

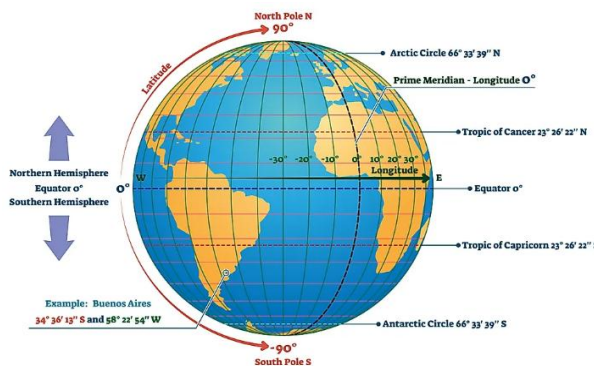
Mexico

Would you like to live in Mexico?



Mexico is a **Northern Hemisphere** country located in the south of North America. It has borders with three other countries: The USA, Belize and Guatemala and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, The Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

The **Tropic of Cancer** divides the country into **temperate** and **tropical** zones. North of the Tropic of Cancer has a more varied **climate** including colder temperatures in the winter. To the south it is hot and humid and experiences only small changes in temperature.



Locating Places

Lines of Latitude and longitude are a system of lines used to describe the location of any place on Earth. Lines of latitude run in an east-west direction across Earth. Lines of longitude run in a north-south direction. Although these are only imaginary lines, they appear on maps and globes as if they actually existed. The capital city of Mexico is found at 19° N, 99° W.

Human Geography

Population 	Mexico is the most populated Spanish-speaking country, and the 2nd most populated country in North America. More than half the population live in the central belt, with far fewer in the north & south.
Settlements 	The capital city of Mexico is Mexico City. It is one of the largest cities in the world. Some of the other largest cities in Mexico are Guadalajara and Ecatepec.
Economic activity 	The Mexican Peso is the currency of Mexico. Mexico has great extremes of wealth, with some of the richest people in the world, yet millions living in poverty.
Resources/ trade 	The top exports of Mexico are motor vehicles, oils, electronics, manufactured goods, silver, plastics, fruit, vegetables and coffee. Most of Mexico's goods are sold to the United States of America.

Physical Geography

Mexico has mountains in the eastern and northern parts of the country, rainforests in the southern and eastern parts and deserts in the west. Most of the bigger cities are located in the southern parts of the country. The climate varies from tropical climate to desert climate. Mexico is situated on the 'Ring of Fire', the world's most prominent volcano and earthquake region. The highest peak in Mexico is a volcano and it is the third largest in Northern America.



Culture

Festivals and celebrations: Mexican people celebrate many different festivals and special days across the year. They may involve music, food, dancing and special clothes. Famous festivals include **Dia de la Independencia** (Independence Day) and **Dia de los Muertos** (Day of the Dead).

Food: Food plays an important part in Mexican culture. Many Mexican foods can be traced back thousands of years to the Aztecs or Maya and some contain flavours from other countries, including Spain.

Music: Music and dance are essential to the culture of Mexico. Each region of Mexico has traditional dances and feature colourful costumes.

Key Vocabulary

Equator	The Equator is an imaginary line that lies halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole.
Northern Hemisphere	The Northern Hemisphere is the section of the Earth that is north of the Equator.
Southern Hemisphere	The Southern Hemisphere is the section of the Earth that is south of the Equator.
Tropic of Cancer	The Tropic of Cancer is an imaginary latitude line located north of the Equator.
Tropic of Capricorn	The Tropic of Capricorn is an imaginary latitude line located south of the Equator.
lines of latitude	Lines of latitude (also called parallels) circle Earth parallel to the Equator. It runs east-west all the way around Earth. Lines of latitude describe positions north and south of the Equator.
lines of longitude	Lines of longitude run between the North Pole and the South Pole. These lines are also called meridians. Lines of longitude describe positions east and west of the prime meridian.
Prime meridian	The north-south line that marks 0° longitude passes through Greenwich, England. This is called the Greenwich, or prime, meridian.
biome	A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. Major biomes include tundra , forests, grasslands, and deserts.
Six-figure grid references	Six figure grid references are more precise than a four figure grid reference. They are used to locate smaller locations.
climate	Climate is a pattern of weather that occurs over a long time such as years and centuries.
population	Population is the number of people living in a certain place. A village, city, state, province, country, and continent all have a population.
settlement	Settlements are places where people live. We give them different names depending on their size, from cities to hamlets.
trade	Trade is the buying and selling of goods and services. Goods are objects that people grow or make—for example, food, clothes, and computers. Services are things that people do—for example, banking, communications, and health care.
tourism	Tourism is the business of encouraging and supporting tourists.
economy	How a country or place is doing in making goods, and how much money it has.

