month of May. The word "de" means "of." So, translated, this holiday means "5 of May." The great battle was won on the 5th day of May.*

### 2. The parent works with the child.



Encourage the parent to have a similar discussion with the child about the Mexican tradition for celebrating Cinco de Mayo and how their particular family celebrates the holiday. The parent and child should look through the pictures of the unit book. Throughout the book walk, the parents should ask the child,

*What do you see in the picture?*

If necessary, model a book walk with the child for the parent—ask the child questions about interesting pictures, “think aloud” by verbalizing what you think about the pictures, and link pictures to personal experiences. The parent should point out to the child some of the Mexican traditions for celebrating Cinco de Mayo and connect them to the family’s experiences. Encourage the parent to describe some regional traditions for celebrating the holiday, (e.g., piñatas; food such as tacos, salsa and chips, chili peppers, and pinto beans; music with maracas, violins, guitars, and trumpets; singing and dancing; decorations of Mexican flag and banners).

### 3. The child works with the parent’s help.

The child takes his/her turn pointing out pictures in the book of some traditions for celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Help the child describe more Mexican traditions in the celebration

of this event. The parent can explain the colors of the Mexican flag, using Handout 1, and the child will color each area appropriately.

#### 4. The child works independently as the parent and home educator watch for learning.

The child should be able to describe a Cinco de Mayo celebration. Watch for the child's ability to identify some of the Mexican traditions in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

#### 5. The home educator summarizes the lesson.

Finish by reviewing the content objective and talking about what the family learned today.

### Follow-up questions to deepen the child's thinking:



1. *Do you know what a fiesta is? (Pause) Tell me about a fiesta.*
2. *What is a piñata? (Pause) Tell me about one.*
3. *How is a birthday party alike and different from a Cinco de Mayo celebration?*

### Ways to extend the lesson concepts:

1. Make maracas.

Show the child the picture of maracas in Handout 2. Put the "noise makers" (rice, beans, or pebbles) inside the empty water bottle and glue the lid shut. Decorate the bottle with tissue paper, tape, or stickers. Put some music on and let the child use the maracas and dance with the music.



