

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Biographies: Miguel Hidalgo*



Miguel Hidalgo was a Mexican revolutionary priest who started and lead the first phase of the Mexican War of Independence when he issued a call to arms known as the Cry of Sorrows.

His complete name was Miguel Gregorio Antonio Ignacio Hidalgo-Costilla y Gallaga Mandarte Villaseñor. He was born on May 8, 1753 in Pénjamo, in the Viceroyalty of New Spain, a part of the Spanish Empire; today, it is in the state of Guanajuato.

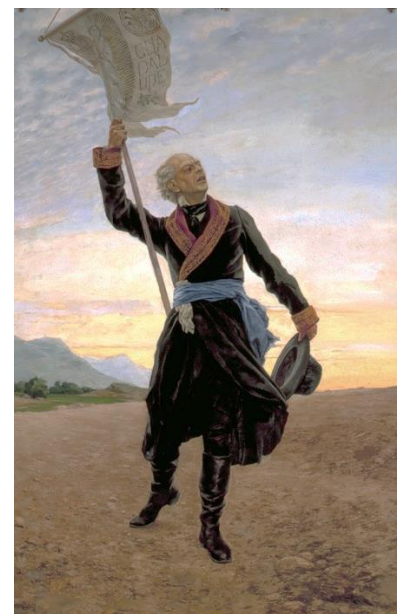
Hidalgo was born to Cristobal Hidalgo y Costilla and Ana María Gallaga. He was the second of 4 children.

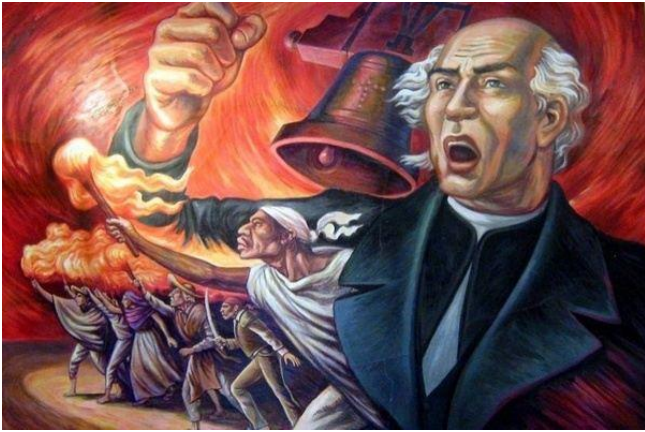
Young Miguel studied Latin at the College of San Nicolas Obispo, in Valladolid, the capital of the province of Michoacan. By the age of 17, he was already a teacher of philosophy and theology. Because of his intellectual abilities, he was nicknamed Zorro, which means fox. Hidalgo spoke several languages. As a child, he learned Otomi, Nahuatl, and Purepecha from the indigenous workers at the hacienda where his father worked. He also spoke French.

When he finished his studies, Miguel worked at the College of St. Nicholas Bishop from 1782 to 1792 as a treasurer and as a teacher. In 1788, he became the rector of the school.

In the early hours of September 16, 1810, around five o'clock in the morning, Miguel Hidalgo rang the parish bell to summon the parishioners of the town and gave a speech called the Cry of Dolores, which began the fight for the independence of Mexico. This fight had been planned for some time, but supporters of the Spanish Empire had been trying to stop those plotting independence.

With just over 6,000 soldiers, Miguel Hidalgo won victories in Celaya, Salamanca and Amber. In Atotonilco, Hidalgo took up the banner of the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe which became the symbol of his movement.





After winning several victories, the revolutionaries commanded by Hidalgo were defeated on January 17, 1811 at the Battle of Calderon Bridge. The leaders of the independence movement had received an invitation from Ignacio Elizondo, a supporter of Spain who said he wanted to be a revolutionary, to meet him in a place called the Norias of Acatita de Bajan, along the border of Coahuila and Texas, which was part of the Viceroyalty at that time.

On March 21, Hidalgo arrived at the Norias of Acatita de Bajan without enough men to protect him and was caught. Ignacio Elizondo sent the prisoner, Hidalgo, to the city of Chihuahua, where he faced two trials, one civil and the other ecclesiastical because Hidalgo was a priest.

Ignacio Elizondo was awarded the rank of colonel in the Royalist Army for capturing Hidalgo and his commanders. Elizondo was stabbed to death a few years later, as he slept by the side of the San Marcos River, by a lieutenant named Miguel Serrano, who recognized him as the man who turned in the commanders of the Mexican Independence war.

On July 26, 1811, Miguel Hidalgo was sentenced to death. He was executed July 30, 1811. It was said that on the day of his execution, Hidalgo asked that his eyes not be covered and not to be shot in the back as was the custom. Instead, he asked to be shot in the heart, where he put his hand. It only took two shots to kill Miguel Hidalgo.

He was buried in Chihuahua. But in 1821, his remains were taken to the Altar of the Kings, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City. Finally, in 1925, Miguel Hidalgo was buried in the Angel of Independence, in Mexico City.



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## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



1. Who was Miguel Hidalgo?
  - a. A priest
  - b. An artist
  - c. A doctor
  - d. None of the above
  
2. At what age did Hidalgo become a teacher in philosophy and theology?
  - a. 16
  - b. 17 A
  - c. 18
  - d. 19
  
3. What did the Mexican Independence struggle formally begin with?
  - a. the victory in Celaya
  - b. the banner of the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe
  - c. the "Cry of Dolores"
  - d. the death of Miguel Hidalgo
  
4. Hidalgo had two trials, one civil and another ecclesiastical.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. When did Miguel Hidalgo die?
  - a. January 17, 1811
  - b. July 26, 1811
  - c. July 30, 1811
  - d. March 21, 1811

