Celebrate Independence Day

Celebrar el Día de la Independencia
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Vocabulary
bouquets
circus
difficult
nibble
piers
soar
swallow

Word count: 455
A parade! Look at the fancy, bright uniforms. Listen to the marching band. Here comes an old-fashioned fire engine! Is it a circus? No. Is it a fair? No. It’s Independence Day!
In 1776, the United States of America was born. Thirteen small settlements, called colonies, decided that they wanted to be an independent, or free, country. They did not want to be ruled by the king of England anymore. They were ready to make their own laws and government.
Today people in the United States celebrate Independence Day on July 4th every year. They celebrate in parks and in the streets. You can even see people celebrating on piers that go from the shore out over the water. People have parties and picnics. They nibble on hot dogs and swallow cold beverages. Later they watch fireworks soar into the dark night sky.

Not many years later, the people of a neighboring country became independent too. Mexico was ruled by Spain for many years. But that would change. On September 16, 1810, church bells rang in the Mexican town of Dolores, in central Mexico. People heard the bells and gathered together.
Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla is often called the Father of Mexican Independence.

They came to listen to a man named Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla make a speech. People in Mexico speak Spanish. His speech is called el Grito de Dolores, or the Cry of Dolores. Hidalgo thought that Mexico should be separate from Spain. A war with Spain began after this.

These dancers are part of a Mexican Independence Day celebration.

The people of Mexico fought hard in a war that lasted eleven years. Finally, they won their freedom from Spain.

Today Mexico celebrates Independence Day every September 16th. Independence Day in Spanish is called el Día de la Independencia.
People celebrate el Día de la Independencia in Mexico City, the capital of Mexico.

On the eve of el Día de la Independencia in Mexico City, the President of Mexico rings the same bell that rang in Dolores in 1810. He then makes the Grito de Dolores speech again, the very same speech that Hidalgo gave so many years ago. Then the celebration begins!

People celebrate el Día de la Independencia with parades. At the parades, vendors sell flags, bouquets of balloons, and hats. People also have fiestas, or big parties, with music and dancing. They eat tasty Mexican food and watch fireworks.
These national celebrations in the United States and Mexico are wonderful. In the United States, people celebrate Independence Day. In Mexico, they celebrate *el Día de la Independencia*. In both places, people celebrate the freedom of their country from foreign rulers.

**Reader Response**

1. What is the main idea of this book? Name two details that tell more about the main idea.

2. After reading this book, what can you infer, or guess, about Independence Day celebrations around the world?

3. Find the sentence with the word *soar* on page 6. What words in the sentence help you understand what *soar* means?

4. How are celebrations of U.S. independence and Mexican independence the same? How are they different? Use a Venn diagram like the one below to explain your answer.

![Venn Diagram](image)