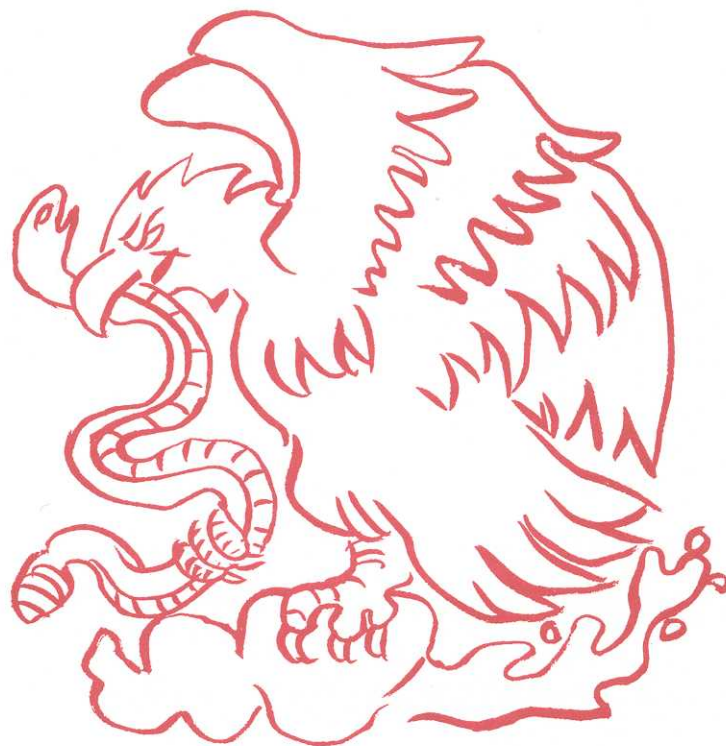


Mexican Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide



Kindergarten through Grade 3

Office of Language and Cultural Education

Chicago Public Schools

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MAYOR

September 1, 1999

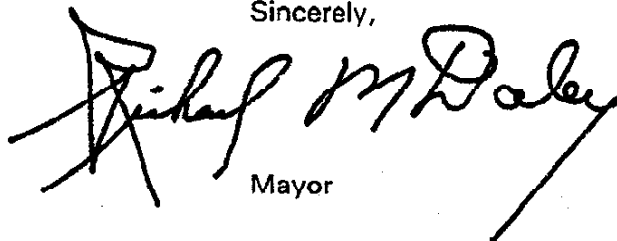
Dear Friends:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased to introduce you to the *Mexican Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide*.

The guide presents the rich history, culture, customs and artistry of Mexico, as well as information to help students and staff appreciate the beauty of the nation. Mexico's history and contributions to art, music, dance, religion, food, science and medicine are well presented from prehistoric times to present.

As Mayor of a city with one of the largest Mexican populations in the United States, I welcome this curriculum resource guide and urge administrators and staff to impart its wealth of information to all students in the Chicago Public Schools. I hope all who use it will gain a greater appreciation of the things that make Mexico a unique nation.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Daley

Mayor



Board of Education

CITY OF CHICAGO

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September 9, 1999

To Our Teachers:

Our nation is the historical and cultural synthesis of all those who have come to the United States.

The Chicago Public Schools celebrates and honors all the different experiences and backgrounds its students bring to its doors. We are proud to present the *Mexican Heritage Resource Guide* which has been created to share with everyone the rich history and culture of our students, parents and teachers from Mexico.

We must teach our students that diversity is strength, for it prepares them to function in a global society and helps broaden both their knowledge and understanding of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gery J. Chico".

Gery J. Chico
President
Chicago Board of Education

GJC:eb



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paul G. Vallas
Chief Executive Officer

September 1, 1999

Dear Teachers:

Mexico's grand history, from prehistoric times to the present, is vividly presented in the *Mexican Heritage Resource Curriculum Guide*. I salute the writers and all others who assisted with the production of this material. This is a welcome addition to the resources available to staff and students in Chicago Public Schools.

Mexico is rich in its history and culture. This book is a fine resource for non-Mexican staff members and students to use to learn about their neighbors to the south. It can also be used to teach Mexican students about their ancestry.

The resource guide is just one of the projects initiated by the Office of Language and Cultural Education to teach Chicago Public Schools students appreciation for the cultural diversity in their city. As we start the new millennium, the time we live in demands that we provide a global education so that everyone learns as much as possible about other cultures. Mexicans are one of Chicago's largest ethnic groups, and this book is a fine way to learn about them. Knowledge is the beginning of understanding: a deep appreciation for Mexican culture, history, art, customs, music, food and literature will foster understanding and admiration of one of the world's oldest cultures.

I commend the writers and all others who worked diligently to make this resource possible. Their accomplishment is most impressive. They are entitled to the thanks of the Chicago Public Schools staff, students and parents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul G. Vallas". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul G. Vallas
Chief Executive Officer

PGV:rc



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Chief Education Officer
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September 1, 1999

To our teachers:

I applaud this curriculum guide which will allow Chicago Public School teachers to develop an appreciation of Mexico and its rich culture. It is definitely written for the enjoyment of children as they learn about customs, history, music, art and culture. The "hands-on" activities will be welcomed and should bring about an awareness of different things children in another culture do.

I commend the writers' efforts because this is a fine addition to already existing material and fosters multicultural education in our schools. As a city, Chicago is unique because of its ethnic diversity. As educators, it is our challenge to lead students to appreciate and understand other cultures: in this case the culture, history, customs, music, and art of Mexico are presented for teachers' use. Lesson plans for Kindergarten through Grade 3 are complete with State Goals, material lists, procedures and master copies ready for classroom use.

I congratulate all who have assisted with the completion of this guide. I know that you, as teachers, will incorporate this rich instructional material in your lessons. Then, I feel certain that students will respect, appreciate and understand the rich treasures of this ancient culture.

Sincerely,

Cozette E. Buckney, Ed. D.
Chief Education Officer

CEB:rc

Children First



Armando M. Almendarez
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September 7, 1999

Dear Teachers:


The Mexican Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide is part of an ongoing effort on the part of Chicago Public Schools administrators to provide selected material for teachers to incorporate into their teaching to further multicultural education. The Office of Language and Cultural Education has provided resource guides on Poland and China: this book on Mexico is the third in a series.

The material has been very carefully prepared by teachers and staff members to provide the best information about Mexico and grade appropriate activities have been provided for Kindergarten through Grade 3. Considering that the writers have presented material from prehistoric times to the present, I feel that they have done a splendid job and I extend my heartfelt thanks for their dedication and hard work.

It is my wish that all staff members and children in Chicago's public schools learn about and appreciate the richness of the culture, art, food, music, scientific advances, architecture and historical importance of Mexico as a nation. The large number of people from Mexico living in Chicago makes it even more important for people to know and understand as much as possible about them and their country.

I hope that through the special activities in this book, children will appreciate and experience the cultural beauty of the customs, practices, food, songs and art projects which their Mexican friends treasure and enjoy.

Sincerely,



Armando M. Almendarez
Chief Language and Cultural Education Officer

AMA:rc