

National Day of Spain

Skills:

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

Adults/Teens

Group



1 Discuss these questions in pairs. Then, share your ideas with the class.

1. What do you think is the significance of a national day for a country?
2. How do you usually celebrate important holidays in your culture?
3. Can you share a memorable experience from a national or cultural celebration you've attended?
4. What are some common activities people participate in during national holidays?

2 Fill in the blanks to discover 5 interesting facts about the National Day of Spain.

Madrid

Barcelona

October 12

Spanish-speaking

cultural diversity

public holiday

1. Spain's National Day is celebrated on _____(1) every year.
2. Known as "Fiesta Nacional de España," it's a _____(2) in Spain.
3. The day features military parades in cities like _____(3) and _____(4).
4. It also honors the _____(5) of Spain's various regions.
5. The National Day also coincides with Día de la Hispanidad, celebrating _____(6) countries.

3 Read the text to learn more about the National Day of Spain.

Spain's National Day, known as Día de la Hispanidad, is an important celebration that takes place every year on October 12th. The date marks the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492, a significant event that changed the course of history. It is a public holiday in Spain and is celebrated with parades, cultural events, and official ceremonies to reflect on their rich cultural heritage and their contributions to the world.

This national holiday is celebrated in various ways across Spain. One of the most important events on this day is the military parade in Madrid, attended by the King of Spain and other important officials. The parade honors Spain's history and its connection to the Hispanic world. The parade is broadcasted on TV, allowing people all over the country to watch the festivities from home.

In addition to the main parade, there are many local events. Many cities and towns hold their own smaller parades, fairs, and community gatherings. Schools may have special lessons about Spain's history, and students often participate in cultural activities. It is also a day when people might celebrate with family and friends, enjoying traditional Spanish foods like paella, tapas, or a special dessert. Art and music play a big role in the celebrations, too. Museums might offer free admission, giving people a chance to learn more about Spanish art and history.

While the day is a time of national pride for many Spaniards, it also has a more complicated historical context. For many people in Latin America, the day is linked to the colonization during the Spanish Empire's expansion. As a result, some people choose to reflect on this aspect of history during the celebrations.

Glossary

parade - a public celebration where people march or display in front of an audience, often with music and colorful floats.

heritage - the traditions, customs, and values that are passed down from previous generations within a culture or society.

colonization - the process of settling and establishing control over a new area by a group of people from another place.

broadcasting - the act of sending out information, such as news or entertainment, through radio, television, or online platforms for many people to receive.

community gatherings - events where members of a neighborhood come together to socialize, share ideas, or celebrate something important.

4 Can you tell which sentences about the text are True and which are False?

1. The King of Spain attends the main parade in Madrid.
2. Museums in Spain charge extra fees on National Day.
3. Many people in Spain celebrate the day with traditional foods.
4. Schools may have special lessons about Spain's history on this day.
5. The day is linked to the colonization period for some people in Latin America.
6. The day is only celebrated with official ceremonies and not with family gatherings.

5 Now, pick the right answers to the following questions about the text.

1. What is the main reason Spain's National Day is celebrated on October 12th?

- a) It marks the day Spain gained independence from another country.
- b) It commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas.
- c) It honors the founding of the Spanish monarchy.
- d) It celebrates the famous Spanish dishes.

2. How do the people of Spain typically participate in the National Day celebrations?

- a) By attending public parades and community events.
- b) By staying home and watching the festivities on television.
- c) By organizing private parties and family gatherings.
- d) All of the above.

3. Which of the following best describes the overall tone of Spain's National Day celebrations?

- a) A sad day reserved to remember Spain's painful past.
- b) A happy celebration of national pride and rich cultural heritage.
- c) A political event to showcase Spain's global influence.
- d) A commemoration that nobody really cares about.

4. How do schools and educational institutions participate in the National Day celebrations?

- a) By organizing field trips to historical sites and museums.
- b) By hosting cultural performances and workshops.
- c) By incorporating lessons about Spanish history and heritage.
- d) All of the above.

6 Read these opinions. Which one do you agree with the most and why? Share your opinion in small groups.

I think celebrating Día de la Hispanidad is super important. It reminds us of our heritage and the rich history we've got. I remember going to the parade in Madrid last year with my family, and seeing everyone so proud really made me feel connected to my heritage.

Carlos



I don't really like celebrating Día de la Hispanidad. To me, it feels like a celebration of something that marks the start of colonization, and it just doesn't feel right to celebrate that part of history. I'd rather spend the day reflecting on those difficult parts of our history, not celebrating them.

Lucia



Correct answers

1

Made in the “Discussion Questions” tool.

2

Made in the “Find Facts” + “Fill in the Gaps” tools.

1. October 12
2. public holiday
3. Madrid
4. Barcelona
5. cultural diversity
6. Spanish-speaking

3

Made in the “Create a Text” tool.

4

Made in the “True or False Statements” tool.

1. True - The text mentions the King of Spain attends the parade in Madrid.
2. False - The text states that museums might offer free admission on this day.
3. True - The text mentions people might celebrate with traditional Spanish foods.
4. True - The text mentions that schools may have special lessons about Spain's history.
5. True - The text states that for many in Latin America, the day is linked to the colonization during the Spanish Empire's expansion.
6. False - The text mentions that people might celebrate with family and friends.

5

Made in the “ABCD Questions” tool.

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. d

6

Made in the “Four Opinions” tool.