TUESDAY THE 13TH: A DAY OF BAD LUCK AND MISFORTUNE IN SPAIN

By Jacqueline Fanchini (Reporter) - 13 Jan, 2015 @ 11:260

TODAY is Tuesday the 13th and in Spain that is the equivalent of the UK's Friday the 13th, bringing with it the usual superstition of bad luck.

Although Friday is more traditionally regarded as a day to beware, the Spanish regard Tuesday with far greater wariness.

The exact origins of fear towards either day remain unclear but several theories have been put forward.

Firstly, Tuesdays were seen as being dominated by the influence of Mars, the god of war, as etymologically 'martes' stems from his name.

The superstition is also strengthened by historical events such as the fall of Constantinople to the Fourth Crusade on Tuesday April 13 1204 and its fall to the Ottomans on Tuesday May 29 1453.

There is even a saying that goes 'en Martes ni te cases ni te embarques ni te tu casa te apartes', meaning 'don't marry, go on a boat, or leave your house on Tuesday'.

Just as reoccurring patterns have this day of the week unpopular, the same has happened with the number 13.

The Western world commonly regards the number 13 as an unlucky one, to the point where hotels often omit it from room doors and floor numbers while some airlines do the same with aisle numbers.

There were 13 guests invited to dinner in Valhalla and Loki, seen as the Viking god mischief and chaos or as the god of evil and spirit of death (depending on which scholar you ask), was its 13th guest.

This parallels of course with Jesus Christ's last supper in which Judas was the 13th guest and was responsible for betraying Christ, enabling his crucifixion.

For some it goes beyond superstition and becomes a real phobia called 'Trezidavomartiofobia' (fear of Tuesday the 13th), which leads to an uncontrollable fear that causes the sufferer to attempt to spend the day at home and avoid contact with others.

So for the love of all that is good and holy, take care on this cursed day and make sure not to go on any boats.

1. What are some theories as to why Tuesdays are days to beware?  
2. Why is '13' considered unlucky?  
3. What is 'Trezidavomartiofobia'?  


National Hispanic Heritage Month

Directions: Read the article about National Hispanic Heritage Month and answer the questions.

Article 1: About National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to American society and culture. It also honors five of our Central American neighbors who celebrate their independence in September.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Dia de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period.

Article 1 Questions:
1. What does National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrate and recognize?

2. September 15 celebrates the independence of which 5 countries?

3. This observation originally lasted for one ____________ when it started in the year of ____________.

4. Hispanic Heritage Week was first enacted under what president? ______________________

5. The holiday was expanded under President ____________________.

6. Columbus Day is also known as ____________________.

Article 2: Famous Firsts by Hispanic Americans

The first Hispanic-American politicians, baseball players, and more. While there are many notable Hispanic-Americans in our history, these people each achieved a "first" in their respective fields.

Government
- U.S. Surgeon General: Antonia Coello Novello, 1990–1993. She was also the first woman ever to hold the position. Birthplace: Fajardo, Puerto Rico
- Democrat to run for President: Bill Richardson, 2008. Though he eventually lost the nomination to Barack Obama, Richardson made history by entering the race. Birthplace: Pasadena, California
- U.S. Supreme Court Justice: Sonia Sotomayor, 2009. She is also the third woman to hold the position. Birthplace: The Bronx, New York (left)

Science and Medicine
- Astronaut: Franklin Chang-Díaz, 1986. He flew on a total of seven space-shuttle missions. Birthplace: San Jose, Costa Rica
- First female Hispanic astronaut: Ellen Ochoa, born in Los Angeles, California, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991. (left)
- **Nobel Prize in Physics**: Luiz Walter Alvarez, 1968, for discoveries about subatomic particles. Later, he and his son proposed the now-accepted theory that the mass dinosaur extinction was caused by a meteor impact. Birthplace: San Francisco, California

- **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**: Severo Ochoa, 1959, for the synthesis of ribonucleic acid (RNA). Birthplace: Asturias, Spain

**Entertainment & Media**
- **Star of a network television show**: Desi Arnaz, 1952, I Love Lucy. Birthplace: Santiago de Cuba
- **Broadcaster of the Year**: Geraldo Rivera, 1971. Birthplace: New York City
- **First to receive Grammy, Tony, Emmy, and Oscar**: Rita Moreno was the first Hispanic-American to have won all four awards in 1977. Birthplace: Humacao, Puerto Rico
- **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee**: Carlos Santana, guitar player, became the first Hispanic-American inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1993. Birthplace: Autlán de Navarro, Jalisco, Mexico (now a U.S. citizen)
- **Pulitzer Prize for Drama**: With his award of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play Anna in the Tropics, Nilo Cruz became the first Latino so honored. Birthplace: Matanzas, Cuba

**Sports**
- **World Series player**: Adolfo "Dol" Luque, 1919, relief pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds, against the infamous "Black Sox." He later pitched for the New York Giants in the 1933 Series and was credited with the win in the final game. Birthplace: Havana, Cuba
- **Hall of Fame Inductee**: Roberto Clemente, 1973. He was also the first Hispanic player to serve on the Players Association Board and to reach 3,000 hits. Birthplace: Carolina, Puerto Rico (right)
- **Heavyweight boxing champ**: John Ruiz, 2001, defeating Evander Holyfield. Birthplace: Chelsea, MA

**Article 2 Questions:**
1. Who made history by entering the Presidential race in 2008? ________________________________

2. Some of the people on this list were born in the United States. Name five of them.
   a. ________________________________
   b. ________________________________
   c. ________________________________
   d. ________________________________
   e. ________________________________

3. Who was the first female Hispanic Astronaut? ________________________________

4. Where was she born? ________________________________

5. Desi Arnaz was the star of what famous television show? ________________________________

6. Who was the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice? ________________________________

7. She was also the ________ female to hold the position.

8. Who was the first Hispanic-American to win the Nobel Prize in Medicine? ________________________________

9. In what region of Spain was he born? ________________________________

10. Name two people from this list who were born in Cuba.
    a. ________________________________
    b. ________________________________
11. Which astronaut from this list flew on a total of seven space-shuttle missions?

