

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **Bullfighting returns, and protesters are seeing red**

Section: **MAIN, A11**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, February 4, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

### Standards:

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### Objectives:

***Students will share their thoughts on bullfighting. They'll learn the history behind it and how it's linked to cultural traditions. Students will discuss whether it can evolve and change, or whether it should stay the same. They will also debate whether bullfighting should stop (when the animal is killed) or if bullfighting should continue, but in a way that doesn't harm the animal.***

## Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

## Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Joselito Adame, a Mexican **matador**, prepares for a bullfight at La Plaza México in Mexico City

### **Matador Guess:**

### **Matador Definition:**

## Comprehension Questions:

1. MEXICO CITY — At 4:30 p.m., the near-capacity crowd of \_\_\_\_\_ people at La Plaza México started restlessly whistling.
2. They had waited since May 15, 2022 — a period of 624 days of legal challenges — for bulls to return to the world’s largest bullfighting arena, only to face another delay. Why?
3. Bullfighting, spread by \_\_\_\_\_ throughout its colonies in Latin America in the \_\_\_\_\_, has been at the center of a major legal fight over its return to the largest bullfighting city in the largest bullfighting country in the world.
4. That battle has come to symbolize a larger war between what two things?
5. The practice continues in five other countries beside Spain and Mexico- what countries still practice this?
6. Bullfighting, but without the animals being killed, is allowed where?
7. Mexico’s first recorded bullfight was in \_\_\_\_\_, according to a national bullfighting organization, and 326 plazas, or arenas, remain.
8. Since 2013, \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico’s 31 states have prohibited bullfights.
9. On Wednesday, a different federal judge thwarted those plans by imposing a new ban on bullfighting in the arena, acting on a petition from an animal welfare group that argued what?

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first, I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***

“You’re putting your life at risk to create art and create something magical,” said José Mauricio, 39, a Mexican who has been gored and who has broken a wrist and ribs in his 18 years as a matador. Another Mexican bullfighter, Paola San Román, 28, added that the resumption of bullfighting at La Plaza México had been important to highlighting “this tradition and this culture.”

- ***Do you think cultural traditions, such as bullfighting, can evolve and change?***
- ***Should it stay the same?***

And throughout the afternoon, there were intermittent rallying cries from the stands: “Long live La Plaza México!” and “Long live the liberty of the bullfights!” Sánchez, the director of Animal Heroes, an organization that started a “Mexico Without Bullfighting” campaign five years ago, said “political willpower” helped propel the banning of bullfighting in some states and municipalities. From Seville, Spain, Sánchez said he would never forget the way a bull cried after being stuck with banderillas — barbed darts that draw blood and anger the animal — at a bullfight when he was a teenager.

He said his organization wants Mexico’s Congress to permanently prohibit the practice nationally. He argued that it was immoral to have standards for how to kill a pig at a slaughter, yet allow bullfighting to continue. “We see it as a Roman circus,” Sánchez, 40, said. “We see it as an anachronistic spectacle. The new generations, when bullfighting is prohibited in all the world in a few years, will look back in astonishment.” Zulaica said he understands that younger generations may be more conscious of the treatment of animals. But, he added, “we’re convinced that in a modern and diverse Mexico, we should aspire to a society of liberties, of respect and, more than anything, of tolerance for all cultural expressions — independent of personal tastes.”

- ***Should bullfighting stop, when the animal is killed? Why or why not?***
- ***Should bullfighting continue, if the animal is not killed? Why or why not?***

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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