

Mexico: The People

A. Family Life

- many Mexicans use two last names or *apellidos*
- children are often named after a saint
- *quinceañera* = celebration for a Mexican girl's fifteenth birthday

B. Women's Clothing

- *huipile* = sack-like white cotton dress trimmed with colored embroidered flowers
- *rebozo* = shawl

C. Men's Clothing

- *guayabera* = pale-colored, loose cotton shirt for a man
- *poncho* or *sarape* = a blanket with an opening for the head that is worn for warmth
- *huaraches* = thick soled sandals

D. Characters

- *campesino* = farmer or peasant
- *charro* = a Mexican rodeo performer who does tricks on horseback; cowboy
- *china poblana* = female companion of the *charro*

E. Education

- *primaria* = primary (elementary) school; six years
- *secundaria* = high school; three years
- *preparatoria* = college preparatory school; three years

F. Daily Life

- *plaza* = public square usually with a park lined with benches
- *mercado* = outside market where vendors rent stands to sell everything imaginable
- *regatear* = negotiating or haggling over a price
- *siesta* = afternoon break from the intense afternoon heat
- *fiesta patronal* = party to honor a town or city's saint who they have adopted as their protector

G. Meals

- *desayuno* = breakfast: usually consists of coffee and a small roll or sweet cake
- *almuerzo* = lunch; often eaten much later than in the U.S.; heaviest meal
- *merienda* = snack; often eaten after *siesta*
- *cena* = dinner; a light meal eaten fairly late