The Tiny LATINX PRESERVATION TOOLKIT

Celebrating Latinx Heritage





¡BIENVENIDOS, #HISTORY KEEPERS!

Did you know that you are already a part of history?

History is not only something that happened a long time ago. It lives all around us in our *familias, comunidades, recuerdos,* traditions, stories, and places.









Every year from September 15 through October 15th, communities across the United States recognize Latinx heritage, history, and culture.

There is a lot more to celebrate during this month than food, music, art, and famous people.

Read along to know how!



Learn about the **everyday people** who fought for freedom, cared for their community, protected their traditions, crossed borders to create new homes, and made sure their stories survived.

History lives in...

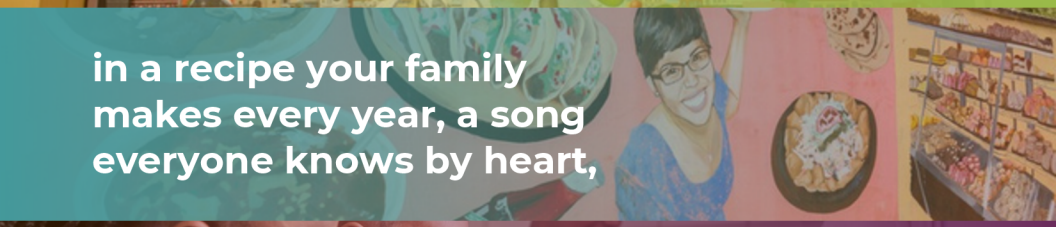
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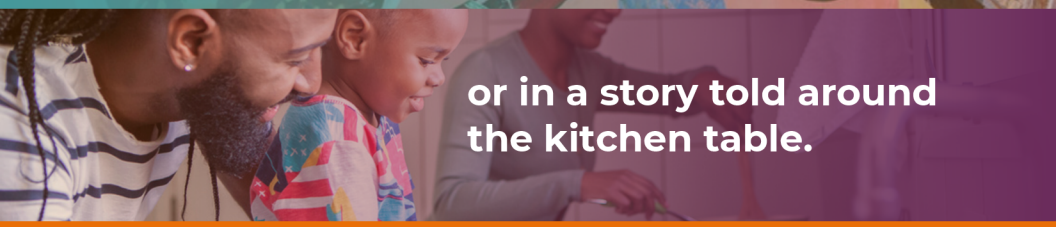




It lives in a mural in your *barrio*,

in a recipe your family makes every year, a song everyone knows by heart,





or in a story told around the kitchen table.

These are all pieces of our historia. When we learn these histories and care for them, we help carry them forward.

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

In this Tiny Toolkit, you will:

- **Learn** why Latinx Heritage Month begins on September 15th.
- **Know** why there is no single Latinx history.
- **Think** about whose stories we remember and whose stories may be missing.
- **Explore** the *lugares*, *recuerdos*, and traditions that hold history in your own family or community.
- **Create** a map of the living heritage around you.

Piénsalo – Think About It

What is something from your *familia* or *comunidad* that you hope people will still remember 50 years from now?



CELEBRATE LATINX HERITAGE EVERY DAY!



LET'S LEARN A FEW IMPORTANT WORDS, FIRST:

- **Herencia / Heritage:** The invisible gifts left behind by our family like a song, a recipe, or a story.
- **Raíces / Roots:** The place where our family comes from that keeps us strong.
- **Antepasados / Ancestors:** The family members who lived a long time ago, like our grandparents' grandparents.
- **Atesorar / To treasure:** To hold a memory very close to your heart because it is very valuable.
- **Preservar / To preserve:** To take care of a story with love so it is never forgotten.



WHAT IS LATINX HERITAGE MONTH?

The United States officially recognizes Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

It began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and became a month-long celebration in 1988.

In this Tiny Toolkit, we use the name Latinx Heritage Month with intention and purpose, because words matter.





People with roots in Latin America and the Caribbean **use many different words to describe themselves**, like Latina, Latino, Latine, Latinx, Chicana, Chicanx, Boricua, and many others.

Some identify more strongly with their country, their community, an Indigenous nation, their race, or another part of who they are.

There is no single word that describes everyone.

WHY DOES LATINX HERITAGE MONTH START ON SEPTEMBER 15TH?

Several Latin American countries celebrate their independence during this time of the year. Let's look at some of them.

SEPT 15

- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua

SEPT 16

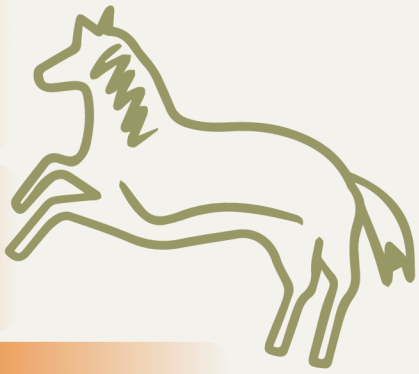
- México

SEPT 18

- Chile

SEPT 21

- Belize



PALABRA PARA CONOCER

Colonial rule - When a powerful country takes control of another land and its people, making decisions for them without asking, taking their resources or treating the people unfairly, ignoring their culture or way of life.

A country becoming independent **did not mean everyone was free and equal.**



Indigenous peoples still had to defend their lands and independence.

Enslaved and Afro-descendant people continued to fight for freedom.





Women, workers, rural communities, and other groups often remained excluded from voting and land ownership.

To understand our history, ask yourself:

- Who fought for change?
- Who gained freedom?
- Who was still fighting afterward?
- Whose historia do we remember?
- Whose historia might we be missing?



BE A HISTORY DETECTIVE!



Choose one of the countries listed earlier in this book, and find out....