2. Discuss and compare other Mexican traditions and celebrations.

### Modifications:

#### If the lesson activity is too hard—

1. Discuss only a few of the objects in the book (e.g., food, instruments).

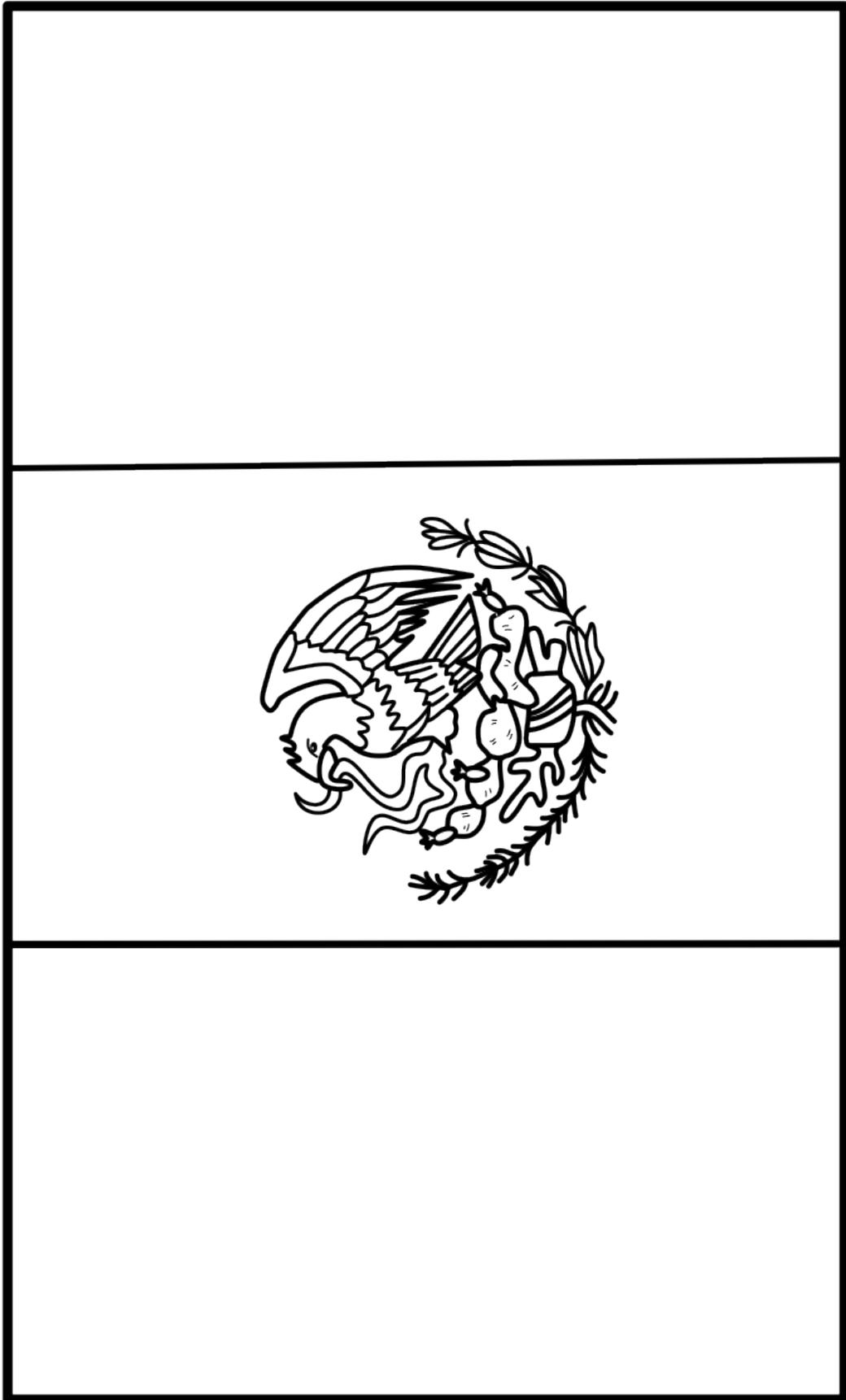
#### If the lesson activity is too easy—

1. Have the child to draw his/her own picture of a Cinco de Mayo celebration.
2. Show the child a map of Mexico (on page 20) and explain the geographical relation of the U.S. and Mexico (page 22); include a discussion of why Mexican-Americans celebrate this holiday.

