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Get to Know: Mexico

Mexico is a large, populous Latin American country. The country's history has been largely shaped by the Indian empires that thrived for hundreds of years and the Spaniards that ruled Mexico for 300 years. How much do you know about this country and its culture and history? Set off on a webquest to explore Mexico and find out!

First, log onto **www.worldbookonline.com**
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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. Mexico has _____ states and one federal district.

2. The capital and largest city of Mexico is _____.

3. Look at the image "Mexico and coat of arms." What do each of the colored stripes stand for?

   (a) Green: _____

   (b) White: _____

   (c) Red: _____

4. _____is Mexico's highest mountain.

5. Mexicans celebrate their Independence Day on _____.

6. The great majority of Mexicans are _____, people of mixed ancestry.

7. The most popular sports in Mexico are _____ and _____.

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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8. Mexico's leading trade partner is _____.

9. Almost all Mexicans speak _____ the official language of Mexico.

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.

_____ 10. Revolution Day, the anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, is celebrated on October 20.

_____ 11. Mexico is one of the leading producers of silver in the world.

_____ 12. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was a famous Mexican painter.

_____ 13. The first book known to be published in the Western Hemisphere was printed in Mexico City in 1539.

_____ 14. Most of the northern half of Mexico consists of deserts and semideserts.

Find It

15. How many members are in Mexico's Senate? How many are in the country's Chamber of Deputies?

16. Which river forms about two-thirds of the boundary between Mexico and the United States?

17. What is the oldest and largest Mexican university?

18. In 1949, who did the government make the symbol of Mexican nationality? Why was this person a Mexican hero?

19. Find the image "Mural by David Siquerios." What does this part of David Siqueiros's mural show?

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Famous People in Mexican History

In the line provided, write which person is being referred to. (Hint: For this question see the "History" section of the "Mexico" article.)

_____ 20. Priest who called for a rebellion against Spanish rule in 1810

_____ 21. President of Mexico from 1867 until his death in 1872

_____ 22. Dictator who was overthrown as Mexico's president in 1911

_____ 23. Military leader who led a raid against Columbus, New Mexico in 1916

_____ 24. President of Mexico from 2000 to 2006

Find It!

25. On what day is Cinco de Mayo celebrated and what does it commemorate? (Hint: For this question see the "Cinco de Mayo" article.)

26. What was Chichén Itzá? (Hint: For this question see the "Chichén Itzá" article.)

27. Who was Frida Kahlo? (Hint: For this question see the "Kahlo, Frida" article.)

28. Who founded the city of Guadalajara and when was it founded? (Hint: For this question see the "Guadalajara" article.)

29. What two massive, snow-capped mountains are found in México state? (Hint: For this question see the "México [state]" article.)

30. On what day is Día de los muertos celebrated and who is honored on this holiday? (Hint: For this question see the "Día de los muertos" article.)

31. Why does Mexico's flag have an eagle grasping a snake and settled on a flowering cactus? (Hint: For this question see the "Mexico flag" article.)

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Map It!

Within the "Mexico" article, you will find the map "Economy in Mexico."Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. Name five mineral products that are mined in Mexico.

33. Which two fishing products are caught in the Gulf of Mexico?

34. What part of Mexico should you live in if you want to grow coffee?

Timeline

Put the events of Mexico's history in order of when they happened starting with 1 for the earliest and 10 for the most recent. (Hint: For this question see the "History" section of the "Mexico" article and the "Important dates in Mexico" table.)

_____ Felipe Calderón won a close election to become president of Mexico.

_____ Francisco Madero overthrew dictator Porfirio Diaz.

_____ General Antonio López de Santa Anna, served as president 11 times.

_____ Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztec empire for Spain.

_____ Mexico won its independence from Spain.

_____ Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla made a speech known as the Grito de Dolores (Cry of Dolores).

_____ The Aztec founded Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City).

_____ The National Revolutionary Party (now Institutional Revolutionary Party) was formed.

_____ Two earthquakes struck south-central Mexico, killing about 10,000 people.

_____ Women received the right to vote in all elections in Mexico.

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Extension Activity 1

Imagine that you are a travel agent who wants to promote your new vacation spot – Mexico! Create a travel brochure for prospective travelers that includes pictures and descriptions. Below are suggested topics to include in your brochure:

1. The kind of climate and environment the travelers should expect to experience.
2. The recreational activities the travelers might try.
3. The kinds of foods the travelers will eat.
4. The tourist sites the travelers will want to visit.
5. The animals and plants that the travelers will see.

Use your imagination, but make sure that the information is accurate.

Extension Activity 2

Imagine that you are a Mexican living when Mexico achieved its independence from Spain. Write a letter to a friend describing what you thought of independence. Below are suggested topics to include in your brochure:

1. How might separating from Spanish rule after 300 years change your life?
2. What obstacles will your newly independent country have to overcome?
3. How will history remember Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, José María Morelos y Pavón, and others who led the revolt against Spain?

Extension Activity 3

Be a researcher! Choose a person mentioned in the "Related Information" tab of the "Mexico" article. Use a keyword search to find related World Book Encyclopedia articles on that person. Write a report on that person and his or her accomplishments

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