

Hola! Mexico

Welcome to Mexico! Get ready to explore this unique country, from its towering temples and stunning geography to its pulsing rhythms and fun-packed festivals. Tummy rumbling? Concoct a traditional fruit cocktail or delicious Mexican meal. What's on your shopping list? Go steady with the spices!

Discover the mysterious world of the ancient Maya civilisation. Make their chocolate, learn their poetry, play their ballgame and follow all their curious rituals. Just try to keep your head! Feel like celebrating? Design a flute, grab a drum, join a tribe and make some noise! Have you got what it takes to be chief? Let's find out...

Key Vocabulary

Chihuahuan Desert - A desert and eco-region designation covering parts of Mexico and the United States.

Culture - The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular group of people or society.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) - Occurs on November 1 and is a day which is set aside to remember and honour the lives of the deceased while celebrating the continuation of life.

Festival - A day or period of celebration, typically for religious reasons.

Hieroglyphics - A system of writing that uses pictures instead of words.

Mariachi - Denoting a type of traditional Mexican folk music, performed by a small group of strolling musicians.

Maya civilisation - A Mesoamerican civilisation developed by the Maya people, and noted for its hieroglyphic script, as well as for its art, architecture, mathematics, calendar, and astronomical system.

Mexico - Republic in southern North America, bordered by the United States to the north, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea to the east, Belize and Guatemala to the southeast, and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west. Its capital and largest city is Mexico City.

Spanish - The official language of Spain, Mexico, and most countries of South and Central America except Brazil: also spoken in Africa, the Far East, and elsewhere. It is the native language of approximately 405 million people throughout the world.



Facts and Figures

Full Name: United Mexican States

Capital: Mexico City (Distrito Federal)

Major Cities (population): Mexico City (8,720,916), Ecatepec de Morelos (1,688,258), Guadalajara (1,600,940),

Border Countries: Belize and Guatemala to the southeast; United States to the north

Size/Area: Total: 758,249 square miles (1,972,550 square kilometres)

Population: 103,263,388 (2005 Census)

Monetary Unit: Pesos

Did you know?

- *Mexico has the world's smallest volcano. Actually, it's not a volcano, but a geyser. It is 13 metres high and has a staircase inside!
- *The Maya worshipped nature gods, especially the gods of sun, rain and corn.
- *Maya children were named according to the day they were born. Every day of the year had a specific name for boys and girls.
- *Mexico has three colours on its flag. Green represents hope and victory, white is purity, and red for the blood of Mexican people.
- *The Chihuahua is the world's smallest dog and is named after a Mexican state.

Class Text

Holes, Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats has bad luck (which is all because of his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather).

When Stanley's bad luck unfairly lands him in the juvenile detention centre Camp Green Lake (a very weird place that isn't green and doesn't have a lake), he and his campmates Zero, X-Ray, Armpit, Squid, Magnet and Zigzag are forced to dig holes in order to build character... But what are they really digging for?