



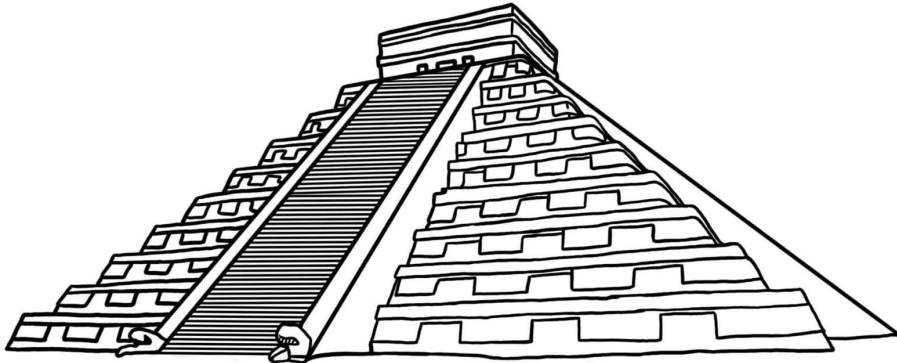
**Cultures of the  
World**

**Mexico**

# Mexico



**Mexico**  
Capital : Mexico City



## Chichen Itza

Once a thriving mecca, Chichen Itza was built by the Maya civilization and includes the step pyramid commonly called El Castillo. At two times of the year the pyramid casts a shadow along the stairs of a snake that moves with the sun.



## Official Name:

Estados Unidos Mexicanos  
(United Mexican States)

## Continent:

North America

## Capital:

Mexico City

## Languages:

Spanish

## Money:

Peso

## Population:

127 million people



Mexico City

# Mexico

Mexico is the third largest country in Latin America. It borders United States of America, Belize and Guatemala.

Mexico is the largest country with the most Spanish speakers



- Northern Mexico consists mostly of deserts. There you can find saguaro cactus, scorpions and rattlesnakes.
- In Southern Mexico you will see tropical rain forest.

- Mexico is located on top of the fault line: The Ring of Fire. There are many active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes on this fault line.
- Mexico City is built over the ruins of Tenochtitlán, an Aztec city.



Color TV was invented in Mexico by Guillermo Gonzales Camarena when he was 17 years old.



Chocolate originated in Mexico.



Mexico has the world's largest bullring. It seats 41,262 people. It was constructed in 180 days by 10,000 workers



Mexico is home to the world's smallest volcano! The Cuexcomate volcano.



When a girl turns 15 she has a big party called a Quinceañera . It marks the transition between a child to a woman.

# Fun Facts About Mexico

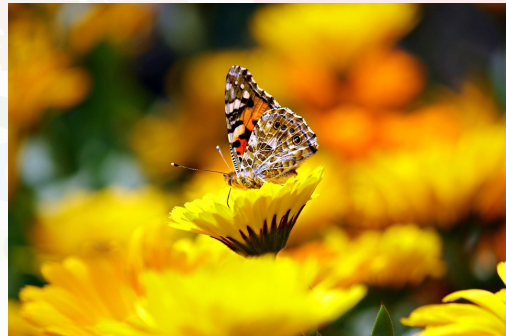
Mexico City hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1968.

The largest pyramid of the world can be found in Mexico.



- The Chichen Itza Pyramid was named one of the seven wonders of the world in 2007.
- Every year there are millions of tourists that visit the site.

The border between Mexico and the US is the second largest border. The US and Canadian border is longer.



The monarch butterfly migrates to Mexico from Canada and the USA every year between November and March.

## Mexico's Flag



- Mexico's flag consists of three vertical stripes.
- The three colors are green, white, and red and they stand for hope, independence, unity and religion.
- In the middle of the flag there is an emblem of an eagle standing on a cactus with a snake on its beak.

## Pyramids

Pyramids were built between the 12th and 16th century by the Aztecs to honor and house their gods and goddesses.



Pyramid of the Moon: Teotihuacan



Temple of Kukulcan (Chicken Itza)

The Chichen Itza Pyramid was named one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

# Food

It is believed that Mexican cuisine derived 2,000 years ago from the Mayan Indians. They sustained themselves from the land with foods such as corn, beans, peppers, fruits and chocolate.

## Corn Tortillas



Mexican cuisine influenced by...  
Spain: They introduced rice, beef, pork, chicken, garlic, onion, different herbs, wheat and spices.