Article 3: Happy Independence Day: How Countries Celebrate Their Independence

Since 1981, Belize has held “September Celebrations” to honor both its independence from the U.K. and The Battle of St. George’s Caye, a battle between invading Mexican forces and resident woodcutters in 1798. The celebrations are known to be unique for their mystique; the Queen of the Bay beauty pageant, a citizens’ parade, and carnival of wild costumes and dancing allow the country to celebrate its native Mestizo and Maya culture.

Chile celebrates its independence from Spain on September 18, (the year they achieved independence was 1810.) With food, music, parades, and historical reenactments, the country holds “national parties” that can last for weeks. The national rodeo finals are held in Rancagua, while thousands of people fly kites in Antofagasta.

On September 16, Mexico celebrates the “Grito de Dolores,” or cry for independence from Spain that marked the beginning of the Mexican War for independence in 1810. Every September 15 at 11 p.m., the president of Mexico goes to the National Palace in the capital, rings a bell, makes a cry of patriotism, honors the war heroes, and shouts “Viva México!” from the balcony to the 500,000 people assembled in the plaza below. Everyone applauds and sings the national anthem; this ceremony is replicated around the country. Festivities continue the next day, including parades, marching band performances, concerts, and more.

Article 3 Questions:
1. Belize celebrates its independence from what country?

2. The country of Belize celebrates the culture of native___________________________.

3. Where do thousands of people fly kites to celebrate their independence?

4. What day is Mexico’s Independence Day?

5. What is Mexico’s cry for independence named?

6. In which country would you most like to celebrate? Why? Explain in your own words.

7. What is your favorite tracion for celebrating Independence Day in the United States? Why?
Spanish Surnames - Meanings & Origins

Learn the Origin of Your Spanish Last Name

by Kimberly Powell
Updated April 18, 2018

Have you ever wondered about your Spanish last name and how it came to be? Spanish surnames (apellidos) first came into use around the twelfth century, as populations began to expand to the point where it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same first name.

Spanish surnames generally fall into one of four categories:

Patronymic & Matronymic Surnames

Based on a parent’s first name, this category of surnames includes some of the most common Hispanic last names.

These Hispanic surnames originated as a way to distinguish between two men of the same given name by also using the name of their father (patronymic) or mother (matronymic). Grammatically, Spanish patronymic surnames were sometimes an unchanged form of the father’s given name, with the difference being in pronunciation (e.g. García, Vicente). However, Spanish patronymic surnames were most often formed by adding suffixes meaning “son of, such as -es, -as, -is, or -os (common to Portuguese surnames) or an -ez, -az, -is, or -oz (common to Basque or Spanish surnames) to the end of the father’s name.

Examples:

Leon Alvarez - Leon, son of Alvaro
Eduardo Fernández - Eduerdo, son of Fernándo
Pedro Velazquez - Pedro, son of Velasco

Geographical Surnames

Another common type of Hispanic last name, Spanish geographical surnames are often derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family came from or resided in.

Medina and Ortega are common geographical Hispanic surnames, as there are quite a few towns in the Spanish speaking world bearing these names. Some Spanish geographic surnames refer to landscape features, such as Vega, meaning "meadow," and Mendoza, meaning "cold mountain," from mendí (mountain) and (h)otz (cold) + a.

Some Spanish geographic surnames also feature the suffix de, meaning "from" or "of."

Examples:

Ricardo de Lugo - Ricardo, from the town of Lugo
Lucas Iglesias - Lucas, who lived near a church (iglesia)
Sebastián Desoto - Sebastián, of "the grove" (soto)

Occupational Surnames

Occupational Hispanic last names initially derived from the person’s job or trade.

Examples:

Roderick Guerrero - Roderick, the warrior or soldier
Descriptive Surnames
Based on a unique quality or physical feature of the individual, descriptive surnames often developed in Spanish speaking countries from nicknames or pet names, often based on an individual’s physical characteristics or personality.

Examples:
- Juan Delgado - John the thin
- Aarón Cortes - Aarón, the courteous
- Marco Rubio - Marco, the blonde

Why Do Most Hispanic People Use Two Last Names?
Hispanic surnames can be especially important to genealogists because children are commonly given two surnames, one from each parent. The middle name (1st surname) traditionally comes from the father’s name (apellido paterno), and the last name (2nd surname) is the mother’s maiden name (apellido materno). Sometimes, these two surnames may be found separated by y (meaning “and”), although this is no longer as common as it once was.

Recent changes to laws in Spain mean that you may also find the two surnames reversed - first the mother’s surname, and then the father’s surname. The pattern of mother’s surname followed by father’s surname is also common usage for Portuguese surnames. In the United States, where the use of two surnames is less common, some families give children the paternal surname, or perhaps hyphenate the two surnames. These naming patterns are, however, only the most common; variations exist.

In the past, Hispanic naming patterns were less consistent. Sometimes, sons took the surname of their father, while daughters took that of their mother. The use of double surnames didn’t become common throughout Spain until the 1800s.

