

PARTE B

The history of Quinceañera has passed cultural traditions and dearly held values on through many generations. This includes a special candle ceremony that allows us to thank the people in the young girl's life who have been there for her and helped her to develop and grow.

Music has always been a part of life in Spanish and Latino history. It forms the background for any celebration and brings to joyful life, whatever is being honored. Even in the ancient Aztec times, music would have been the thread that held the entire atmosphere together, and everyone would have danced and sang and prayed along to it. One of the loveliest traditions in the history of Quinceañera is the father/daughter dance, where the proud papa takes his daughter's hand and invites her to share a waltz with him, symbolizing his recognition that she is now a lady and should be treated as such. Not only is the dance a very special moment, but also it provides much entertainment, and perhaps a few happy tears, for those witnessing it.

What used to be a Mexican festival has been adopted by other countries in South America, and the tradition has been carried into the U.S. where as the years go by, the celebrations become grander and richer. It has become the fashion among Latino families to hold a sweet fifteenth for their daughter's coming of age, which is lovely as it brings communities together, just as it did in the old history of Quinceañera.

In the New Millennium, just as five centuries B.C., the Quinceañera is alive and well and is a family day of happiness and memories to cherish forever.