

## What can we learn by looking at a map of Mexico?

The flag of Mexico

### **Enquiry Questions**

- 1. Where is Mexico?
- 2. How is Mexico similar to the UK?
- 3. How is Mexico difference to the UK?
- 4. How does Tocuaro compare with Kearsley?
- 5. What is the culture like in Mexico?
- 6. Why is Mexico a popular tourist destination?

Vocabulary	
Terrain	The dimensions of land surface.
Multicultural	Incorporates ideas, beliefs or people from many different countries and cultural backgrounds.
Equator	A line between the northern and southern hemispheres that divides the earth around its circumference.
Population	The number of people who live in a country
Landmark	A building or part of the landscape which is easily recognised by people. (Big Ben, Loch Ness, Giant's Causeway, Snowdonia)
Human feature	A manmade feature on the landscape (roads, cities, statues)
Physical feature	A natural feature on the environment (mountains, beaches, forests)
Climate	What the weather is like over an extended period of time.



A map of Mexico

#### **Golden Threads**

Climate Maps Location Culture



Mexico is in the

continent of North

America.

Mexican Peso





Mexico City is the capital city of Mexico



Mexico is a popular tourist destination

# Mexico is a country in the southern portion of North America. It is bordered to the north by the United States; to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; to the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and to the east by the Gulf of Mexico. It is home to nearly 9 million people.



#### **Facts**

Basic Facts	Mexico is located in North America, directly south of the United States. Mexico is the 14th largest country by land area. There are 31 states in Mexico as well as the capital city (Mexico City).
Human Feature	Some of the most widely spoken languages in Mexico, aside from Spanish, are Nahuatl, which has more than 1.7 million speakers, Maya, spoken by around 850,000 people, and Mixtec.
Physical Features	Mexico contains a wide range of terrain. There are deep canyons, tall mountains, dry deserts, 67 national parks and jungle full of all kinds of creatures.
Climate and weather patterns	The climate varies, but there are usually two seasons, wet and dry. Coastal areas are hot and dry from November to April. In the wet season it's still hot but there are big rainstorms. The north of the country is the driest region but it gets cold in the winter months.
Global Issues	The history of Mexican immigration to the United States is best characterised as the movement of unskilled, manual labourers pushed northward, mostly by poverty. This continues to be a geopolitical issue.

#### Festivals and celebrations

Mexican people celebrate many festivals and special days across the year. They are a central part of Mexican culture and may involve music, food, dancing and special clothes.

Dia de la Independencia—Celebrated on 15th September to mark the beginning of Mexico's fight for independence from Spain in 1810. The president rings the bell at the National Palace in Mexico City and then shouts 'Viva Mexico' from the balcony.

Die de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) - This festival takes place during the first two days of November. It is a positive celebration to remember loved ones who have died. Families set up brightly decorated alters with photographs of the deceased. They then place their loved ones' favourite food on the alters. It is also very popular to wear skeleton costumes and masks.



Fiesta de Santa Cecilia—This is to celebrate Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music, on the 22nd November. Over 500 musicians perform a song called Los Mananitas that is dedicated to Saint Cecilia.