Origins and Meanings of 50 Common Hispanic Last Names

2. Martínez 27. Álvarez  Cruz  Peña
3. Rodríguez 28. Romero  Morales  Guzmán
4. López 29. Fernandez  Reyes  Salazar
5. Hernández 30. Medina  Ramos  Aguilar
6. Gonzales 31. Moreno  Ruiz  Delgado
7. Pérez 32. Mendoza  Chavez  Valdez
8. Sánchez 33. Herrera  Vasquez  Rios
9. Rivera 34. Soto  Gutierrez  Vega
11. Torres 36. Vargas
12. Gonzales 37. Castre  
13. Flores 38. Rodríguez
15. Gomez 40. Munoz
Cascarones

Directions: Read the article about Cascarones and answer the questions that follow.

Cascarones are chicken eggs filled with confetti, sweets or small trinkets. The word cascaron comes from “cascara” which is “shell” in Spanish. They are a cross between an Easter egg and a party favor. In order to make cascarones, you need to open a small hole on top of the egg. You can use a nail or a pin to make the hole on the egg. Once, the egg is emptied let the eggshell (cascaron) dry. The cascaron is colored brightly on the outside just like an Easter egg. After decorating it, the cascaron is filled with colorful confetti. The opening will be sealed with a little piece of tissue paper. You can use cut small pieces of tissue paper to fill them.

The origin of the Cascarones can be traced to China. Marco Polo brought them to Europe. In Italy they were filled with perfume and sealed with wax. Young men would throw them to women they thought were attractive during courting rituals. The tradition went from Italy to Spain. Empress Carlotta was fascinated with the cascarones and brought them to Mexico in the 19th century. Carlotta was Emperor Maximilian’s wife. The perfumed powder was replaced by confetti in Mexico. They were used in papaqui which were mock battles between rival labor groups during Carnival season. They battled each other using cascarones. This tradition has remained and cascarones are typically used during Carnival season to spread happiness and merriment among participants. The cascarones have also been used in weddings filled with bird seed.

In United States cascarones have been a staple in Southwestern cities particular San Antonio during Easter and Fiesta season since the late 1960s. Hundreds of thousands of confetti filled eggshells will be thrown or crushed over the recipient’s head to shower him or her with confetti and spread good luck. Regardless of what the celebration is cascarones can definitely be added to your Easter hunt. Any gathering can turn into a papaqui were all the participants can instantly enjoy a century old tradition celebrating, the culture and Mexican traditions and showering family members and friends with good luck.

1. What are cascarones filled with?

2. Where does the word cascaron come from and what does it mean?

3. How do you make cascarones?

4. Trace the history of cascarones. Who brought them to Europe? What was the tradition in Italy? Who brought them to Mexico? How did they change in Mexico?

5. What is Papaqui?

6. How are cascarones used during the Easter and Fiesta season in the American Southwest?

7. Would you like to add the tradition of the cascarones to your Easter celebration? Why or why not?
All About the Names of the Days of the Week in Spanish

Weekday names have common origins in English and Spanish

By Gerald Erichsen
Updated September 20, 2018

The names of the days of the week in Spanish and English do not seem very much alike — so you may be surprised to find out they have similar origins. Most of the words for the days are tied to planetary bodies and ancient mythology.

**Key Takeaways**

- Days of the week in Spanish are masculine and not capitalized.
- The names of the five weekdays in English and Spanish are connected to each other, coming from astronomy and mythology.
- The names of the weekend days in English and Spanish have different origins in the two languages.

Also, the English and Spanish names for the name of the seventh day of the week, "Saturday" and sábado, aren't related at all even though they look vaguely similar.

The names in the two languages are:

- Sunday: domingo
- Monday: lunes
- Tuesday: martes
- Wednesday: miércoles
- Thursday: jueves
- Friday: viernes
- Saturday: sábado

**History of the Days of the Week in Spanish**

The historical origin or etymology of the days of the week can be linked to Roman mythology. The Romans saw a connection between their gods and the changing face of the nighttime sky, so it became natural to use their gods' names for the planets. The planets the ancient people were able to track in the sky were Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Those five planets plus the moon and sun made up the seven major astronomical bodies. When the concept of the seven-day week was imported from Mesopotamian culture early in the fourth century, the Romans used those astronomical names for the days of the week.

The first day of the week was named after the sun, followed by the moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn. The names of the week were adopted with little change throughout most of the Roman Empire and beyond. In only a few cases were changes made.

In Spanish, the five weekdays all retained their planetary names. Those are the five days whose names end in -es, a shortening of the Latin word for "day," dies. Lunes comes from the word for "moon," luna in Spanish, and the planetary connection with Mars is also apparent with martes. The same is true with Mercury/miércoles, and Venus is viernes, meaning "Friday."
The connection with Jupiter is not quite so apparent with jueves unless you know Roman mythology and recall that "Jove" is another name for Jupiter in Latin.

The days for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, were not adopted using the Roman naming pattern. Domingo comes from a Latin word meaning "Lord's day." And sábado comes from the Hebrew word "sabbath," meaning a day of rest. In Jewish and Christian tradition, God rested on the seventh day of creation.

**Stories Behind the English Names**

In English, the naming pattern is similar, but with a key difference. The relation between Sunday and the sun, Monday and the moon and Saturn and Saturday are obvious. The celestial body is the root of the words.

The difference with the other days is that English is a **Germanic** language, unlike Spanish which is a Latin or Romance language. The names of equivalent Germanic and Norse gods were substituted for the names of the Roman gods.

Mars, for example, was the god of war in Roman mythology, while the Germanic god of war was Tiw, whose name became part of Tuesday. "Wednesday" is a modification of "Woden's Day." Woden, also called Odin, was a god who was swift like Mercury. The Norse god Thor was the basis for naming Thursday. Thor was considered an equivalent god to Jupiter in Roman mythology. Norse goddess Frigga, after whom Friday was named, was, like Venus, the goddess of love.

**Using the Days of the Week in Spanish**

In Spanish, the names of the week are all masculine nouns, and they are not capitalized except at the beginning of a sentence. Thus it is common to refer to the days as **el domingo, el lunes**, and so on.

