

CELEBRATING LATINX / HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15-October 15 is Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month and The Center for Diversity Education at UNC Asheville has curated resources to help educators understand its history and relevance to their students, regardless of their ethnic background. This is not a comprehensive list nor is it the only time we center marginalized or underrepresented groups in our communities. Instead, we hope this will inspire intentional learning for individuals, schools, and districts.

DO I SAY LATINE, LATINX, OR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

There are many opinions on how folks even identify as societal categorization of those from Latin America has influenced communities over decades. Here's a great video explaining the differences (grades 6+), which can prompt a great conversation among students to analyze how they identify and why.

HOW CAN I ENSURE MY LATINX STUDENTS FEEL SEEN IN MY CLASSROOM BEYOND THIS MONTH?

Your classroom is full of students that bring their own assets to the learning environment! They may have different celebrations, languages, music, food, religious beliefs, and intersectional identities. Rather than singling Latinx students out during this month, give all students an opportunity to share their identities in connection to the content and materials you are sharing. Make sure that everything from the books and videos you share to the decor in your space are representative of a variety of backgrounds, including the diverse Latinx community. Having a variety of media and books allows for opportunities to be both a mirror of their own experience and a window into experiences different from their own.

Some students may also speak another language and it is important to celebrate their multilingual learning and identity. What language barriers can you remove when welcoming families to your classroom? Consider a bilingual or Spanish/Portuguese/Indigenous-only book as a read aloud from a guest reader and leverage interpretation resources from your school or district.

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WHAT RESOURCES ARE THERE TO USE IN MY CLASSROOM?

Be mindful of a general Internet search when finding resources for Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month as some utilize stereotypical imagery and harmful media representation.

- [National Endowment for the Humanities: Hispanic Heritage and History in the United States](#)
- [Learning for Justice: Latino Civil Rights Timeline](#)
- [Facing History and Ourselves: 5 Teacher Resources for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [Common Sense Education: Hispanic Heritage Month resources](#)
- [NEA: Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [Teach for America: Latinx Heritage Month Resources](#)
- [Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino](#)
- [HMH: 9 Nat'l Hispanic Heritage Month Activities and Lessons](#)
- [WeTeachNYC: Celebrate Latinx Heritage](#)
- [Google Arts + Culture: 10 Inspiring Latinas Who've Made History](#)

Not sure what books to feature? [Start with Latinx authors](#) and [Pura Belpre Award winners!](#)

Finally, consider passive ways you play music and display art throughout the year to be reflective of various Latinx representation.

WHAT ABOUT DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS?

On November 1 and 2, some families will celebrate the lives of those that have passed. This can look different in each family, even if they may be from the same country. When discussing Día de los Muertos, be sure students understand this is different from Halloween and is meant to honor and celebrate loved ones.

- [Beautiful video demonstrating Día de los Muertos in Mexico](#)
- [How to make paper marigolds \[cempasúchil\]](#)
- [Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino: Virtual exhibits and resources for Día de los Muertos](#)

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