

Teacher's Guide

Introduction

This unit is designed to acquaint students with the history of Mexico. It emphasizes vocabulary as well as historical content.

There are 14 pages of text, each with a vocabulary list and most with comprehension questions.

Each page of text has a corresponding exercise page. The exercises emphasize the writing of generalizations and the use of supporting evidence. There are also vocabulary exercises and a short paragraph that requires students to fill in the blanks from the text.

We recommend that the unit be copied with the exercise page facing the text page to form a small booklet.

There are two short tests on the content and two crossword puzzles.

Answers

(in actual book)

A
Related
Title



Creative Activities for Teaching About Mexico Grades 5 & Up

Creative activities that use pictures to encourage writing and critical thinking. There are also decision making and map activities. Thirty reproducible pages.

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Revolution of 1810



Above: Miguel Hidalgo.

At midnight on September 15, 1810, Padre Miguel Hidalgo issued the “El Grito de Delores,” a declaration of independence from Spain. Hidalgo, a Catholic priest, led an army against the Spanish. His army was made up mostly of Indians. The Spanish army was made up of mostly creoles born in Mexico. Creoles were Spanish born in Mexico.

Hidalgo was captured and executed by the



Above: Agustin Iturbide.

Spanish. The leadership of the revolt passed to another priest, Jose Maria Morelos. Morelos also led an army of Indians. He wanted a constitutional republic that provided racial equality, broke up the large haciendas and gave the land to the poor, and abolished the special privileges of the Church and military. He also wanted universal suffrage. Morelos, too, was caught and executed by the Spanish military.

Mexico achieved independence from Spain



Above: Jose Morelos.

when a creole general in the Spanish army switched sides. Agustin Iturbide declared himself king of newly independent Mexico.

Directions

Define the words below and use them in sentences.

Vocabulary: issue, declare, declaration, revolt, racial equality, privilege, abolish, universal, suffrage.

Comprehension

1. What was Hidalgo's declaration of independence called?
2. What is a creole?
3. What did Jose Morelos want to do for Mexico?
4. How did Mexico achieve independence?

Exercise 9 (page 12)

Vocabulary List

Words	Meaning
78. encourage	(v.) to give help
79. refuge	(n.) a safe place
80. revenge	(n.) getting even
81. civil liberty	(n.) a basic right
82. plot	(n.) a plan, a scheme
83. rebel	(v.) to fight against authority
84. liberal	(n.) a person who wants change
85. reactionary	(n.) a person who does not want any change
86. terrible	(adj.) bad
87. bankrupt	(adj.) without money

Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks in the sentences using the words from the vocabulary list. Use the proper form of the words.

1. Mexico was _____ when Juarez became president.
2. Juarez denied Santa Anna _____ in Oaxaca.
3. Juarez was opposed by _____ forces.
4. Santa Anna wanted to take _____ against Juarez.
5. Santa Anna was always _____ to overthrow the government.

Word Scrambles

Unscramble the following words.

1. GVRNEEE _____
2. LLBRIEA _____
3. RBLEE _____
4. FGREEU _____
5. TLPO _____

Generalizations

Write a general statement for each group of facts.

1. _____
 - Juarez was a Zapotec Indian.
 - Juarez was elected president of Mexico in 1860.
 - Juarez was president of a country that had no money.

Evidence

Provide at least two facts that support the following generalizations.

1. Benito Juarez was a good leader.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
2. Juarez had many difficulties in life.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

Fact and Opinion

Indicate which statements are fact (F), which are opinion (O) and which are a mixture of fact and opinion (M). Facts are known to be true or can be proven true or false. Opinions are value judgements which cannot be proven.

1. _____ Juarez was the first Indian elected president of Mexico.
2. _____ Santa Anna did not like Juarez.
3. _____ If the new Constitution did not give the Mexican people so many civil liberties there would not have been so much fighting.
4. _____ The Mexican government was not responsible with its money.
5. _____ The Mexican politicians could not get along peaceably.