For the five weekdays, the names are the same in singular and plural. Thus we have los lunes, for "Mondays," los martes for (Tuesdays), and so on. The weekend days are made plural just by adding -s: los domingos and los sábados.

It is very common to use the **definite articles el or los** with the days of the week. Also, when talking about activities taking place on a certain day of the week, the "on" of English is not translated. So "Los domingos hago huevos con tocino" would be a common way of saying "On Sundays I make eggs with bacon."

*Summarize this article by expounding upon and citing text evidence for the ‘key takeaways’ located at the beginning of this article.*
La Navidad

Directions: Read each article about La Navidad and answer the questions that follow.

Article 1: Christmas in Mexico

"La Posadas," the remarkable buildup to Christmas Eve, is perhaps the most delightful and unique Mexican tradition. Beginning December 16th, it commemorates the events in the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

After dark, each night of the "Posada," (inn) a procession begins led by two children. The children carry a small pine-decorated platform bearing replicas of Joseph and Mary riding a burro. Other members of the company, all with lighted long slender candles, sing the "Litany of the Virgin" as they approach the door of the house assigned to the first "Posada." Together they chant an old traditional song and awaken the mast of the house to ask lodging for Mary. Those within the house threaten the company with beatings unless they move on. Again, the company pleads for admittance. When the owner of the house finally learns who his guests are, he jubilantly throws open the doors and bids them welcome. All kneel around the manger scene or "Nacimiento" ("birth") and offer songs of welcome, Ave Maria and a prayer.

Now it's time of the "Piñata," refreshments and dancing. The "Piñata" is a pottery (or paper) container, brightly decorated and filled with candy and toys. It is hung from the ceiling or a tree. One by one, the children are blindfolded, turned around and instructed to strike the Piñata with a stick. Usually several attempts are made before the container is broken. Of course, when that happens, there is an explosion of goodies and a scattering of children.

At midnight on Christmas Eve (La Nochebuena or Good night) the birth of Christ is announced with fireworks, ringing bells and blowing whistles. Devout worshipers surge into churches to attend the famous "Misa de Gallo" or 'Mass of the Rooster.' It is called this because a rooster is supposed to have crowed the night that Jesus was born. Following Mass, families return home for a tremendous dinner of traditional Mexican foods. The dishes vary with the different regions. However, somewhat common are the "tamales," rice, rellenos, "atole" (a sweet traditional drink) and "menudo," which is said to be more sobering than strong coffee.

Article 1 Questions:

1. When does the tradition of Las Posadas begin? ________________________________

2. Las Posadas is a re-enactment of what famous story? _____________________________

3. What foods and drinks are traditionally served for Christmas dinner?

4. How is the arrival of Christmas typically announced?

5. Write the English meaning of the following words:
   - Posada ___________________________________________________________________
   - Nacimiento __________________________________________________________________
   - Misa de Gallo __________________________________________________________________
   - La Nochebuena: __________________________________________________________________

Article 2: Spain - Christmas traditions & customs

Christmas (La Navidad) is a deeply religious holiday in Spain. The country's patron saint is the Virgin Mary and the Christmas season officially begins December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is celebrated each year in front of the great Gothic cathedral in Seville with a ceremony called los Seises or the "dance of six." Oddly, the elaborate ritual dance is now performed by not six but
ten elaborately costumed boys. It is a series of precise movements and gestures and is said to be quite moving and beautiful.

In Spain it is a very festive time at Christmas. On Christmas Eve, as the stars come out, tiny oil lamps are lit in every house, and after Midnight Mass and Christmas Dinner, streets fill with dancers and onlookers. There is a special Christmas dance called the Jota and the words and music have been handed down for hundreds of years. They dance to the sound of guitars and castanets.

Most homes have a manger, like cathedrals and churches. These are complete with carved figures. Children think of the Three Wise Man as the gift bearers. Tradition has it that they arrive on January 6th, the date the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus. The Spanish especially honor the cow at Christmas because it is thought that when Mary gave birth to Jesus the cow in the stable breathed on the Baby Jesus to keep him warm.

Shoes are filled with straw or barley for the tired camels that must carry their riders through the busy night. By morning the camel food is gone and in place of the straw or barley are presents. Shoes also may be placed on balconies on the night of the 6th January in the hope that the Wise Men will fill them with gifts.

Christmas Eve is known as Nochebuena or "the Good Night." It is a time for family members to gather together to rejoice and feast around the Nativity scenes that are present in nearly every home. A traditional Christmas treat is turron, a kind of almond candy. The family gather to celebrate and eat snacks. At midnight, they attend the misa de gallo which celebrates the moment of Christ's birth. After this mass, at 1am, they return home to Christmas dinner and the opening of the presents.

The children of Spain receive gifts on the feast of the Epiphany. The Magi are particularly revered in Spain. It is believed that they travel through the countryside reenacting their journey to Bethlehem every year at this time. Children leave their shoes on the windowsills and fill them with straw, carrots, and barley or the horses of the Wise Men. Their favorite is Balthazar who rides a donkey and is the one believed to leave the gifts.

The Spanish Christmas is Navidad, people go to church, exchange presents, and many play on swing sets set up specially for the occasion. Swinging at solstice time evokes an ancient desire to encourage the sun, urging it to "swing" ever higher in the sky.