French: Introduced baked foods; sweet breads and bolillo.

## Mexican Street Food



Mexicans refer to street food as antojitos (little cravings). They are dishes that aren't normally eaten as a formal meal. They are quick meals that can be eaten on the go.

# Music

## Mariachi Bands

- Dates back to the 18th Century.
- There can be as many as 20 people in a band.
- All players sing the chorus and take turns being the lead vocalist.



- Mariachi performers don't use microphones so they have to make sure their voices are loud and clear to project above the instruments.
- Because they receive requests to play songs they must know hundreds of songs in order to fulfill the request.



## Famous Artists

- Vicente Fernandez
- Selena
- Alejandro Fernandez



# Dance

## The Jarabe Tapatío

- The jarabe Tapatío is a Mexican folk dance and often referred to the national dance of Mexico.
- The dance celebrates a romantic courtship.
- During the dance the man places his sombrero on the ground and he dances around it.



- Folklorico began in 1960 by Amalia Hernandez who started a dance company.
- The costumes and music reflect the living cultures in Mexico.

## Folklorico



## Sweet Bread

Pan Dulce/ Sweet bread was influenced by the French and Spaniards. Mexican bakers adopted French techniques to create new recipes.

## Popular Dishes

### Tamale

Made of corn dough (*masa*) and filled with meats, cheese, fruits, vegetables, chilies. Tamales are wrapped in a corn husk and then steamed.



### Enchiladas

Corn tortillas filled with cheese, meat, beans, potatoes and covered in a sauce.



### Pozole

It is a soup or stew made with hominy, meat (pork or chicken) and chili peppers.



# Important dates

## International Workers Day May 1st



Celebrates the labor movement. On this day there are parades and rallies to promote workers rights. Banks, schools and many businesses are closed.

## Independence Day September 16th

On September 16th, 1810 Father Hidalgo announced the start of the Independence War against Spain. He ordered the church bells to be rung and gave a speech. That speech is known as "*Grito de Dolores; Cry of Dolores*" The war lasted 10 years; in 1821 Mexico gained their independence from Spain.



# Art

## Muralist Movement

During the muralist movement artist painted vivid scenes that reflected life in Mexico.

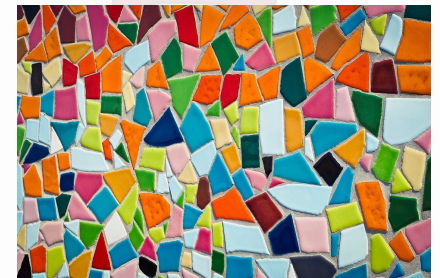


## Mexican Folk Art

- Folk art is created by people who have no formal art training.
- Their crafts are handmade and decorative.
- Materials include clay, wood, metal, stones, plants, bold colors and decorative details.

## Mexican Ceramic Art

- Dates back to before Spaniards lived in Mexico.
- People used their hands to shape the pottery.
- Plates, jugs, cups, and pots were made from red and orange clay.
- Today ceramic artists create wall and floor tiles.



# Sports



## Fútbol (Soccer)



- The first soccer team formed in 1929.
- In 1970 Mexico hosted the World Cup.
- There are about 8.5 million people who play soccer in Mexico.
- The country has 17,000 teams.

## Boxing



- Boxing first began around 1918.
- Mike Febles or “León Veracruzano” was the first professional boxer.
- There are 14 Mexican boxers who are in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.
- Julio César Chavez is considered one of the best boxers in the world.

## Corrida de Toros (Bullfighting)

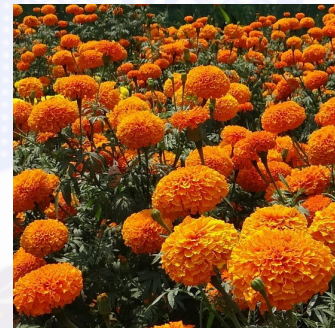


- Is a 500 year old tradition.
- Mexico has the largest bullfighting ring in the world. It can seat up to 50,000 people.

## Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)

A day to remember family members and friends who have passed away.

- On this day people visit cemeteries and leave food and presents at the gravesites of their relatives that have passed away.
- At home people make Ofrendas (altars). They are decorated with flowers (especially marigolds), sugar skulls, food, gifts, and candles.



## Sugar Skulls

- The skull represents the body of the person that passed away.
- The decorative designs represents the beauty of that persons lives.