



MEXICO

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Overview

- Mexico is a country in North America.
- Mexico takes up a large southern section of North America. This region is also unofficially known as Central America.
- It shares borders with the United States (north) Guatemala and Belize (both southeast). It also has long coastlines on the Caribbean Sea, the Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Mexico covers an area of 1.97 million km² - the 3rd largest country in North America.
- About 129.2 million people live in Mexico. It is the 2nd most populous country in North America.



Human Geography

Canada was settled for many hundreds of years by indigenous peoples. In its more-modern history it has been ruled over by the British and French, but is now an independent and prosperous nation.

Population		-The population of Mexico is around 129.2 million people. It is the most populated Spanish-speaking country, and the 2 nd most populated country in North America. Mexico has 53 people per square kilometre of land. More than half live in the central belt, with the north & south sparse.
Settlements		-The capital city of Mexico is Mexico City. It has a population of around 9.5 million people. If its metropolitan area is included, it is one of the largest cities in the world. Some of the other largest cities in Mexico are Guadalajara and Ecatepec.
Economic Activity		-The Mexican Peso is the currency of Mexico. Mexico has great extremes of wealth, with some of the richest people in the world, yet millions living in poverty. There are relatively few middle-class people.
Resources/ Trade		-The top exports of Mexico are motor vehicles, oils, electronics, manufactured goods, silver, plastics, fruit, vegetables and coffee. Mexico's main export partner (by far) is the United States.

Key Vocabulary

- Mexico
- North America
- Peninsula
- Sierra Madre
- Desert
- Tropical
- Spanish
- Mexico City
- Ecatepec
- Guadalajara
- Rio Grande
- Yucatan Peninsula

Physical Geography

- Mexico is the world's 13th largest country.
- The climate of much of Mexico is tropical, with a rainy season (May-October) and dry season (November-April). However, much of the northern area of the country has a desert climate.
- Mexico is broad at its northern end, but becomes rapidly narrower further south.
- The Baja California peninsula is a large, arid peninsula in the north-west of the country, which juts out into the Pacific Ocean, creating the Gulf of California.
- There are few long rivers in Mexico, but the Rio Grande (3,108km) partially runs through Mexico.
- The Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range runs down most of the length of the country, from northwest to southeast.
- The highest mountain in Mexico is Pico de Orizaba at 5,636m. It is the second most prominent volcanic peak in the world after Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro.



-Mexico is split into 32 states. State leaders have the power to make some decisions within their states, although decisions in the national interest are generally made by the central government.

Comparison with the UK

- The UK is in Europe, whilst Mexico is in North America. Both nations are in the northern hemisphere.
- The UK is generally much colder than Mexico. The UK has a temperate climate, whilst most of Mexico has either a tropical or desert climate.
- Mexico is much larger than the UK - 1.97 million sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.
- More people live in Mexico - 129.2 million people compared to 66 million people.
- Mexico City has more people than London: 9.5 million people compared to 8.4 million.
- Mexico is situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.



Mexico Timeline

Before 1400 BCE The Olmec civilisation begins to develop.	1000 BCE The Mayan civilisation starts to form.	100 BCE Mayans build the first pyramids.	1200 CE The Aztecs arrive in the valley of Mexico. They rule for over 300 years.	1521 CE Spanish arrive. Hernan Cortez defeats Aztecs.	1600 CE Spain conquers the rest of Mexico. Mexico becomes a colony of Spain.	1821 CE Mexico declares its independence from Spain.	1824 CE Mexico becomes a Republic.	1910 CE Mexican Revolution takes place.	1942 CE Mexico joins the Allies in World War II.	1968 CE Olympics held in Mexico City.
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