Article 2 Questions:

1. What date does the Christmas season officially begin in Spain?

2. What time does the family eat Christmas dinner and open their gifts?

3. Why is the cow an especially honored figure in Spanish celebrations?

4. Why are shoes filled with straw and camel food and placed outside?

5. Has your family ever left treats out for someone on Christmas Eve? Who?

6. What is the significance of the swings used on Christmas?

Article 3: Christmas in Spanish-speaking Countries

CHILE

Chile's gift-bringer is called Viejo Pascuero (Old Man Christmas) who will wish everyone a Feliz Navidad (a Happy Christmas) y un Prospero Año Nuevo (and a Prosperous New Year). He strongly resembles Santa Claus and likewise comes drawn by reindeer. However, as chimneys are less than roomy in this warm climate, he contented himself with climbing a window. As in all Latin America, the manger scene is the center of festivities, and small clay figurines (called pesebre) are placed under every Christmas tree.
Following the midnight Misa de Gallo (Mass of the Rooster), the Christmas Eve meal often includes cazuela de ave (chicken cazuela), a chicken soup filled with potatoes, onions and corn on the cob; and pan de pascua, a Christmas bread filled with candies and fruit.

**COLOMBIA**
The Christmas season in Colombia starts on December 7 when families light candles in honor of the Virgin Mary. The church celebrates December 8 as the day of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Colombian National Holiday and a day of Obligation with the church. It is celebrated with a display of lights as each home will light approximately 100 candles on the curb and sidewalk area. On December 16, Colombian families typically start setting up the Christmas tree which is artificial for ecological reasons. The Christmas tree is decorated with lights and bowls. From December 16 through December 24, families usually gather together at night around Nativity scenes to pray and sing carols in the Novena de Aguinaldos. On Christmas Eve family members and neighbors gather to eat and dance. Traditional Colombian foods include: ajaco (a soup with potatoes), chicken and natilla (a corn based dessert) and buñuelos. Everyone waits until midnight to wish each other Merry Christmas and to exchange gifts. Traditionally, El Niño Jesús, the Christ Child, is the one who would bring you the gifts. But recently Santa Claus has been introduced as a gift-giver as well. Children get up on Christmas morning and find gifts at the foot of their beds.

**HONDURAS**
Hondurans party in their homes, jobs, clubs, bars, and even in churches. It doesn't matter what their social position or religion is, people everywhere prepare for several weeks before Christmas Day. They prepare parties for their families, friends and co-workers and have several traditional foods like pork, tamales, eggnog, drinks and aguardiente. They usually have a dinner with the family. Then they drop by the homes of their friends and neighbors to drink, eat and dance. They usually end up stuffed with delicious food and drink, then at 12 o'clock they all hug and say Feliz Navidad (Merry Christmas) to each other. At the same time, firecrackers and cherry bombs are exploding everywhere. It looks like a battlefield.

**VENEZUELA**
In Venezuela on December 16th families bring out their pesebres (mangers) which is a specially designed and thought out depiction of the nativity scene. Venezuelans attend an early morning church service daily between December 16th and 24th. This is called Misa de Aguinaldo (Early Morning Mass). In Caracas, the capital city, it is customary to roller-skate to this service, and many neighborhoods close the streets to cars until 8 a.m. Before bedtime children tie one end of a piece of string to their big toe and hang the other out the window. The next morning, roller skaters give a tug to any string they see hanging. On January 6th when the children are awakened, they will discover that the straw that they had left beside their bed the night before has gone, and in its place they can find gifts. The children know that the Magi and their camels have been at home.

**Article 3 Questions:**
1. Who is the man that brings gifts in Chile? How does he enter the house? ____________________________
2. What is a Pan de Pascua? ________________________________________________________________
3. In Colombia, when do families exchange gifts? _____________________________________________
4. What traditional foods and drinks are served on Christmas Eve in Honduras? ________________
5. In Caracas, Venezuela, how do people typically arrive to mass? ____________________________
6. When do the Magi pass through Venezuela? What do they leave behind? ____________________

7. Write the meaning of the words and phrases in English:
   - Feliz Navidad ____________________________
   - Pesebres ____________________________
   - Misa de Aguinaldo ____________________________
Equivalent of April Fools' Day Celebrated in December

By Gerald Erichson
Updated May 11, 2019

If you should be in a Spanish-speaking country some April 1 and play a joke on your friends and follow that up with a shout of "¡Fotitos de abril!" chances are you'll get nothing but blank stares as a reaction. The minor holiday of April Fools' Day, perennially popular in the United States, is little known in Spain and Spanish-speaking Latin America, but there is a rough equivalent, el Día de los Santos Inocentes (Day of the Holy Innocents), observed on Dec. 28.

The Day of the Holy Innocents also known sometimes in English as the Feast of the Holy Innocents or as Childermas.

How Dec. 28 Is Celebrated

The day is observed throughout the Spanish-speaking world in much the same way as April Fools' Day. But when the prankster is ready to reveal the joke, the saying is "¡Inocente, inocente!" or "innocent one, innocent one!" (See the lesson on making nouns out of adjectives for the grammar behind this.) It is also common on that day for newspapers and TV stations to print or broadcast "rews" stories based in humor rather than fact.

In its origins, the day is a sort of folio humor. The Day of the Innocents observes the day when, according to the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible, King Herod ordered the baby boys under 2 years old in Bethlehem to be killed because he was afraid that the baby Jesus born there would become a rival. As it turned out, though, the baby Jesus had been taken away to Egypt by Mary and Joseph. So the "joke" was on Herod, and thus followed the tradition of tricking friends on that day. (This is a sad story, but according to tradition the babies murdered in Jesus' stead went to heaven as the first Christian martyrs.)

Celebrating With a Food Fight

One of world's more unusual celebrations of any kind is used to mark Dec. 28 in Ibi, Alicante, Spain, not far from the middle of the Spanish Mediterranean Coast. In a tradition more than 200 years old, townspeople engage in a massive food fight of sorts—but it's all in good fun and is used to raise money for charity.

