



VIVA MEXICO



The official name of the country is the United Mexican States. Its capital is Mexico City. Its political model is a Democratic Federal Republic, with 31 states plus the capital. Each state has full autonomy of self-government, run by a Governor, elected to exercise power for 6 years.

Located in the northernmost part of Central America, Mexico covers 1,964,375 km². It is bordered to the north by the United States of America, to the south by the countries of Belize and Guatemala, to the west by the Pacific Ocean, and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The relief of the country is dotted with multiple volcanoes and is very rugged, highlighted in the northern half with the Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental (an extension of the Rockies), while in the southern half we find the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Most of the territory is nestled in the tropical climatic zone of the northern hemisphere, while the northernmost part is in the temperate zone. Both sides are divided by the Tropic of Cancer. In Mexico there is high mountain climate, tropical climate with its variants, temperate climate and desert climate.

According to the latest census, Mexico has a population of 127,191,826 inhabitants, with a fairly young population, since approximately 50% of its population is under 25 years old. Although the Mexican population is largely concentrated in large cities, the primary sector (agriculture and livestock), still has a lot of economic and social weight in the country. In terms of ethnic composition, the country offers a great variety: indigenous population (12%), mixed (80%) European (8%), approximately. The states of Yucatan (59%) and Oaxaca (48%), are the ones with the most indigenous population. The population of Mexico City is 8,985,399 inhabitants. The main religion is Catholic being 87% of the population. 97% of the population speaks Spanish as their official language. In addition, there are 30 indigenous languages and 22 recognized dialects.

Mexico is the 11th largest economic power in the world. Its economic model is capitalist and is mostly export-oriented. The country's economic activity is subject to several trade treaties signed with more than 40 countries, the most important being those with the EU, Japan, Israel and several countries of the American southern cone. But the most important one is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA),

with the United States and Canada, as it accounts for nearly 90% of all exports and 55% of imports.

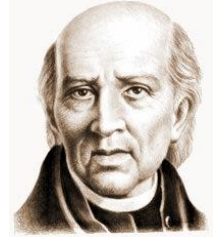
24% of Mexico's total revenue comes from oil, a resource of which Mexico is one of the world's leading producers. Another important economic resource for the country is tourism. Because of its exciting history, geography, wealth of natural resources and intense cultural life, Mexico offers visitors a wide variety of tourist attractions. The national currency is the Mexican peso.

The human presence in present-day Mexico dates back 30,000 years BC. After the emergence of agriculture and livestock (American Neolithic), they began to highlight different nuclei until forming a series of civilizations, the most important being the Maya and the Olmeca. During the first quarter of the XII century the domination of the Mexicans (Aztecs) began. This warrior people began a process of conquest that crystallized in the control of practically all the current Mexican territory. Effective domination of the Spanish began in 1519, when Hernán Cortés founded the town of Villa Rica de la Veracruz (present-day Veracruz). After the violent conquest of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán, in August 1521, the Spanish Empire of Charles V took three more decades to take control of much of the present-day South America and much of the territory of the United States. Under Spanish rule, the Mexican territory encompassed much of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. During this period trade, agriculture, livestock and especially mining were promoted.

The Grito de Dolores, in 1810 by the priest Manuel Hidalgo, was the beginning of the process of Mexican independence that culminated in the year 1821. From that year until today, Mexico is a country that has had a convulsive history, with many clashes and various political systems. Mexico has had two monarchical periods (with Augustine of Iturbide and Maximilian of Austria), a liberal government for much of the nineteenth century with clashes between the conservative and progressives, also several episodes of civil wars, coups and dictatorships (Porfirio Díaz 1876-1911), charismatic leaders of the popular classes (Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa). In 1917 the current constitution was approved, with Venustiano Carranza as president. From that moment on, Mexican political activity was dominated by the IP. (Institutional Revolutionary Party), until 2000, when Vicente Fox's P.A.N. (National Action Party) became president.

Name _____

Date _____



ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What are the two Mexican states with the highest percentage of indigenous population?
 - a. Sinaloa and Yucatan.
 - b. Guanajuato and Oaxaca.
 - c. Yucatán y Oaxaca.
 - d. Guanajuato and Sinaloa.
2. What two countries do Mexico limit Mexico to the south with?
 - a. Guatemala and Honduras.
 - b. Guatemala and El Salvador.
 - c. Belize and Honduras...
 - d. Belize and Guatemala.
3. Which of the following relevant historical figures of Mexico has not been cited in the text?
 - a. Hernán Cortés.
 - b. Ignacio Zaragoza.
 - c. Augustine of Iturbide.
 - d. Pancho Villa.
4. What other countries have signed the NAFTA trade treaty with Mexico?
 - a. Uruguay y Argentina.
 - b. Canada and the United States.
 - c. Canada and Brazil.
 - d. United States and Brazil.
5. What two great cultures were the predecessors of the Mexicans/Aztecs?
 - a. Olmeca and Maya.
 - b. Zapateca and Maya.
 - c. Tolteca and Maya.
 - d. Olmeca and Zapateca.

