

1 Read the texts and match the headings (A-D) to the paragraphs (1-3). One heading is extra.

- A Special clothing
B A historic event

- C Celebrations
D An annual event

Cinco de Mayo

1

Cinco de Mayo is a celebration that takes place in parts of Mexico and in the USA on 5th May every year. 'Cinco de Mayo' is Spanish for '5th May'. A lot of people think that Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican independence. However, that is not the case. It actually celebrates Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla.

2

The Battle of Puebla happened on 5th May, 1862 in Puebla, Mexico. Due to financial difficulties, the Mexican government could not afford to repay its loans from European governments. Unfortunately, the French president, Napoleon III, saw this as an opportunity to take control of Mexico. He sent 6,000 French soldiers with lots of weapons to Puebla. There, the president of Mexico had gathered 2,000 loyal men to defend the city. Despite having fewer men and hardly any weapons, the Mexican men fought well and won the battle. This victory became an important symbol of strength and resistance for the Mexican people.

3

In Mexico, mostly people in the area of Puebla, still celebrate Cinco de Mayo each year. They hold a parade with music and dancing and reenact the famous battle. Then, they have parties with their families and friends and enjoy a meal together. Meanwhile, in the USA, Cinco de Mayo is an even bigger event celebrated by millions of people all over the country each year. However, the meaning of the celebration has changed over time. Today, Cinco de Mayo in the USA is not specifically about the Battle of Puebla, but is about celebrating Mexican culture. On this special day, people watch parades, throw parties, wear traditional Mexican clothing and dance to Mariachi music. One of the most important parts of the day is the Mexican cuisine – on Cinco de Mayo, people enjoy eating tacos, enchiladas, guacamole and many other delicious Mexican dishes.

2 In pairs, ask and answer questions based on the text.

3 **ICT** In groups, do research and create a Cinco de Mayo quiz. Then, swap it with another group in your class. How did you do?

