

All About Mexico



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Mexico's History Timeline

- 1500-400 BC: Mexico's first major civilization, the Olmecs, emerge.
- AD 300-900: Classic Period: Teotihuacán and Mayan civilizations thrive.
- 1325-1428: The Aztecs migrate to Mexico's central valley and gradually establish as the most powerful force in central Mexico.
- 1517: The first Europeans visit Mexico.
- 1519-1521: Hernán Cortés arrives with troops and conquers Mexico. The Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan is destroyed. Mexico City is rebuilt on the remains.
- 1521-1820: Mexico is under Spanish rule and is included in the Viceroyalty of New Spain.

Mexico's History Timeline

- 1810-1821: The “Cry of Dolores” spoken by Catholic priest, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, sparks revolt against Spanish control. The Mexican War of Independence rages on until 1821.
- August 24, 1821: Mexico finally gains independence from Spain in 1821.
- 1846-1848: Mexican-American War.
- 1910-1920: Mexican Revolution ends in the establishment of a constitutional republic.
- 1942: Mexico declares war on Germany and Japan.
- 1968: Mexico hosts the Olympic Games.
- 1985: Massive earthquake hits Mexico City, approximately 10,000 were killed.

Mexico's Flag

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

Mexico



Mexico's Geography

Mexico



- Located on the continent of North America
- Official name is United Mexican States
- Capital City: Mexico City

Mexico's Geography

Mexico



- Third largest country in Latin America
- 14th largest nation in the world
- Borders the United States of America, Guatemala, and Belize
- Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea

Mexico's Geography

Capital: 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

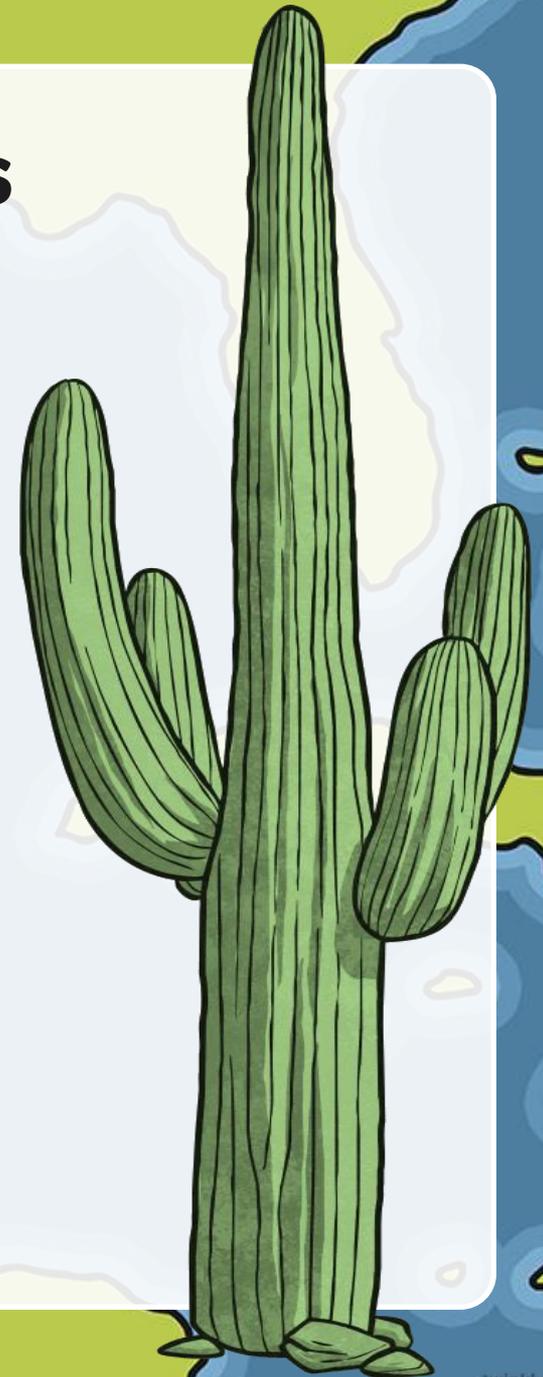


Physical Features

Copper Canyon: large group of canyons located in northwestern Mexico includes Basaseachic Falls, Mexico's second-highest waterfall

Chihuahuan Desert: second largest desert in North America

Lacandon Jungle: largest montane rainforest in North America



Landmarks

Chichen Itza: Mayan ruins located on the Yucatán Peninsula. Once one of the largest Maya cities and now one of the most visited archeological locations in Mexico.



