

All About Mexico

Fact Cards



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All About Mexico

Mexico's official name is:

United Mexican States
(Estados Unidos Mexicanos)



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Mexico is located in North America. It is the second largest country in Latin America.



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Mexico borders the United States of America, Guatemala, and Belize. It is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea.



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Capital City - Mexico City:

- Most populated city in Mexico.
- Located in the Valley of Mexico.
- Oldest capital city in North and South America.
- Largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.



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Mexico's flag is green, white, and red with the national coat of arms in the center of the white stripe.

Green stripe: hope

White stripe: unity

Red stripe:
blood of heroes



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Many great ancient civilizations inhabited Mexico, including Olmecs, Teotihuacanos, Mayas, Toltecs, and Aztecs. These civilizations contributed to Mexico's landscape greatly with beautiful temples and pyramids that continue to exist today!



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Chichen Itza

Mayan ruins located on the Yucatán Peninsula. Once this was one of the largest Mayan cities and now it is one of the most visited archeological locations in Mexico.



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Tenochtitlan

Tenochtitlan was the Aztec capital until it was conquered by Spain in 1521. Ruins of this beautiful city can still be seen in present day Mexico City.



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The Spanish Conquest

AD 1519-1521

Spanish troops led by Hernán Cortés conquered and destroyed the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan.



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1810-1821

The “Cry of Dolores” sparked revolt against Spanish control and began the Mexican War of Independence.

The Mexican War of Independence raged on until 1821.

In 1821, Mexico finally achieved independence from Spain.



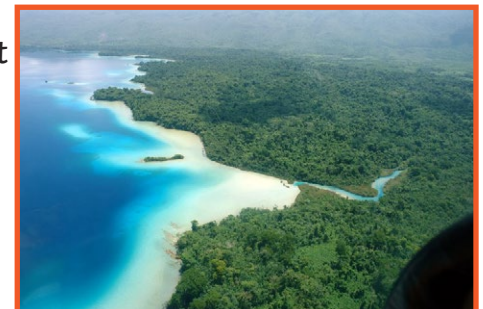
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Physical Features

Cooper Canyon: a large group of canyons located in northwestern Mexico includes the Basaseachic Falls, Mexico’s second-highest waterfall.

Chihuahuan Desert: the second largest desert in North America.

Lacandon Jungle: the largest montane rainforest in North America.

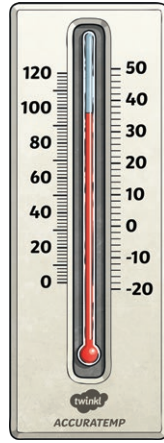


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Climate

- The Tropic of Cancer divides the country into temperate and tropical zones.
- The area north of the Tropic of Cancer experiences a more varied climate including colder temperatures in the winter.
- The area south of the Tropic of Cancer is hot and humid and experiences only small changes in temperature throughout the year.
- Mexico also has dry and wet seasons.

Wet Season: May-October **Dry Season:** November-April



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Mexico's Food

- Mole: a general name for a variety of different sauces used in Mexican cooking.
- Corn is a very important staple in Mexican food. It is used in a multitude of Mexican dishes but most commonly in the form of tortillas.
- Popular Mexican cuisine includes tacos, enchiladas, elote, guacamole, and tamales.



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Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

- November 1st and 2nd each year.
- A time to remember and celebrate loved ones who have passed away.
- Altars are created decorated with the deceased favorite items and food as a way to entice them to return.
- Sugar Skulls: one of the most well-known Day of the Dead decorations. These little decorations are typically made from granulated white sugar and decorated with bright patterns.
- Calaca: these skeletons are a very popular Day of the Dead tradition. They are often adorned with marigold and foliage and are meant to be joyful rather than scary.



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Diez y Seis: Mexico's Independence Day

- September 16th
- On September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo began a revolt against the Spanish rule.
- Cry of Dolores: first spoken by Hidalgo in the town of Dolores, it is considered to be the war cry of the Mexican War of Independence.
- Celebrated with fiestas (parties) and celebrations similar to those of July 4th in the United States.