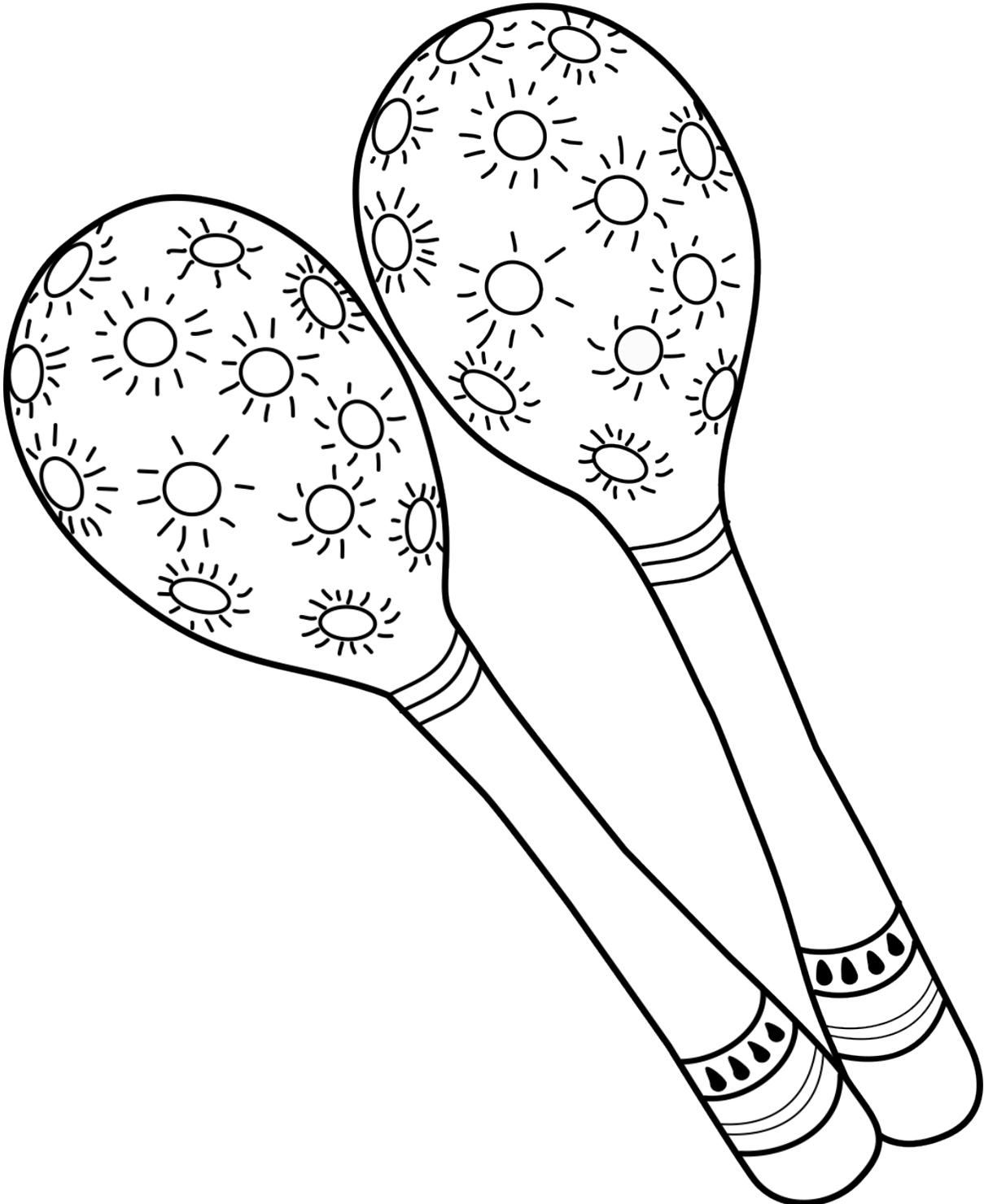
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## Teaching tip:

Be aware of the family's religious and cultural values. Discuss them with the parents prior to teaching about celebrations.



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# CELEBRATIONS (LESSON 2)

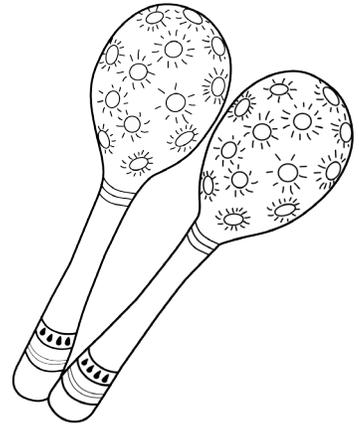
## PARENT PAGE

### What we are learning:

Your child will identify Mexican traditions pertaining to the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

#### Words to know:

- ◆ Cinco de Mayo—May 5th
- ◆ trumpet—trompeta
- ◆ guitar—guitarra
- ◆ maracas—maracas
- ◆ Mexican flag—Bandera Mexicana
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### What to ask:

1. *Do you know what a fiesta is? (Pause) Tell me about a fiesta.*
2. *What is a piñata? (Pause) Tell me about one.*
3. *How is a birthday party alike and different from a Cinco de Mayo celebration?*

### What else to do:

1. Make maracas.  
Show your child the picture of maracas in Handout 2. Put the “noise makers” (rice, beans, or pebbles) inside the empty water bottle and glue the lid shut. Decorate the bottle with tissue paper, tape, or stickers. Put some music on and let your child use the maracas and dance with the music.
2. Discuss and compare other Mexican traditions and celebrations.

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