

Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity

Skills:

Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to their field of interest with a satisfactory level of comprehension.

Adults/Teens

Group



1 Match these halves to learn interesting facts about Argentina.

1. In 1952, Eva Perón became...
2. The capital city is...
3. Argentina is...
4. The tango dance...
5. Spanish is...

- a. Buenos Aires.
- b. the main language spoken in Argentina
- c. Argentina's first female political leader
- d. the eighth largest country in the world
- e. originated in Buenos Aires in the late 19th century

2 Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. Which facts about Argentina did you already know and which are new to you?
2. What does "cultural diversity" mean to you?
3. Why do you think it's important to respect different cultures?
4. Have you ever celebrated or learned about a cultural diversity day in your country?

3 Can you match these words to their definitions?

colonization

indigenous

diversity

heritage

inclusivity

1. the traditions, culture, and history that are passed down from previous generations.
2. the process of taking control over a land and its people by another country or group.
3. the practice of including everyone and making sure all voices are heard and valued.
4. referring to the original people who lived in a place before others arrived.
5. the presence of different types of people, ideas, or things in a group.

4 Read the text below to learn about the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity and why it is important.

Every October 12th, Argentina celebrates the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity, a public holiday that promotes understanding and appreciation for the country's rich mix of cultures. It's a day when streets transform into colorful parades and vibrant festivals, representing the different ethnic communities that make up the nation. But how did this holiday come to be, and why is it so important?

Originally known as Columbus Day, the holiday marked the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492. However, over time, many criticized it for overlooking the experiences and contributions of indigenous and minority populations. Recognizing this, Argentina officially renamed the day in 2010 to focus on cultural diversity and inclusion.

In cities like Buenos Aires, the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity is celebrated with traditional dances, music performances, and food fairs. People enjoy tasting various traditional dishes, such as empanadas, as well as international cuisines representing the diverse backgrounds of the citizens. Museums and cultural centers often host special exhibitions, highlighting indigenous art and history, encouraging people to reflect on the past and its impact on the present.

For many Argentinians, this day is more than just a celebration; it's a moment to reflect on history and recognize all the cultures that make up people's identity. Schools often participate by organizing activities for students to learn about different cultural traditions and the importance of inclusivity.

In essence, the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity is not only about acknowledging diversity but also embracing it as a strength. It's an invitation to all to appreciate the beauty in differences and to build a society where everyone feels respected and valued.

5 In pairs, decide if the following sentences are True or False based on the text. Then, share your answers with the class.

1. The Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity in Argentina was originally called Indigenous Day.
2. The holiday is celebrated with parades and festivals that showcase Argentina's ethnic communities.
3. The name change of the holiday in 2010 was to emphasize the contributions of Christopher Columbus.
4. Buenos Aires hosts food fairs where people can try both local and international dishes.
5. Museums and cultural centers use this day to highlight indigenous art and history.

6 Based on the text, choose the best answers to these questions.

1. Which of the following best describes how Argentinians typically celebrate the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity?

- a) With traditional dances, music performances, and food fairs
- b) By organizing protests and demonstrations
- c) By closing schools and government offices
- d) With religious ceremonies and parades

2. What does the renaming of the holiday from Columbus Day to the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity suggest?

- a) A commitment to fostering dialogue among different cultural groups
- b) An emphasis on the impact of immigration on national identity
- c) A shift in focus from the historical event to the appreciation of cultural diversity
- d) An initiative to integrate traditional practices into modern celebrations

7 In pairs, imagine you are organizing a school or community event to celebrate the Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity. Discuss how you would plan the event and the activities you would include to promote cultural understanding. Use the following questions to guide your discussion.

1. What kinds of cultural performances, food, or art would you feature?
2. How would you involve people from different cultures in the event?
3. What activities could help others learn about different cultural traditions?

Correct answers

1

Made in the “Find Facts” + “Matching Halves” tools.

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. e
5. b

2

Made in the “Discussion Questions” tool.

3

Made in the “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

1. heritage
2. colonization
3. inclusivity
4. indigenous
5. diversity

4

Made in the “Create a Text” tool.

5

Made in the “True or False Statements” tool.

1. False - The text states it was originally known as Columbus Day.
2. True - The text mentions streets transform into colorful parades and vibrant festivals representing different ethnic communities.
3. False - The text states the name change was to focus on cultural diversity and inclusion, not Columbus's contributions.
4. True - The text mentions food fairs with traditional dishes and international cuisines.
5. True - The text mentions museums and cultural centers host exhibitions highlighting indigenous art and history.

6

Made in the “ABCD Questions” tool.

1. a
2. c