



## Level II Culture Lesson: Cinco de Mayo

- Read the Cinco de Mayo story out loud to the class.
- Give it to the students to take home.
- Complete the craft Papel Cortado
- Visit this website for more great ideas-  
<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Holidays/Cinco/>

These colorful paper decorations line the streets at almost any Mexican Heritage celebration. It is the technique of "punching paper" or *papel picado*. Artists make beautiful intricate designs depicting birds, landscapes and flowers. This craft is very similar papel cortado or *cut paper*.

### Materials

Colored tissue paper, cut into 6x8 (measurements do not need to be exact)  
scissors  
string  
tape

### Assembly

Fold tissue paper in half lengthwise.  
Fold in half, lengthwise 3 to 5 more times.  
Cut out shapes.

NOTE: don't cut off all the way to the other side; do not cut off all the edges.  
Unfold.

Make several more.

Make a banner or decorations: Fold over the top 1/4 inch of the papel cortado over a long piece of string and tape closed. Add more and hang.

This would be a great decoration to hang up before the final party!



# Cinco de Mayo



As you know, July 4<sup>th</sup> is Independence Day in the United States. In Mexico, Independence Day is September 16<sup>th</sup>. But, many people think it is the 5<sup>th</sup> of May or Cinco de Mayo. Do you know why?

A long time ago in 1862, the French invaded Mexico. They wanted to take over the country. The United States was also in a war this time, so the French were confident they would win Mexico. They also had the best equipment and more money than the Mexican army. Napoleon III of France said before the battle, "We are stronger and better than the Mexicans, so we will surely win. Call me the master of Mexico!"

General Zaragoza, who was from Texas lead the Mexicans in battle. He chose the 4,000 best soldiers to fight the French in Puebla, México. There was a big thunderstorm and the French were chased through the mud. Many Mexican Indians joined in to fight with machetes.

Even though the French had nicer weapons and 2,000 more soldiers, the Mexican army defeated them! The Mexicans were so proud! The Americans in the United States were also happy, as the French could not invade the United States next.

So, every year on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May Mexicans and United States Americans join in to celebrate Cinco de Mayo! They have many fiestas with parades, piñatas, food and games.