After a several decades in which the festivities were suspended for the Spanish Civil War and subsequent national events, they were revived in 1981 and have become a tourist draw and major event since then. The festivities are known as Els Enfarinats in Valencian, the local language closely tied to Catalan. In Spanish, it's known as the fiesta of Los Enfarinados, loosely translated as "The Flour-Covered Ones." (Enfarinar is the verb for coating something with flour, known as harina.)

The festivities traditionally begin around 8 a.m. when participants in mock military attire stage a fake coup and take "control" of the town and enact all sorts of crazy "ordinances" in program called New Justice — Justícia Nova in Catalan and Justicia Nueva in Spanish. Those who break the pretend ordinances are tined, with the money going to worthy causes.

Eventually, a massive fight ensues between the "rulers" and the "opposition," a battle fought with flour, vegetables and other harmless projectiles. Festive dancing marks the end of the "battle."

Other Observances of Inocentes

Several other regions have distinctive ways of observing the Day of the Holy Innocents.

For example, various celebrations are widespread in Venezuela, where many of the celebrations mix European and indigenous traditions. In some areas, for example, festivities are held in which children dress as the elderly, the elderly dress as children, leaders dressed in tattered clothing, men dress as women and women as men and so on, and many wear colorful masks, headgear, and/or costumes. Names or some of these festivals include the festival of the locos and laicas (the crazy ones). Although Dec. 28 is not an officially observed holiday, some of the festivities can last the entire day.
Another noteworthy celebration takes place in El Salvador, where the largest observance of the day takes place in Antiguo Cuscatlán. Floats for a parade are adorned with pictures of children representing those in the Biblical story. A street fair is also held.

**Key Takeaways**

In most Spanish-speaking countries, Dec. 28 is observed as the *Día de los Santos Inocentes*, or the Day of the Holy Innocents, commemorating the Biblical story of King Herod killing babies in Bethlehem.

The day is observed in some areas much like April Fools’ Day is observed in the United States.

Colorful celebrations are held in some other areas to observe the day.

1. **What day is the rough equivalent to our April Fools’ Day?**

2. **What do pranksters say when they reveal the joke?**

3. **What is the origin of the Day of Innocents?**

4. **How is El Día de los Inocentes celebrated in Ibi, Alicante, Spain?**

5. **What are some other ways that Spanish-speaking regions celebrate ‘El Día de los Inocentes’?**
The Quinceañera

Directions: Read each article about The Quinceañera and answer the questions that follow.

Article 1: Quinceañeras

Quinceañeras, or commonly called Quince Años (Fifteen Years), is one of the most beloved and precious moments in any young girl’s life. Looking into the elaborate and exquisite ceremony, one wonders where it all began, what does it all mean, and why do Hispanics celebrate Quinceañeras. One the outside of the ceremony it may seem like just a very dressed up version of a coming out party or a Hispanic version of a Swee Sixteen. However, let’s look behind the fancy dress and beautiful young girl and see the history and cultural value of the Quince

The beginning of the Quinceañera begins not with the festivities, as many believe but in the preparation of the upcoming event. In some families, the planning begins up to two years in advance of the actual day. During the preparation time, much dreaming and planning takes place with many friends and more importantly family members involved. There is much work to be done and many details to be worked on. From planning menus to choosing an area for the celebration, hours of time are dedicated and spent to ensure that the Quinceañera has the day of her dreams.

The key components of the traditional Quinceañera celebration are as follows. The dress of the Quinceañera is one of the most stunning details and traditionally is white signifying her purity. Pale pink is also a very common and favorite color. The dress is similar to a wedding dress in its grandeur, yet no train is placed upon a Quinceañera dress, but all of the splendor and beauty is there. Much like a ball gown and covered in fine lace and satiny material, the dress of the Quinceañera makes her appear to float as if an angel upon a cloud.

The Quinceañera begins the celebration with a mass service where she is be accompanied by her full court, consisting of 14 damas, 14 chambelans, as well as her personal chambelan (escort) for the evening. During the mass, there are children who act to place the pillow she will kneel upon at the altar, sprinkle flowers in her path as she makes her way to the altar. At the end of the ceremony the children pass out bolos or small gifts to those who attended the mass as the Quinceañera places her bouquet upon the altar of the for the Virgin Maria.

Once the mass has ended, everyone makes their way over to the party, usually held in a reception hall. All of the guests are seated and the Quinceañera makes a secret entrance and is hidden behind a curtain or stage. Once all of the guests have arrived and they are all seated, the court of the Quinceañera is introduced and the Quinceañera makes a much-anticipated entrance. The dance of the Quinceañera commences with a vals (waltz) with her father followed by her chambelan.

There is usually a toast in honor of the Quinceañera where all in attendance have the opportunity to wish her well and make a toast. The cake is a masterpiece by any standards and usually is ornately decorated with miniature statues of the Quinceañera and her full court. The cake is usually multi-tiered and beautifully decorated. The ceremony of lighting the fifteen candles upon her cake takes place in different places according to the region. During the party 15 guests, usually family members or very close friends of the family are called up to light the candles and a specially prepared dedication is said for each of the named guests.

When the Quinceañera enters the festivities, she enters wearing flat shoes. These shoes are worn during the misa de acción de gracias (thanksgiving mass – not to be confused with the holiday!). At her entrance to the party, and in South Florida her blessing, the young girl’s father changes her shoes from flat shoes to high heels, symbolizing her changing into a woman and she leaves wearing those shoes. Towards the end of the celebration, the Quinceañera walks around, passes out the ribbons and personally thanks each of the guests who attended her Quinceañera celebration. This usually draws an end to the formal celebration of the Quinceañera, having begun the day as a child and ending the day affirmed in her newly acknowledged position of young woman, loved and adored by all who see her, but none as much as the family who gracefully brought her to this day.

