

MEXICO INDEPENDENCE DAY

MINI-FESTIVAL

WARM-UP → PLAY → REFLECT

MATERIALS (SUPER LOW-PREP)

- Paper + pencils/markers
- Mexico Independence Day activity bingo card, the word search, and the coloring page
- Trivia page
- Certificates (recommended: kids can show their after-school achievement to families and feel proud)

1

WARM-UP — PLAYFUL, NO “TEACHING”

3–5 MIN

Script you can read:

“We’re doing a tiny celebration for Mexico’s Independence Day—Día de la Independencia. Say it with me: ‘meh-HEE-koh.’ The big day is September 16. Ready for some quick, happy activities?”

Pick ONE quick starter:

- **Group shout (10s):** On three, everyone says “¡Viva México!” (then try “¡Viva la independencia!”).
- **Quick draw (60s):** On the board, draw a bell, a flag (green–white–red), and a tiny eagle on a cactus. Ask, “What do you think this festival is about?” (No right or wrong—keep it moving.)
- **Guess in place (30s):** “If independence makes you think of courage and community, do one silent jump or give a thumbs-up!”

2

PLAY — CHOOSE ONE PATH

15–45 MIN

(If kids are loving it and you have time, run them all in a row.)

Path A: Activity Bingo (high-energy)

- Hand out one Bingo card per student (or play in pairs/triads).
- Goal: 4 in a row. Set a 10–15 min timer. Light music helps.
- When someone finishes, they call “¡Viva!” They can start another row, move to the next path, or help a friend.
- Examples of squares you’ll see: write “¡Viva México!” in bubble letters; draw a bell and label El Grito; make a red–white–green paper chain; sketch a mariachi silhouette; draw the flag (simple emblem); sketch elote (corn with toppings); write hola / gracias / buenos días; make a Bienvenidos sign; write paz (peace) in a heart; give two sincere compliments.

Path B: Word Search + Doodle (calmer)

- Give each student a word search (solo or pairs).
- When finished, circle a favorite word (MEXICO, INDEPENDENCE, SEPTEMBER, GRITO, DOLORES, HIDALGO, FLAG, EAGLE, GREEN, RED) and add a 20-second doodle with a tiny caption (e.g., “El Grito = the big independence shout!”).

Path C: Color & Tell (art-first)

- Hand out the coloring page. Invite kids to add small Mexico-themed details around the border: papel picado, a tiny bell, an eagle on a cactus, fireworks, or a mariachi hat.
- Quick pair share: “One way I can show respect is ____.”

3

REFLECT — FAST & FEEL-GOOD

3–5 MIN

Choose ONE:

- **High-five checkout:** Turn to someone and say one new thing you noticed (e.g., the Grito, the bell, or the flag colors).
- **Thumbs check:** 👍 = “I learned a little,” 👍👍 = “I learned a lot!”
- **One-word exit:** Each student says one word (brave, colorful, viva, freedom...).
- **Celebrate:** Hand out certificates and, together, say “¡Viva México!”

TINY TIPS

- Sign each certificate with a short positive note (e.g., "You're great!").
- Let kids take their activity sheets and trivia page home.
- Optional bonus: run 3–5 quick trivia questions between paths.
- Friendly reminder: This holiday is not Cinco de Mayo—that's a different day in May.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

WITH ANSWERS

● **Mexico's Independence Day is on...**

A) September 5 B) September 16 C) May 5 D) October 31

Answer: B

● **The famous call that began the movement in 1810 is called...**

A) El Sombrero B) La Campana C) El Grito de Dolores D) La Fiesta

Answer: C

● **Who rang the church bell in the town of Dolores in 1810?**

A) Benito Juárez B) Frida Kahlo C) Emiliano Zapata D) Miguel Hidalgo

Answer: D

● **Celebrations often begin the night of...**

A) September 1 B) September 15 C) December 24 D) July 4

Answer: B

● **The center of Mexico's flag shows...**

A) A star B) A sun C) An eagle on a cactus holding a snake D) A flower

Answer: C