Who participated in its independence movement?

_____

_____

DEEP LEARNING QUESTION:

Is there a person or community whose role is not usually included in the story?

_____

_____

NO HAY UNA SOLA HISTORIA

THERE IS NO SINGLE LATINX HISTORY.

Latinx communities exist in many countries, islands, languages, races, cultures, and histories.

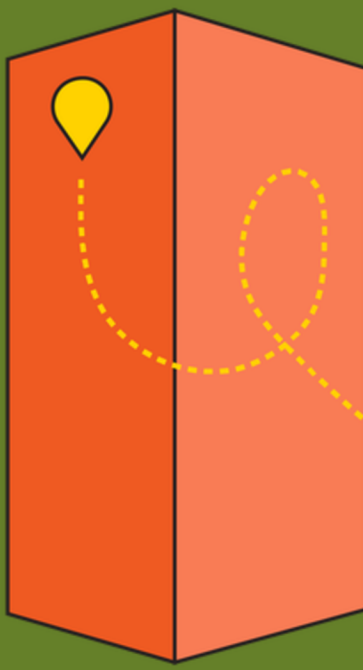
Some people have lived on the lands now called the United States for generations.

Others migrated recently.

Some *familias* moved back and forth across borders.

Some were displaced by war, colonization, political events, or disasters.

Some communities are Indigenous, Afro-Latinx, Asian-Latinx, or multiracial.



Many have different Spanish words or phrases they use, and not every Latinx person speaks Spanish.

When people move, they do not leave everything behind. They carry connections to places and herencia like:

- *Historias*
- Music
- Recipes
- Languages
- Traditions
- *Recuerdos*



PALABRA PARA CONOCER

Diaspora - People from a shared homeland or community who live in many different places while continuing to carry, change, and create culture and connections.

NUESTRA HERENCIA ESTÁ VIVA!

OUR HERITAGE IS ALIVE!

Look around your comunidad. You might find Latinx heritage in:

- Murals and public art
- Restaurants and legacy businesses
- Parks, plazas, and gardens
- Churches and community centers
- Family pictures
- Music and dance
- Neighborhood celebrations
- Family stories and sayings



Piénsalo – Think About It

Name one lugar, tradición, objeto, or story that tells you something about the people who live there.

ACTIVITY: Mapea Tu Herencia Viva

MAP YOUR HERITAGE

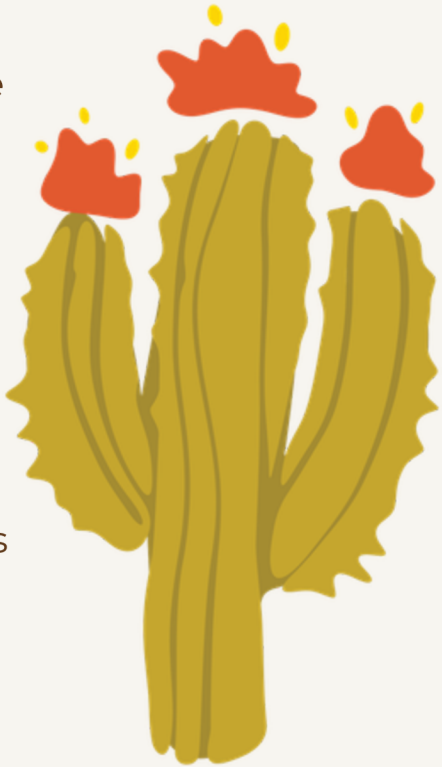
You can find history anywhere! You can start with what you already know. Get ready with:

- A piece of paper
- A pencil, pen, or markers
- Your favorite memory
- A little curiosity

Step 1: *Escoge* Your Place

Draw your home, neighborhood, or another place that matters to you. This is called a 'memory map'.

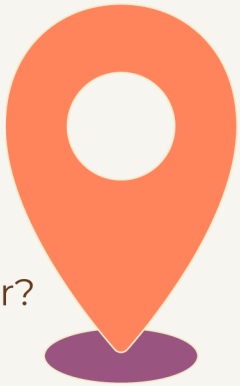
It does not need to be perfect. Show your place how you remember it. This is often how our ancestors recorded their spaces and places!



Step 2: Add *Lugares* That Matter

Mark 3 to 5 places that have a story or memory for you. You can include a family home, a park, a restaurant, your school, or another place special to you.

Step 3: Add The *Historias*



Next to each place, write or draw something that explains why you added it to your map. Ask yourself:

- Why does this place matter?
- Who uses this place?
- What happens here?
- What do people remember about it?
- What would be lost if this place disappears?



Step 4: Add Something You Cannot See

Not all heritage is a building or place. Add one or more of *a tradición*, a song, a recipe, a celebration, or a memory.

Step 5: *Pregunta!*

Show your map to a family member, a neighbor, a teacher, or a community elder, and ask them, *"Is there a place or story I should add?"*

Then, listen carefully to their answer. They may remember something you did not know or they may remember the same place differently. They may tell you a whole new historia.

CELEBRA *Latinx History* EVERY DAY!

Aprende the history of a place before it disappears

Nota other spaces that are important to your community.

Escribe the name of someone and the date on the back of an old picture to remember who they were.

Pregunta why some histories appear in textbooks while others are harder to find.



Comparte your heritage with your familia and comunidad and care for it.



Pide permiso before sharing another person's picture, story, recording, or other information.

PARA RECORDAR

Nuestra historia lives when we remember it, care for it, and share it with respect.

What *historias* you want to help carry forward?



RECUERDA...

Preservation is not only about saving old things.

Preservation is about caring for knowledge, and memories that are worth carrying into the future.

Reach out to nosotrxs!

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