Article 1 Questions:
1. The Quinceañera is a celebration for what age? ___________________________

2. In some families, planning begins up to ___________________________ in advance of the event.

3. The traditional white color of a Quinceañera dress represents ___________________________. What is another occasion in which a woman traditionally might wear a white dress? ___________________________
4. What is the longest in advance that you have ever planned for an event? What event was it?

5. What does the changing of shoes represent?

6. During the party, 15 guests participate by doing what?

8. Towards the end of the party, the birthday girl typically passes out ___________ to the guests.

9. Translate the following terms from this article:
   - Chambelán: 
   - Vals: 
   - Misa de acción de gracias: 

**Article 2: Coming of Age - The Quinceañera Celebration**

The quinceañera celebrates a girl's coming of age on her 15th birthday (also called her quince años or fifteen years). It is a tradition celebrated throughout Latin America, and Hispanic communities around the world. This is an important moment in a young woman’s life, considered to be as important as her wedding day.

The roots of the celebration lie within the indigenous peoples of Latin America. In the Mayan and Aztec cultures, a girl nearing the age of 15 was taken from her family to prepare to enter womanhood and marriage. She would learn the history and the traditions of her people. Other lessons included how to be a responsible adult in the village and a good wife in marriage. When the girl returned to her community she entered as a woman, an occasion of great celebration. When the conquistadors arrived, this tradition was integrated into the Catholic religion. 400 years later, the quinceañera celebration remains a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood.

The modern Quinceañera greatly resembles a wedding. The girl wears a long gown of white or pastel colors (such as pink or lavender), with gloves, flat shoes, and a head piece. She also carries a bouquet of flowers. Relatives and friends (who are instrumental in helping with the costs and preparations of the event) arrive with gifts in the morning. Musicians play music and Las Mañanitas, a birthday song. Then friends and family go to the church for a special birthday mass.

Fourteen pairs of damas (girls) and chambelanes (young men), also known as the honor court, walk down the aisle. Each couple represents one year of the girl’s life. The quinceañera is then escorted down the aisle by her parents. During the hour long mass, those selected will speak and make spacial presentations of gifts. The girl lays her bouquet on the altar as a gift of gratitude to the Virgin Mary, and ends the mass with a traditional speech and a prayer of dedication.

After the mass, there is a party with mariachi and modern music, food, and dancing. Traditional foods served are mole, rice, chicken or turkey, tamales, and a large multi-tiered cake. During the reception, there is a "crowning ceremony" where a parent or godparent (madrina or padrino) replaces the headpiece worn by the quinceañera with the tiara. A Scepter (an emblem of authority and responsibility) is also presented to her, in recognition of her passage into adulthood. The young woman will then present her younger sister with a porcelain doll. This symbolizes that she is ready to move on to the next stage of her life by leaving her childhood and becoming a woman. After the presentation of the doll, her father will change her shoes from flats to heels. This symbolizes that he accepts this change in her life. A toast will be made to honor the young lady.

After these traditions, the young woman will waltz with her father because he has always been the man in her life. Her father will then hand her over to dance with her escort. This celebration culminates with the festejada- a dance to a traditional waltz by the quinceañera and her escort with the honor court joining in.

**Article 2 Questions:**

1. The tradition of the Quinceañera comes from the _________________________________.

2. In the Mayan and Aztec cultures, a girl nearing the age of 15 would learn the ___________ and ___________ of her people, as well as _________________________________.

3. The modern Quinceañera greatly resembles a _________________________________.

4. Who helps with the cost of the event? _________________________________.
5. Each chamberlain couple represents ________________________________.

6. About how long is a typical quince mass? ________________________________

7. Name some foods that might be served after the ceremony: ________________________________

8. Define the following terms from this article:
   - Las Mañanitas - ________________________________
   - Festejada - ________________________________
   - Madrina/Padrino - ________________________________
   - Dama - ________________________________

**Article 3: Traditional Quinceañera Gifts and Accesories**

Tiara: symbolizes a princess before God. This usually replaces a headpiece worn by Quinceañera until she is blessed during the festivities.

Scepter: is placed in the hand of the Quinceañera to symbolize her taking on adult roles as well as the authority that goes with her new position in the family and society.

Prayer Book or Bible: is given to the Quinceañera as a resource to keep the word of God in her life.

A Ring or Bracelet is given to symbolize the never-ending circle of life, the never-ending cycle of womanhood as well as symbolic of her future contributions.

Earrings: are given to remind her to keep her ears in tune to the voice of God, or to listen to the word of God as well as the world around her.

Medallion: may be given to the Quinceañera as a symbol of her faith or as a reminder of her Quinceañeras celebration, usually numbered 15.

A Rosario: A Rosario or Rosary Beads are often given in combination with the bible as a useful tool in prayer life of any young Catholic Woman.

Bouquet: Used if a mass service is held to place at the Altar of the Virgin Maria as a gift of thanksgiving.

Quinceañera Doll: used to hold ribbons with the girl’s name and the date of her birth imprinted upon them, to be passed out as bolos to guests who attended the reception.

Pillows: There are several pillows used during a Quinceañera ceremony. One is for kneeling during the service, one for carry her new shoes and usually one for the Tiara she receives.

**Article 3 Questions:**

1. Which of the gifts represents the never-ending circle of life? ________________________________

2. What does the Scepter represent? ________________________________

3. Name the three uses of pillows during the ceremony. ________________________________

4. Think about your own birthdays. Have you ever received a gift that had a special meaning or significance to you? What was it? What did it mean to you? ________________________________

5. What is passed out to guest who attend the reception? ________________________________
How Did Colón Become Columbus?
Explorer's Name Varies From Country to Country

by Gerald Erichsen
Updated September 11, 2017

Since Christopher Columbus came from Spain, it should be obvious that Christopher Columbus wasn't the name he himself used.

