



Teacher's Guide: Organizing a School Visit to the Ángel de la Independencia (CDMX)

Astrolabio's Material



Purpose of the Visit

To help students explore the historical and symbolic significance of the **Ángel de la Independencia**, connecting it with the Mexican War of Independence, national identity, and civic memory through interactive, project-based learning.



Pre-Visit Preparation



For Teachers:

- Review the **history of the Mexican Independence movement** with students beforehand.
- Form student teams (3–5 members).
- Assign each team a **focus topic** (e.g., the monument's design, key figures, civic relevance today).
- Prepare video project instructions and activity sheets (see below).



What Students Should Bring:

- Notebook and pen/pencil
- Smartphone or camera for photos and videos
- Portable microphone (optional, for audio clarity)
- Comfortable clothes and water bottle



Visit Itinerary



Duration: ~2 hours

1. **Arrival & Orientation (15 mins)**
 - Brief overview by the teacher about the monument and its purpose.
 - Distribute student handouts and set expectations.
2. **Exploration Phase (1 hour)**
 - Students explore different parts of the monument (base, sculptures, angel, plaques).
 - Teams document and record footage for their assigned topic.
3. **Discussion & Wrap-Up (30–45 mins)**
 - Group debrief: What did we learn?
 - Students can share one interesting fact or reflection from their exploration.



Student Project: Monument Memory Vlog



Objective:

Create a **3–5 minute video vlog** that explores the Ángel de la Independencia and connects it to Mexico’s past, present, and national identity.



Content Requirements:

1. Introduce the Ángel: when and why it was built
2. Explain the historical context (Independence movement)
3. Highlight symbolism and artistic features
4. Reflect on its current role in civic life
5. Include narration, visuals, and team commentary



Student Activities On-site



Activity 1: "History Detectives"

Goal: Identify and research **three heroes** named on the monument.

Students must answer:

- Who were they?
- What was their role in the Independence movement?
- Why do you think they were included?



Activity 2: Symbol Sketch

Goal: Draw one or more symbolic elements from the Ángel (e.g., the angel, laurel crown, broken chains, torch).

Add a caption explaining what each element means in the context of freedom or victory.



Activity 3: Civic Lens Photo Essay

Goal: Take a series of **3–5 photos** showing how the monument interacts with modern life.

Examples: tourists, protest signs, flags, flowers, candles.

Add a brief description for each: *What does this say about memory or national identity?*



Activity 4: Time Travel Interview

Goal: In pairs, students record a role-play interview with one of the independence heroes or with the Angel as a character.

Prompts:

- “Why are you remembered here?”
- “What message would you give to Mexico today?”



Post-Visit Reflection



For Students:

- Reflect in writing:

What did you learn about Mexico’s past?

How does the Ángel represent unity, pride, or memory?

- Finish editing and submitting the **group video project**.






For Teachers:

- Use a rubric that evaluates:

- Historical understanding
- Use of symbolism and design elements
- Creativity and teamwork
- Video quality and clarity
- Connection to civic identity

Optional Add-ons

-  Organize a classroom "Independence Week" with student exhibits.
-  Invite a historian for a follow-up session.
-  Encourage an art piece (poster, digital drawing, model) inspired by the monument.