

Mexico

The Land



I. Location

- A. in North America
- B. borders the United States to the north
- C. borders Belize and Guatemala to the southeast

II. Size and Shape

- A. slightly less than 3 times the size of Texas (780,000 million square miles)
- B. two large peninsulas
 1. in the west, Baja California stretches far into the Pacific Ocean
 2. in the east, the Yucatán Peninsula juts into the Gulf of Mexico

III. Mountains

- A. Sierra Madre Occidental (west)
- B. Sierra Madre Oriental (east)

IV. Rivers

- A. the Rio Bravo (or Rio Grande)
 - 1. longest river
 - 2. forms much of the border between the U.S. and Mexico.
- B. many underground rivers
 - 1. in the Yucatan Peninsula
 - 2. in places the roofs of these rivers collapse, creating rocky pools called *cenotes*

V. Terrain

- A. thick rainforest (south)
- B. hot, barren deserts (northwest)
- C. frequent earthquakes
- D. several volcanoes
 - 1. Iztaccíhuatl (extinct)
 - 2. Popocatépetl (active)

VI. Regions

- A. Mexico is divided into 31 states
- B. one federal district (Mexico City)

VII. Cities

- A. Mexico City
 - 1. largest (one in four Mexicans live here)
 - 2. capital
 - 3. one of oldest in North America
- B. Guadalajara
 - 1. second largest
 - 2. industrial and manufacturing center
- C. Monterrey
 - 1. third largest
 - 2. business center

VIII. Important products

- A. Natural resources: petroleum (oil), silver
- B. Agricultural: corn, beans, squash

IX. Mexico's challenges

- A. Population has grown too quickly
- B. More than half of the people live in poverty
- C. High unemployment rate
- D. Pollution

Mexico The People

C. Languages

- a. Spanish is the official language
- b. About 7% of Mexicans speak use Nahuatl, Zapotec, or other American Indian language

D. Population

- a. about 110,000,000 inhabitants
- b. about 75% are of mixed American Indian and Spanish ancestry
- c. about 10% are entirely of American Indian ancestry