In fact, his name in Spanish was quite different: Cristóbal Colón. Here's a quick explanation of why his names in English and Spanish are so different:

'COLUMBUS' DERIVED FROM ITALIAN

Columbus' name in English is an anglicized version of the Columbus birth name. According to most accounts, Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, as Cristoforo Colombo, which is obviously much more similar to the English version than is the Spanish one.

The same is true in most of the major European languages: It's Christophe Colomb in French, Kristoffer Kolumbus in Swedish, Christoph Kolumbus in German, and Christoffel Columbus in Dutch.

So perhaps the question that should be asked is how Cristoforo Colombo ended up as Cristóbal Colón in his adopted country of Spain. (Sometimes his first name in Spanish is rendered as Cristóval, which is pronounced the same, since the b and y sound identical.) Unfortunately, the answer to that appears to be lost in history. Most historical accounts indicate that Colombo changed his name to Colón when he moved to Spain and became a citizen. The reasons remain unclear, although he most likely did it to make himself sound more Spanish, just as many European immigrants to the early United States often anglicized their last names or changed them entirely. In other languages of the Iberian Peninsula, his name has characteristics of both the Spanish and Italian versions: Cristóvão Colombo in Portuguese and Cristofo Colom in Catalan (one of the languages of Spain).

Incidentally, some historians have questioned the traditional accounts surrounding Columbus' Italian origins. Some even claim that Columbus was in reality a Portuguese Jew whose real name was Salvador Fernandes Zarco.

In any case, there's little question that Columbus' explorations were a key step in the spread of Spanish to what we now know as Latin America.

The country of Colombia was named after him, as were the Costa Rican currency (the colón) and one of Panama's largest cities (Colón).

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON COLUMBUS' NAME

Shortly after this article was published, a reader offered another perspective:

"I just saw your article 'How Did Colón Become Columbus?' It's an interesting read, but I believe that it is somewhat in error.

"First, Cristoforo Colombo is the 'Italian' version of his name and since he is thought to have been Genoese it is likely that this would not have been his original name. The common Genoese rendering is Christoffa Corombo (or Corombo)."
Regardless, though, I do not believe that there is any widely accepted historical evidence as to his birth name. The Spanish name Colón is widely attested. The Latin name Columbus is widely attested as well and was of his own choosing. But there is not undisputed evidence that either was an adaptation of his birth name.

"The word Columbus means dove in Latin, and Christopher means Christ-bearer. Though it is plausible that he adopted these Latin names as back-translations of his original name, it is equally plausible that he simply chose those names because he liked them and they were superficially similar to Cristobel Colón.

I believe the names Corombo and Colombo were simply common names in Italy and these were assumed to have been the original versions of his name. But I don't know that anybody has found actual documentation of that."

CELEBRATIONS OF COLUMBUS IN SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

In much of Latin America, the anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, Oct. 12, 1492, is celebrated as the Día de la Raza, or Day of the Race ("race" referring to the Spanish lineage). The name of the day has been changed to Día de la Raza y de la Hispanidad (Day of the Race and of "Hispanicity") in Colombia, Día de la Resistencia Indígena (Indigenous Resistance Day) in Venezuela, and Día de las Culturas (Cultures Day) in Costa Rica.

Columbus Day is known as the Fiesta Nacional (National Celebration) in Spain.

Questions for the article 'How Did Colon Become Columbus'

1. What was Christopher Columbus's name in Spanish?
2. What was Columbus's birth name?
3. What are some possible reasons that Columbus changed his name to Colón?
4. How did Columbus help spread Spanish?
5. A reader of the article disputes the author's claim of birth name. What name is suggested by the reader and why?
6. What does Columbus's name mean in Latin?
7. When is Columbus Day?
8. In much of Latin America, what is Columbus Day called and why do you think they call it that?
9. Why do you think Venezuela changed the name of Columbus Day?
10. Why are there differences in names for Columbus Day in Spain and Latin America. What does this say about perspective?
Traditional Latin American Dishes

Name:

Tortillas
Maya corn wraps
indigenous culture

Most Latin American dishes make use of the traditional foods available in the region including corn, beans and chilies. However, dairy products and meats such as pork originally brought to the area by the Spaniards in the early 16th century also occupy a prominent place in today's Latin cuisine.

One very popular dish is ceviche. Ceviche is a dish from Peru that consists of fish marinated in citrus juices. It is flavored with chili, salt and chopped onion and also served with corn, avocado and lettuce. This dish should be served as fresh as possible because the fish is raw.

Carnitas has its origin in the Mexican state of Michoacán. To make carnitas you have to boil the pork for many hours in a heavy pot until tender. The meat is combined with spices like cilantro, salt and chilies. One way to prepare this meal is to mix it with onions, tomatoes and beans, before serving it with rice, tortillas or tacos.

Finally, the Maya have cooked enchiladas for thousands of years. Enchiladas come in a variety of flavors. The basic idea is to use a corn tortilla filled with different ingredients and covered with a spicy tomato sauce. Common fillings include vegetables, chicken, pork, beef, seafood, beans and cheese.

1. What are the most common ingredients in traditional Latin food?
2. Where is ceviche from and what are three ingredients of this dish?
3. Where do carnitas come from and what meat is it made of?
4. What are three ingredients found in enchiladas?
5. Who are the Maya?
All About Mexico
Word Study #6
Mexican Word Search

Circle all the Mexican words that you can find.

There are twenty words.

maize
tostada
taco
plaza
Mole Poblana
atole
tequila
colonia
tortillas
fiesta
huaraches
pelota
frijoles
mestizos
hacienda
petates
enchilada
sombrero
rebozo
piñata

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