

El día de Independencia en México

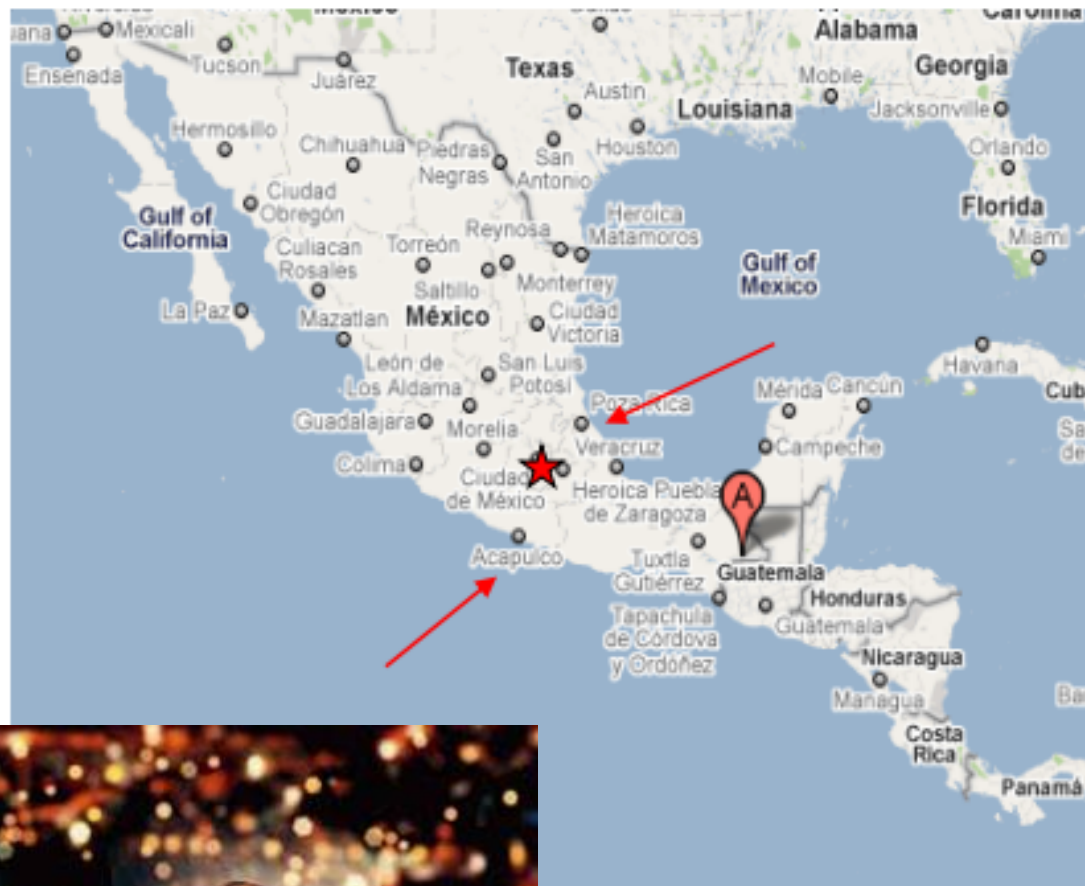


el 16 de septiembre

La Independencia de México



As you know, Mexico was first populated over 2000 years ago by complex indigenous civilizations like the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas. In 1519, Spaniards began arriving, wishing to colonize this part of the 'new world'. They brought with them their language, religion and culture, which over time blended with the cultures of the indigenous people. The Spaniards also brought diseases that the Indians had never been exposed to and therefore were not immune to. As a result, the indigenous population decreased by more than 50% during this time.



It took the Spanish some time to completely conquer the Mexican territory. 1521 – 1650 is known as the period of conquest. 1650 – 1810 is the colonial Period, during which time Mexico was part of the Vice Royalty of New Spain, which included Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Southwest United States. Spain used the people and the resources of Mexico to benefit Spanish nobles, and kept Mexico from developing as a country. No ports were built, international travel was only allowed through Veracruz and Acapulco (see arrows on map). Mexicans were very seldom allowed to travel in and out of the country, and education was discouraged. For these reasons, the Mexican people were not happy and wanted to gain independence from Spanish rule.



On **September 16, 1810**, **Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla**, parish priest of the village of Dolores, gathered his congregation of Indians and mestizos and called for Mexican independence, with the exile or arrest of all Spaniards (*gachupines*) in Mexico who had oppressed and exploited the native populations for hundreds of years. He ended his speech by calling out "*Mexicanos, Viva Mexico!*" (**Mexicans, long live Mexico!**) – which was doubly significant since the country was known as *Nueva España* (New Spain) at that time.

After a long and bloody struggle, **Mexico's independence** was finally recognized in **1821**, 11 years after Father Miguel Hidalgo's initial rally cry for independence.

Ever since, Mexico has celebrated the anniversary of "*El Grito*" in the Zocalo, a large plaza in Mexico City on the night of the 15th of September. The **President** of Mexico starts the ceremony by ringing the actual bell from Padre Hidalgo's church and repeating the words of Miguel Hidalgo's call for independence, culminating at midnight with fireworks and cries of "*Viva Mexico*". Miguel Hidalgo's speech is repeated from the balconies of every Mayor's Office in the country as part of the traditional independence celebration that are part of the **Fiestas Patrias**.





El Zócalo



El Palacio Nacional



El Grito de Independencia



Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Presidente de México



2009



2010

bicentennial



¡¡ Y que viva México
c...señores...!!
Mole & Chocolate

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**Click on the flag to see a video
about Independence Day in
Mexico.**