

Name: _____

Biographies: Benito Juárez



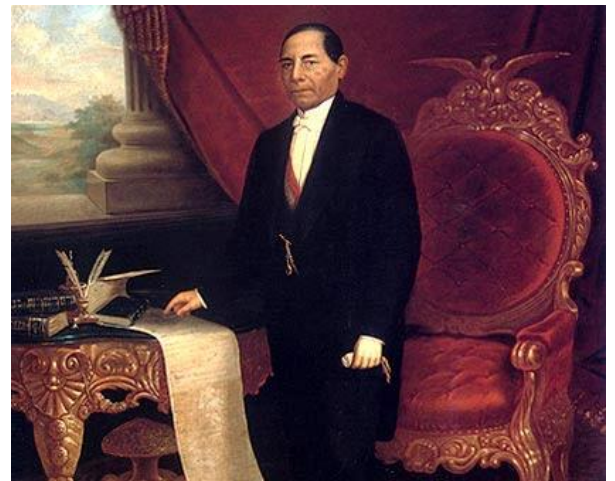
Benito Pablo Juárez García, was born on March 21, 1806 in San Pablo Guelatao, State of Oaxaca, Mexico. He was of poor and indigenous origins (Zapotec ethnic group). Some of Benito Juárez' many accomplishments were becoming a prominent Mexican lawyer and politician. He became president of Mexico, was elected several times in the tumultuous years from 1857 until his death in 1872. Benito Juárez spoke Zapotec and Spanish, and could read passages in Latin, French, and English.

When Benito was only three years old his parents Marcelino Juárez López and Brigida García, died; so, the children were raised by their paternal grandparents of indigenous origin, Pedro Juárez and Justa López.

When his grandparents died, he was raised his uncle Bernardino Juárez. There he began to work as a field worker and as a shepherd.

His uncle, Bernardino Juárez, taught him the Spanish language. It was very difficult to teach in the town because there was not a school. So, the young Benito realized that those who improved their education and learned to read, were those who decided to go to other cities

In 1818, when he was twelve years old, Benito made the decision to leave his hometown with the desire to get a good fundamental education. By then, his older sister, Josefa, worked for the family of a wealthy merchant in the city of Oaxaca, named Antonio Maza; so, Benito asked him for a place to stay. Mr. Maza, hired the young Benito to take care of the farm, giving him a steady salary. In time, Mr. Maza's adopted daughter, Margarita, would become Benito's wife.





After a few years, a Franciscan priest named Antonio Salanueva, gave young Benito a job as an 'apprentice bookbinder' and helped him to enter one of the schools in the city to learn the Spanish language well. After some time, he left school because of suffering the misery, along with other indigenous children, of strong discriminations by their classmates due to their race. This made Juárez decide to ask the priest, Salanueva, to help him enter the Seminary of Santa Cruz, in Oaxaca.

In October 1821, at the age of fifteen, Benito began his studies at the Seminary of Santa Cruz. He studied the arts, Latin, philosophy, and theology. Benito left the seminary a few years later wanting a career in law.

Benito Juárez studied 'jurisprudence' at the Institute of Sciences and Arts of Oaxaca and earned his degree as a lawyer issued by the Court of Justice of Oaxaca in 1834, at the age of 28.

He served as director of the Institute of Sciences and Arts of Oaxaca and was elected as a Councilman by the city of Oaxaca. His political career had begun.

Benito Juárez was building political positions, until in 1847 he was appointed Governor of Oaxaca during the war with the United States. By 1858, he became president of Mexico for the first time.

However, his political career was not easy, on several occasions he was imprisoned or exiled. For example, when France invaded Mexico in 1864, the French army entered Mexico City forcing President Juárez to establish his government in the northern part of the country. When the French were forced to leave, Benito Juárez resumed power. He ordered the execution of Maximiliano, Archduke of Austria, the French self-appointed Emperor of Mexico, on June 19, 1867 inspite of international orders to return him alive to France.

Benito Juárez had 5 children with Margarita Maza. On July 18, 1872, at the age of 66, Benito Juárez died from a heart attack.

As of the year 1887, in the civic calendar of Mexico, June 18 is commemorated as a national holiday to the memory of Benito Juárez.

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where was Benito Juárez born?

- a. City of Oaxaca
- b. San Pablo Gualatao
- c. Puebla
- d. Vera Cruz



2. Who gave young Benito a job as an apprentice bookbinder?

- a. Bernardino Salanueva
- b. Antonio Maza
- c. Antonio Salanueva
- d. Pablo Gualatao



3. Where did Benito Juárez study?

- a. In the Seminary of Santa Cruz
- b. In the Institute of Sciences and Arts of Oaxaca
- c. In a school in the city of Oaxaca
- d. All of the above

4. The Franciscan priest, Antonio Salanueva, helped Benito Juárez with his education.

- a. True
- b. False

5. When was the French emperor of Mexico shot?

- a. July 18, 1872
- b. March 21, 1806
- c. On June 18, 1887
- d. On June 19, 1867