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Teotihuacan: established in approximately 100 BC. It 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.

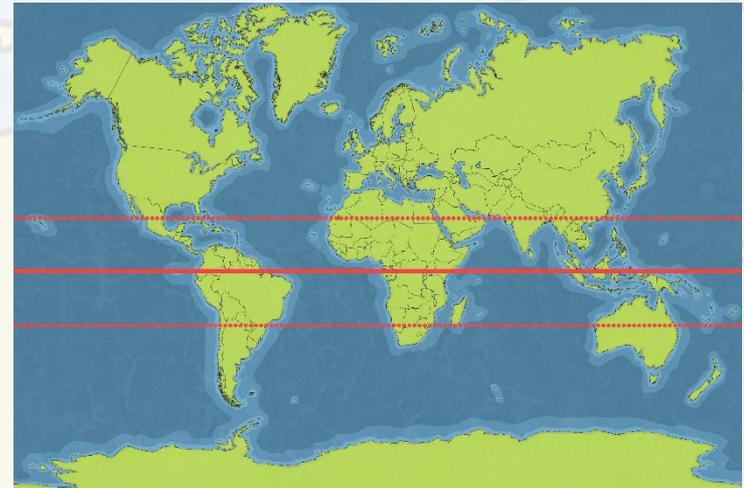


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Climate

Mexico's climate varies greatly depending on location.

- 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.
- Mexico also has dry and wet seasons.
 - Wet Season: May-October
 - Dry Season: November-April



Culture

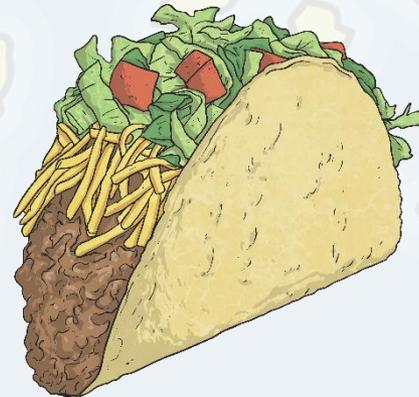
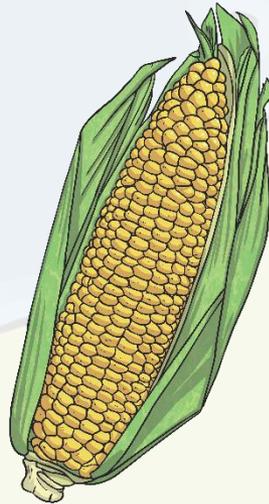
- Spanish is the most spoken language in Mexico.
- Mexico hosts the largest number of Native American language speakers in North America.
- The largest religion in Mexico is the Roman Catholic religion.
- Football is the most popular team sport in Mexico.



Mexico

Mexican 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.



Holidays & Celebrations



Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead):

- November 1st – 2nd each year.
- A time to remember and celebrate loved ones who have passed away.
- Altars are created and decorated with favorite items and food of the deceased 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.

