



History from Home

HISPANIC AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



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Education Resource Guide

The materials and lesson plans included in this resource guide will help supplement the digital content the Education Department has created on the National Museum of the Marine Corps website.

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Education Resource Guide

Age Range:

Our Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps is ideally suited for grades 4-8. We have provided topic worksheets at the end of this document for our younger learners.

Student Objectives:

- I can explore the ways in which Hispanic Americans have contributed to the storied history of the United States Marine Corps.
- I can analyze how the events in Hispanic American history run with and against the common Marine Corps Timeline.
- I can summarize the role of Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps in writing.

Procedure:

1. Fill in the first two columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet. You will fill in what you know (K) and what you want to know (W)
2. While watching the video, [Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps](#), fill in the blank timeline on page 5.
3. After you have finished watching the video, fill in the last remaining columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet. You will fill in what you learned (L) and what you still want to know (W). Think about how their timeline varies or is similar to other events in Marine Corps history. Talk about it with your friends, family, or classmates.
4. For our younger viewers, our topic worksheet on the final two pages will provide a general understanding of Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps. Read the profiles of prominent Hispanic Marines and reflect on their service and sacrifice.

Materials:

- *Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps* [[LINK](#)]
- *KWLW Comprehension Sheet and Timeline*
- *Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps Topic Sheet and Profiles*



KWLW Comprehension Chart

Topic: Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps

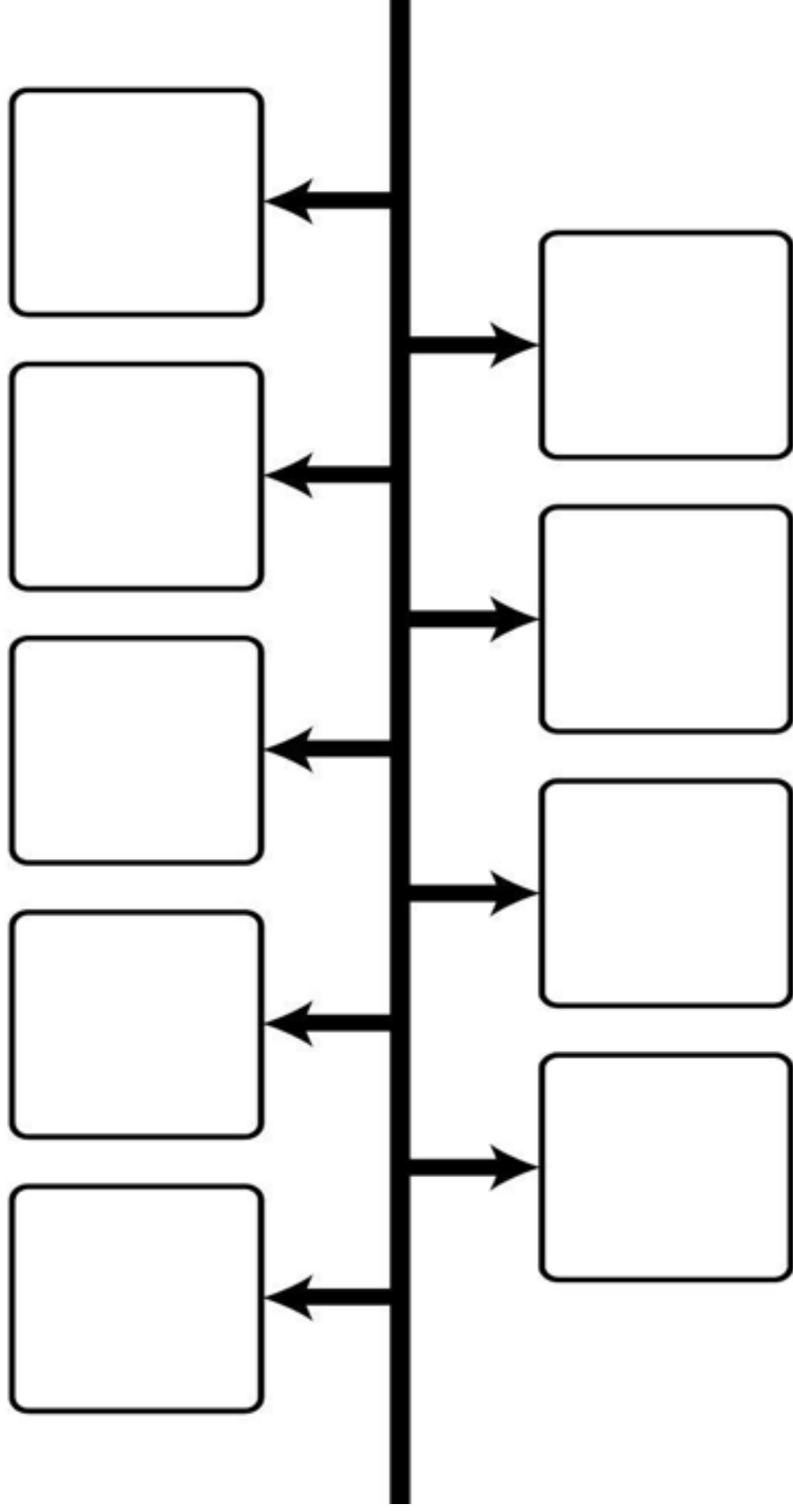
Directions: Fill out the first two columns (K and W) below before watching the Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps video. Once you have finished watching the video, fill out the last two columns (L and W) with the new information you learned and any questions you still have.

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know/Learn	L What I Learned	W What Questions Do I Still Have

Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps Timeline

Topic: Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps

Directions: While watching the **video** on Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps, fill in the timeline below with events that you believe changed the way they were able to participate in the Marine Corps.

