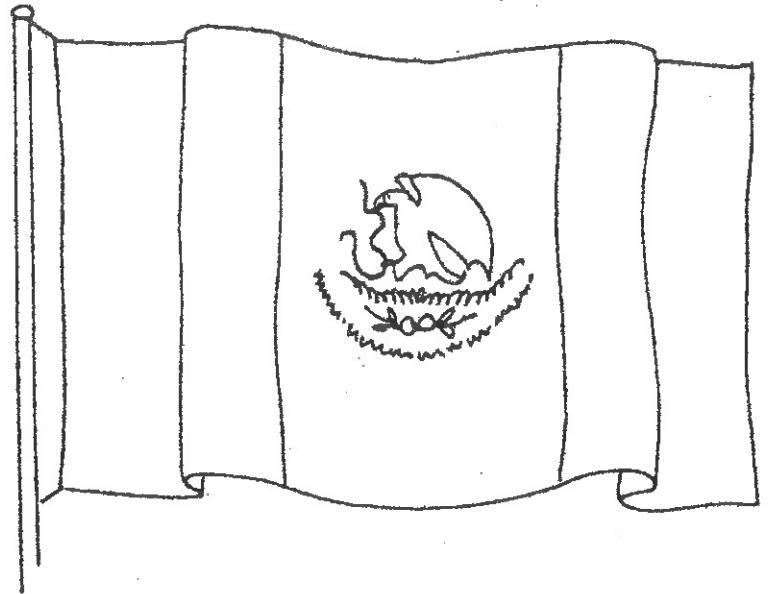


Mexico

Mexico is a land of treasures. It is on the continent of North America. On the map, you can find it south of the United States.

The capital city of Mexico is Mexico City. Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tampico, and Veracruz are other cities in Mexico. The people who live in Mexico are called Mexicans. The people speak Spanish. The flag of Mexico has green, red, and white stripes. There is a crest on the center stripe. Mexico has its own kind of money called pesos.



Mexico makes steel, chemicals, electronics, textiles, and rubber. The farmers grow cotton, coffee, sugar cane, and vegetables. Silver, lead, zinc, gold, oil, and natural gas are mined in Mexico. Fishermen catch fish off the shores of Mexico. They fish in the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of California, and the Pacific Ocean.

Parts of the cities in Mexico are very modern and other parts are very old. There are big, new hotels for visitors in many cities. Still, many of the people who live there are very poor. The small villages are not modern at all.

Long, long ago, Indians lived in Mexico and built wonderful cities. They built pyramids as high as a 20-story building. The ancient people wore heavy gold jewelry. The Spanish came to Mexico and captured the Indians. Today, most Mexican people have Indian ancestors.

The Mexican people love to celebrate. Their celebrations are called fiestas. When there is a fiesta, people come from all the villages in the area. Everyone brings food. There is singing and dancing.

Visitors to Mexico love to buy silver jewelry. They like the beautiful beaches and nice weather.

The people of Mexico love sports. They enjoy soccer and bullfighting. The Summer Olympic Games have been held in Mexico City.

BONUS: Rich oil deposits have recently been found in Mexico. On a separate sheet of paper, write a report about oil.

Mexico

Mexico is a country in North America. It is just south of the United States. The United States and Mexico are separated by a river, the Rio Grande. Mexico City is the capital and largest city of Mexico. Much of Mexico has too many mountains or is too dry to farm, but Mexico is still one of the leading coffee, corn, cotton, and orange growers in the world.

The population of a country tells how many people live there. Mexico's population is growing very fast and the cities are becoming crowded. Most of the people in Mexico speak Spanish.

Cities have houses and tall buildings that look much like those in the United States. Many towns have buildings made from **adobe** or sun-dried clay. These houses often have a patio or courtyard which is the center of family life.

Almost every town or city has a marketplace where men, women, and children take things to trade or sell. They either rent a booth where they show off their goods or spread them out on the ground to sell.



Answer these questions.

1. What separates Mexico from the United States? _____
2. On which continent is Mexico? _____
3. What is the capital of Mexico? _____
4. What is adobe? _____
5. What does population mean? _____

6. Why do Mexicans go to the marketplace? _____

7. What language do most Mexicans speak? _____