Holidays & Celebrations

Diez y Seis: Mexico's Independence Day

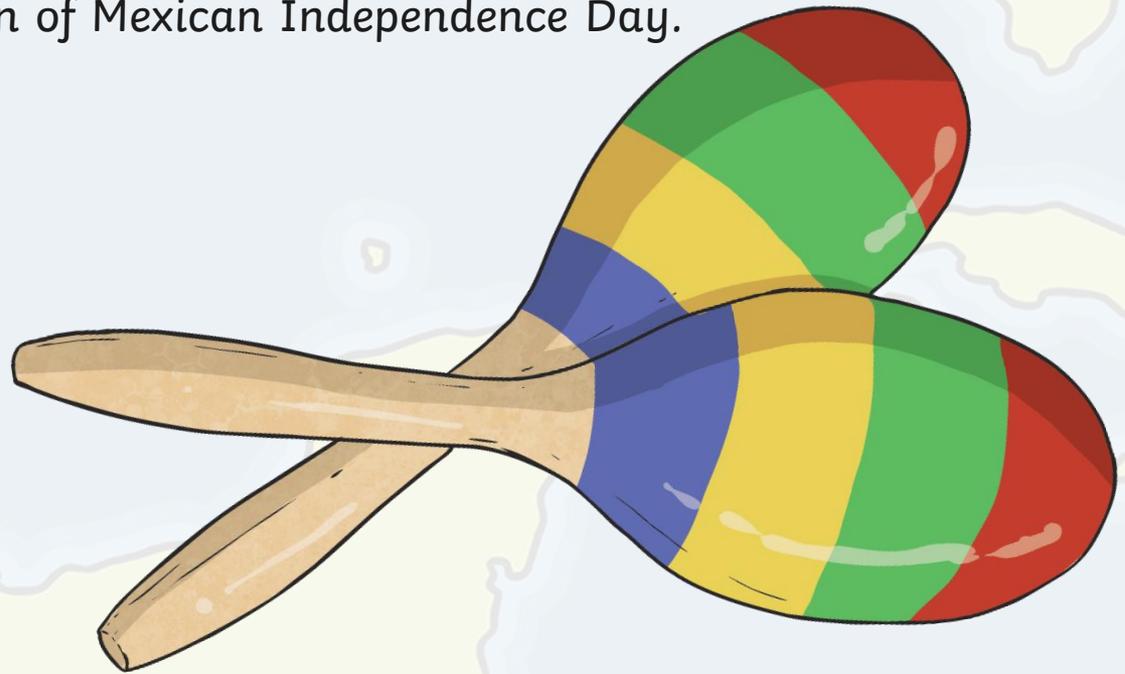
- September 16th
- On September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo began a revolt against the Spanish rule.
- Cry of Dolores: first spoken by Hidalgo in the town of Dolores, it is considered to be the war cry of the Mexican War of Independence.
- Celebrated with fiestas (parties) and celebrations similar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



Cinco de Mayo

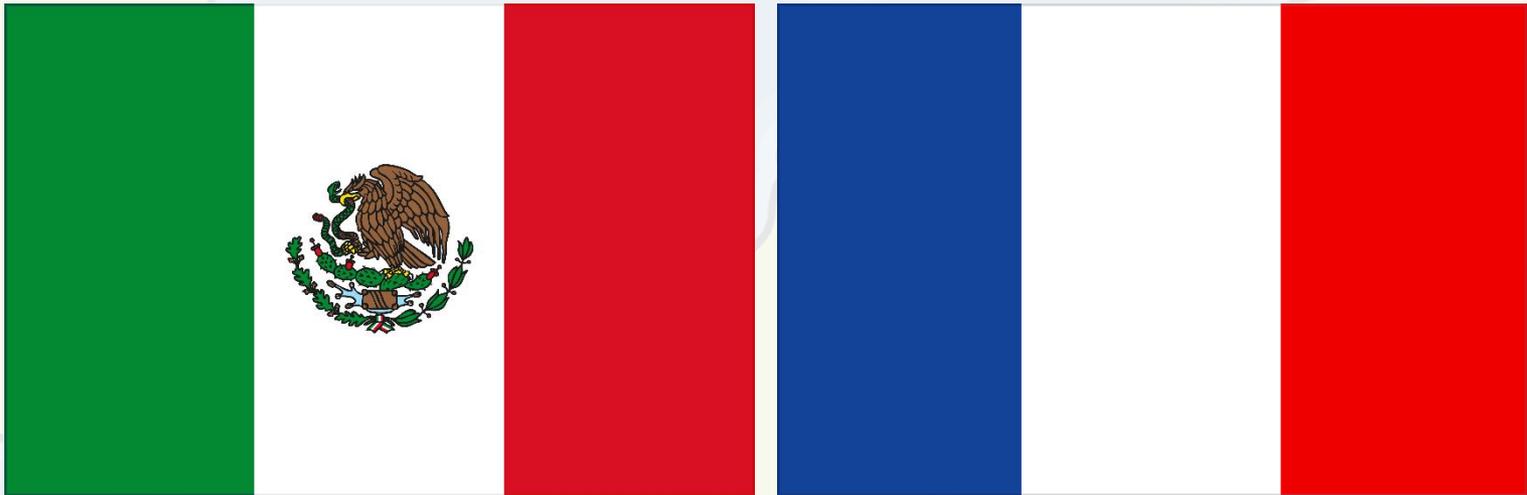
- Cinco de Mayo means the "Fifth of May" in Spanish.
- Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the Mexican victory of the Battle of Puebla.
- It is not a celebration of Mexican Independence Day.