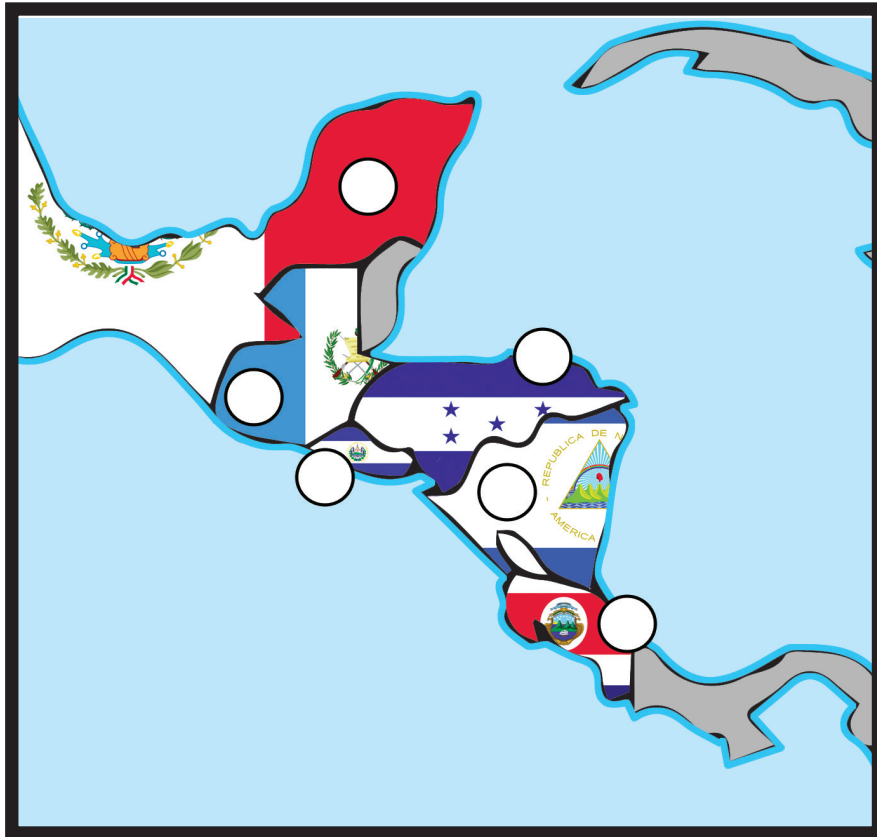




Hispanic Americans in the United States Marine Corps

From the founding of the Marine Corps in 1775, through Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Hispanic Marines have distinguished themselves with valor on the battlefield. Hispanic Americans' cultural backgrounds vary, with influences coming from such areas as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Spain, and Nicaragua. It wasn't until the 1970s that Hispanics were independently classified as a racial group by the Marine Corps.

Hispanic Americans in the Marine Corps Map Activity



Directions: Use the flags below to match the number to the country of origin and cultural influence for Hispanic American Marines. Write the number in the circle.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Nicaragua  | 4. El Salvador  |
| 2. Mexico  | 5. Guatemala  |
| 3. Costa Rica  | 6. Honduras  |

"Treat people like you want to be treated, give thanks and respect."

MajGen Angela Salinas
First Hispanic Female Marine General



1st Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez at Inchon, 1950

TIMELINE



1900

Pvt France Silva distinguishes himself defending the walled city of Peking, China during the Boxer Rebellion from 28 June to 17 August, earning him the Medal of Honor.

1916
Pedro August del Valle receives first Legion of Merit for capture of Santo Domingo.

1918

Pvt Joe Nichols Viera seizes three enemy machine gun nests and captures 40 German soldiers at Blanc Mont and received the Medal of Honor.



1944

PFC Guy Gabaldon earns title of the "Pied Piper of Saipan" for the capture of over 1,300 soldiers and civilians on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

1945
PFC Harold Gonsalves becomes only Hispanic American recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Battle of Okinawa.



1965-1975

Nineteen Marines receive the Navy Cross and six Marines receive the Medal of Honor for courage under fire and heroism during the Vietnam War.

2004
Abigail D. Olmos became the first female Master Gunnery Sergeant in the history of the Marine Corps.

2018

Marine Corps reports highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino service members of all branches at 21.6% of the total force.



PROFILES

Hispanic Americans in the United States Marine Corps



Alfredo Gonzalez

- Alfredo Cantu “Freddy” Gonzalez enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1965.
- Gonzalez served a one-year tour of duty as a rifleman and squad leader of Company L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division in Vietnam in 1966.
- He became an instructor of guerilla warfare at Camp Lejeune before requesting to return to Vietnam in 1967.
- Seriously wounded at Hue, Sgt Gonzalez halted the advance of North Vietnamese while refusing medical treatment.
- Sgt Gonzalez posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Battle of Hue.



Rafael Peralta

- Rafael Peralta was born in Mexico City in 1979 before immigrating to the United States.
- After receiving his green card in 2000, Peralta joined the Marine Corps, becoming a citizen while serving in the Corps.
- Deployed to Iraq as a sergeant and scout team leader in Company A, 1st Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment in 2004 during Operation Phantom Fury.
- Sgt Peralta saved the lives of his Marines in Fallujah, Iraq, during a house-clearing on November 15, 2004, when he took the full blast of a grenade under his body.
- Sgt Peralta received the Navy Cross posthumously.



Angela Salinas

- Born in 1953, Angela Salinas enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 1974.
- In 1977, Salinas was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant that year before serving at MCAS Cherry Point.
- In 2006, Salinas was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and assumed command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.
- She is the first Hispanic woman to become a general in the Marine Corps.
- MajGen Salinas retired in 2013 and now serves as the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas.