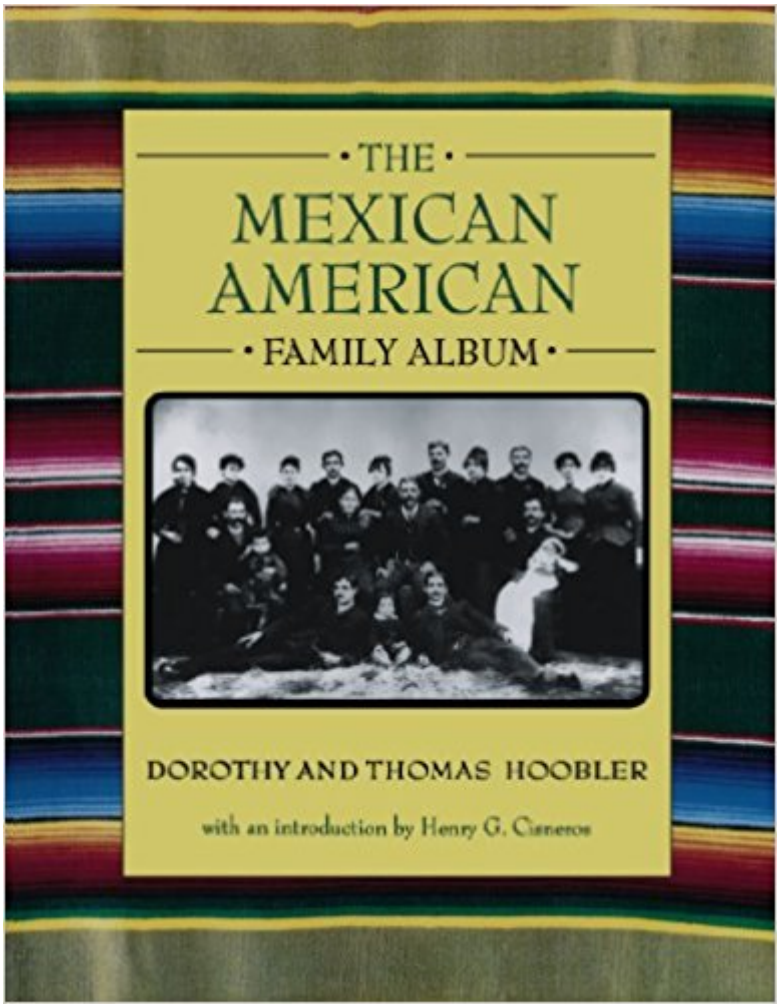
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The Mexican American Family Album (American Family Albums)



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Synopsis

Mexican Americans have a unique relationship with the United States. Because of the proximity of the neighboring countries, the old traditions of Mexico remain ever close to their hearts even as they embrace a new life in America. As a matter of fact, the first Mexican Americans did not leave their homeland by choice to come to the United States. Instead, the United States went to them. At the end of the U.S.-Mexican War in 1848, Mexico was forced to cede territory that is now the southwestern United States, and the roughly 80,000 Mexicans who had been living in this vast territory suddenly found themselves living within U.S. borders. As the Tejanos (Texans of Mexican descent) say, "We never crossed a border. The border crossed us."The Mexican American Family Album is the record of generations of Mexicans who made the journey from the old country to a new life in the United States, told in their own words and photographs.Cesar Ch’avez, Richard Rodriguez, Sandra Cisneros, and others profiled here testify to the success that many immigrants found in this country. But there are also stories from families not so famous. Their diary entries, letters, personal remembrances, and photographs culled from family archives, scrapbooks, and newspapers, tell of the hardship of poverty in the old country, of the decision to leave and the difficulties often encountered in crossing the border, of life in El Barrio, of finding work, putting down roots, and the transition from newcomer to Mexican American.Through it all the common thread is a celebration of the Mexican heritage even as the immigrant becomes more and more "Americanized." It is that spirit that envelops The Mexican American Family Album--not only as a history of immigration from one country to another, but as a chronicle of the contributions, large and small, made by Mexican Americans. The continuing pride in the culture and traditions of Mexico have enhanced and strengthened their lives in their newly adopted country, and brought new dimensions to the multicultural society of America.The titles in the American Family Albums series tell the multicolored and often heroic stories of American immigrant groups, largely through their own words and pictures. Like any family album or scrapbook, the pages contain many period photographs and other memorabilia. These join with original documents--including selections from diaries, letters, memoirs, and newspapers--to bring the immigrant experience vividly to life.

Book Information

Series: American Family Albums
Paperback: 128 pages
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Language: English

ISBN-10: 019512426X
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Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches
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Best Sellers Rank: #3,220,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Mexico #123 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico #1557 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino
Age Range: 12 - 17 years
Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up?This volume is formatted like a family album, combining period photos with a readable text. It is divided into six chapters, beginning with the first Mexican Americans, who "...did not choose to leave their homeland and come to the United States. Instead, the U.S. went to them." While famous individuals are included, the book is really about ordinary family members who lived, worked, and died. Descriptions and quotations from interviews conducted by the author reflect the the unique qualities of the various peoples. A chapter entitled "Back and Forth" describes the bracero program and its parallel illegal immigration, discusses the work of "coyotes," and offers personal accounts on how to cross the border evading the border partrol or la migra. A clear and informative presentation.?Graciela Italiano, California State Polytechnic University, PomonaCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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