Mexico



Battle of Puebla

- Mexico was in debt to many countries.
- France invaded Mexico to demand repayment of the debt.
- When France invaded Puebla, the Mexican Army pushed back, and won the battle.
- No one expected Mexico to win!



Mexico's Victory

- Mexico won the Battle of Puebla but lost the war against the French.
- Winning the battle was so exciting that people still celebrate the victory today.

Mexico



Celebrations

- The city of Puebla still celebrates Cinco de Mayo.
- It is a town holiday, not a Mexican national holiday.

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U.S. Celebrations

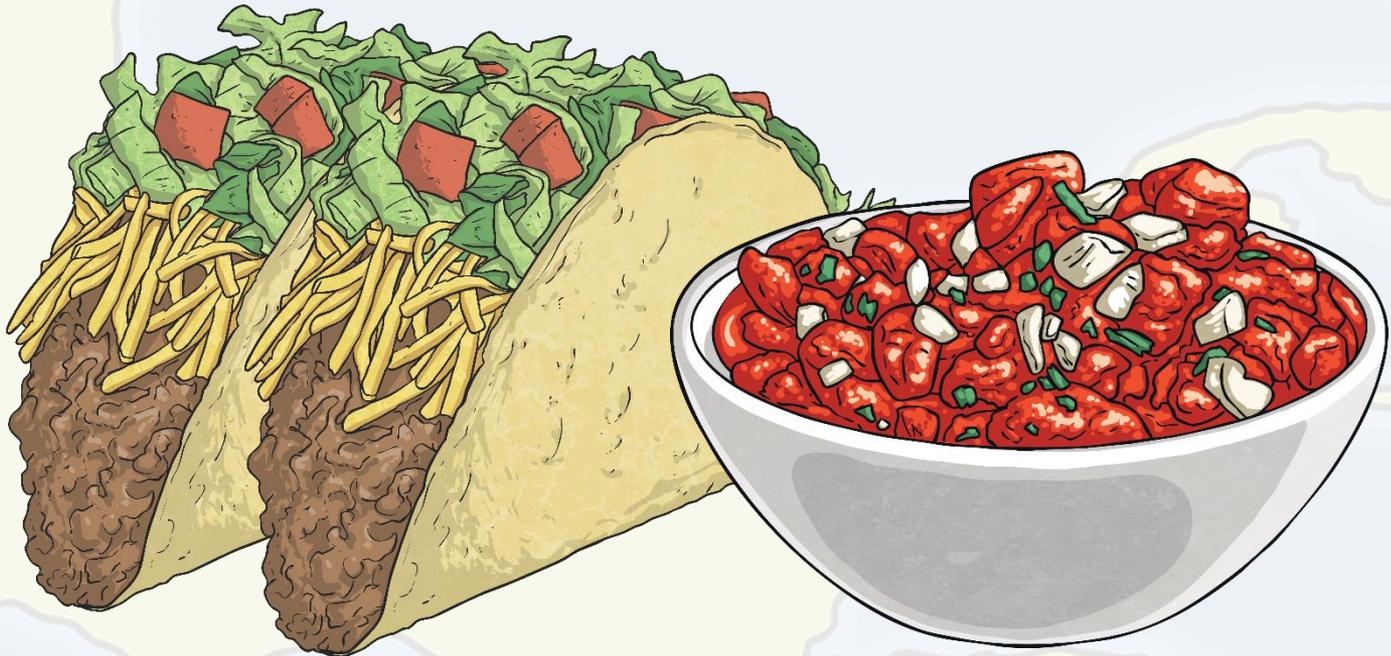
- Several states in the United States used to be part of Mexico.
- When those states joined the Union, they continued celebrating Cinco de Mayo.
- Many U.S. citizens and Mexicans alike celebrate Cinco de Mayo today!



Honoring Cinco de Mayo

- You can celebrate Cinco de Mayo by making traditional Mexican foods like tacos and salsa!
- You can listen to a Mariachi Band!
- You can try practicing your Spanish Language skills!

Mexico



Why is celebrating Cinco de Mayo important?

- There are many reasons why celebrating Cinco de Mayo is important. Some of which are:
- It is a celebration of Mexican resilience and strength.
- It is important to remember Mexican history and culture.



**Would you like to travel to Mexico?
Why or why not?**

Mexico





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