

Guadalupe Day in Mexico

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman



¹ December 12 is very important day in Mexico. It is the most important religious holiday there. Almost all Mexican people are Christians, so it is the most important day for almost everybody in Mexico. It is called Guadalupe Day.

² Guadalupe Day honors the Virgin Mary. Christians believe that she was the mother of Jesus. Christians in Mexico believe that the Virgin Mary appeared to a man named Juan Diego and talked to him.

³ More than 450 years ago, Juan Diego, a poor native Mexican, was walking by a rocky hill not far from Mexico City. Suddenly, he saw a woman standing on the hill, surrounded by bright light. She told him that she was the mother of God and wanted a shrine in her honor to be built on the hill.



⁴ Juan Diego went to a bishop and told him his story. The bishop did not believe him, so Juan Diego went back to the hill. He saw the lady again and asked for a sign to prove to the bishop that she had visited him. The Virgin caused a picture of herself to appear on Juan Diego's cloak in front of the bishop.

⁵ The bishop finally believed Juan Diego's story and ordered a shrine to be built on that hill. Juan Diego said that the lady called herself Holy Mary of Guadalupe, and the bishop decided that she was the Virgin Mary. The cloak with the picture of the Virgin Mary was put in the shrine.

⁶ The Virgin of Guadalupe became the patron saint of Mexico. They call her Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the shrine built in her honor is called the Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe. It was December 12, as Mexicans believe, when Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary for the second time, and she caused her picture to appear on his cloak. December 12 became the Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe--this very important religious holiday.

⁷ Every year, Catholics throughout Mexico and in some states in the United States celebrate that holiday. In Mexico, people go to the Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe. People come from all over Mexico, sometimes having to walk very long distances. Everyone gathers in the shrine and on the hill around it to celebrate.

⁸ Those who can't go to the shrine celebrate Guadalupe Day in their neighborhood churches. People bring little silver hearts, arms, and legs with them. Those little things are called "milagros" which means "miracles," and people pin them near a statue of the Virgin Mary as their thanks for cures.

⁹ People also decorate their houses for the celebration of the Guadalupe Day. They put statues and pictures of the Virgin Mary in their windows. They bring flowers, eggs, and chickens to churches. There are puppet shows out on the streets, performing the scenes of Juan Diego's story. However it is celebrated, Guadalupe Day ranks highly among important holidays in Mexican culture.

Name _____



Date _____

Guadalupe Day in Mexico

<p>1. What, according to the story, is the most important religious holiday in Mexico?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A New Year's Eve</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Easter</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Christmas</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> D Our Lady of Guadalupe Day</p>	<p>2. When is Guadalupe Day celebrated?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A December 9</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> B November 12</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C December 12</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D December 25</p>
<p>3. When did the story of Juan Diego take place?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A More then 850 years ago</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> B More then 450 years ago</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C More then 950 years ago</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D More then 650 year ago</p>	<p>4. The bishop believed Juan Diego right away.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>5. What did the Virgin Mary ask Juan Diego?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A To build a statue in her honor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B To build a library in her honor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C To build a stadium in her honor</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> D To build a shrine in her honor</p>	<p>6. Guadalupe Day is only celebrated in Mexico.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>7. The word "milagros" means _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Corn</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> B Miracles</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Presents</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Silver</p>	<p>8. The Virgin Mary is believed to be the mother of Jesus Christ.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> B True</p>