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Get to Know: Mexico

Mexico is a large Latin American country. It is also one of the most populated countries in the world. Mexico's way of life has come from a mixture of American Indian and Spanish traditions. How much do you know about this country and its culture and history? Set off on a webquest to explore Mexico and find out!



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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words. Since this activity is about Mexico, you can start by searching the key word "Mexico."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. The capital and largest city of Mexico is _____.
2. Which country ruled Mexico for 300 years?
3. The _____ forms most of the boundary between Mexico and the United States.
4. The _____ Ocean is on the west of Mexico, and the _____ Sea is on the east.
5. Look at the image "Mexico flag and coat of arms." What three colors make up the vertical stripes in Mexico's flag?
6. In which year were the Aztecs, the last Indian empire in Mexico, taken over by Spanish warriors?
7. Name five of Mexico's farming products.

8. In the 1840's, a war between _____ and Mexico ended with Mexico losing land.

9. Click on the "Mexico in brief" table. What is Mexico's official language?

10. Click on the "Mexico in brief" table. What is the highest point in Mexico?
[Hint: It is 18,410 feet (5,610 meters) above sea level.]

11. In the "Mexico" article, click the "More Information" icon at the top of the article. Go to the "Cinco de Mayo" article.

(a) On what day is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?

(b) Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican victory at which battle?

(c) Which country did Mexico defeat in the battle celebrated by Cinco de Mayo?

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Just the Facts!

On the top of the web page, you will see the article title, along with three tabs. Click on the tab labeled "More information."

Look at the section marked "Articles." Then, click on the links to the articles listed there.

You can use the browser's "Back" button to return to the "More information" page. In the boxes below, write a short piece of new information you learned from each of the three articles.

12. Name of article: Mexico flag

One new fact:

13. Name of article: Hidalgo y Costilla, Miguel

One new fact:

14. Name of article: Zapata, Emiliano

One new fact:



True or False

Write "True" if the statement about Mexico is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

_____ 15. Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821.

_____ 16. Mexico is south of Belize and Guatemala.

_____ 17. The Maya were the last Indian empire in Mexico.

_____ 18. Mexico is the world's leading producer of silver.

_____ 19. Mestizos are people of mixed European and American Indian backgrounds.

What's the Word?

Questions 20-29. Find the words hidden within the puzzle from the list below. The words may be spelled out vertically (up and down), horizontally (across), or diagonally (slanted). Also, the words may be spelled in the right order, or they may be spelled backwards.

Aztec	E F F D D T I X R O V D F I U V R P
Chichen Itza	Z H G D W P W I Z Z T Z X Q R R Q D
Latin America	G D V C X K O J P I J T P N P F O J
Maya	C X B K Y G A O Q T M Z Y M L T L M
Mestizo	T H N P R U U A W S A D E Z A R A R
Mexico City	Y N I A V J V Z F E Y X A C T E D O
Plateau	K K N C C H K D U M I K H G E V M N
Rio Grande	T D Q C H N S J G C E Z E M A L R B
Silver	E M B W X E V I O T R A J V U I T G
Spanish	G G K Z O O N C N H C B T R X S S P
	A V V E W N I I M A I G B C A O F J
	S Y X F K T S Q T D P V H V E A T Y
	A B A E Y P Q S G Z Q S A I F T L W
	G H E M H M K T Z E A B M T J M Z R
	A C I R E M A N I T A L C Q T U J A
	M O O T P Y Q V L L J H H I R W H F
	K O W Z X Z H T P F T E G R G D B J
	G N F F B H R Y X U D X C I L H F D

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Map It!

30. Locate the map in the “Mexico” article. Label the 9 missing countries near Mexico.



Teacher Page

Answers:

1. The capital and largest city of Mexico is Mexico City.
2. Spain ruled Mexico for 300 years.
3. The Rio Grande forms most of the boundary between Mexico and the United States.
4. The Pacific Ocean is on the west of Mexico, and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea are on the east.
5. The vertical stripes in Mexico's flag are green, white, and red.
6. The Aztecs, the last Indian empire in Mexico, were taken over by Spanish warriors in 1521.
7. Answers should include any 5 of the following: chili peppers, corn, mangoes, oranges, sugar cane, tomatoes, and wheat.
8. In the 1840's, a war between the United States and Mexico ended with Mexico losing land.
9. Mexico's official language is Spanish.
10. Pico de Orizaba (also called Citlaltepetl) is the highest point in Mexico.
11. (a) Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on May 5.
(b) Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla.
(c) Mexico defeated France in the battle celebrated by Cinco de Mayo.
12. Answers will vary.
13. Answers will vary.
14. Answers will vary.
15. True.
16. False. Mexico is north of Belize and Guatemala. –or– Mexico is south of the United States.
17. False. The Aztec were the last Indian empire in Mexico.
18. True.
19. True.

20-29. Word Search Solution:

E F F D D T I X **R O** V D F I U V R P
 Z H G D W P W **I Z Z** T Z X Q R R Q D
 G D V C X K **O** J P **I** J T P N **P** F O J
C X B K Y **G** A O Q **T** M Z Y **M L** T L M
 T **H** N P **R** U U A W **S** A D **E** Z **A R** A R
 Y N **I** **A** V J V Z F **E** Y **X** A C **T E** D O
 K K **N C C H** K D U **M I** K H G **E V** M N
 T **D** Q C **H N S** J G **C** E Z E M **A L** R B
E M B W X **E V I O** T R A J V **U I** T G
 G G K Z O O **N C N** H C B T R X **S S** P
A V V E W N **I I M** A I G B **C** A O F J
 S **Y** X F K **T S Q T** D **P** V H V **E** A T Y
 A B **A E Y** P Q S G **Z Q S** A I F **T L** W
 G H E **M H M** K T Z E **A B M** T J M **Z R**
A C I R E M A N I T A L C Q T U J **A**
 M O O T P Y Q V L L J H H I R W H F
 K O W Z X Z H T P F T E G R G D B J
 G N F F B H R Y X U D X C I L H F D

30. Map Solution:

