Every year from September 15 to October 15 the Department of Defense joins the Nation in celebrating and honoring the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

Do you know why Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated from Sept. 15 – Oct. 15?

We begin celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15, which is the anniversary of independence for five countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. It extends into October because October 12 is known as “El Dia de la Raza,” or “The Day of the Race.” It is a day celebrating the many nationalities present in the history of Mexico, Central America and South America.

Did you know?
The term Hispanic refers to people of any race who trace their ethnic roots to a country where Spanish is the main language, including Spain.

Latino refers to people of any race who trace their roots back to countries from the Caribbean, Mexico, and throughout Central and South America.

Did you know?
The Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2019 was 60.6 million people? That means people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or racial minority. Hispanics constituted 18.5% of the nation's total population.
Twelve states had a population of 1 million or more Hispanic residents in 2019 — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas. Can you locate and label the 12 states?