

Mexico

The country of Mexico is the third largest nation in terms of land area, and second largest nation in terms of population in North America. Mexico's population is well over 100,000,000 people and still growing. Mexico is located south of the United States and north of the nations of Belize and Guatemala. The Rio Bravo (called Rio Grande in America) forms much of the border between the United States and Mexico. Spanish is the official language of Mexico. Did you know that many of our words such as tornado, tomato, taco, armadillo, and banana come from the Spanish language?

Mexico is a land full of contrasts. Northern parts of Mexico are dominated by the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. The Sonoran Desert is the world's most biologically diverse desert and contains the world's entire supply of Saguaro Cacti. The central portion of Mexico is dominated by the mountainous Mexican Plateau. The southern parts are characterized by rainforests. Mexico's rainforests are high in biodiversity and feature animals such as jaguars, cougars, and exotic parrots. Mexico features high mountain ridges on its Pacific Coast and on its eastern sides. Its highest point is known as Pico de Orizaba, located near the city of Puebla. Pico de Orizaba rises 18,701 feet above sea level. It is the third highest mountain in North America, as well as the continent's highest volcano. Pico de Orizaba is classified as a dormant volcano, as it last erupted in 1846.

Mexico is well known as a popular tourist destination. People from all over the world come to bask on its beautiful beaches in Cancun and Acapulco. In addition, Mexico has dozens of important archaeological sites that preserve ancient Mayan ruins. The most famous site is Chichen Itza, a major Mayan City that lasted over 600 years on the Yucatan Peninsula.

As you can tell, there is a lot to do in Mexico and a lot of really interesting things to see. For more information, stop by your local library and check out a book on Mexico, or, visit one of hundreds of websites dedicated to illustrating all that is wonderful about Mexico.

Reading Comprehension

- 1) Can you name three countries that border Mexico?
- 2) What language is spoken in Mexico?
- 3) Why is Mexico described as 'full of contrasts'?
- 4) Give three reasons why people might want to visit Mexico for a holiday.

Vocabulary

- 1) *Pico de Orizaba is classified as a dormant volcano ...*
What does the word 'dormant' mean?
- 2) *People come from all over the world to bask on its beautiful beaches ...*
What does the word bask mean?
- 3) Look in the third paragraph. Find and copy a word that means 'old'.

Grammar

- 1) Find two different reasons for using capital letters in the text.
- 2) *The Sonoran Desert is the world's most biologically diverse desert ...*
Explain why the apostrophe is used in *world's*.
- 3) Copy and complete this sentence with a list. Make sure your sentence is correctly punctuated.
If you visited Mexico you might see ...