Mexico: Facts for Kids

Learn some interesting information about Mexico while enjoying a range of fun facts and trivia. You will read about the highest mountain in Mexico, its national symbol, population, tourism, language, cuisine, sporting culture and much more.

- The official name of for Mexico is the United Mexican States.
- Mexico is the 11th most populated country in the world with around 130 million people.
- Mariachi bands are the popular musicians who play folk music. They mainly use string instruments, but also trumpets are sometimes played. The groups are often invited to play at birthday parties, weddings and other family celebrations.
- Mexico is the 14th largest country by land area.
- Mexico is one of the most bio-diverse countries on earth. The country has the most reptile species in the world housing over 700 reptile species and also has the second most (over 430) mammal species in the world. In Mexico, there are jaguars, pumas and huge iguanas. Whales, manta rays and manatees are common in the oceans and can sometimes be spotted of the Yucatan coast. In the jungles of southern Mexico, one can encounter various types of lizards, monkeys and colorful birds, such as parrots.
- There are 31 states in Mexico as well as the capital city of Mexico City.
- Mexico is home to over 30 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and is a popular tourist destination. Here are a few destinations:
  - Chitzen Itza: built by the Maya people is a World Heritage Site and visited by more than one million people every year.
  - Acapulco: The bay on the Pacific Ocean is home to Mexico’s most popular beach city with golden sandy beaches, lots of holiday resorts and known by families for its magnificent water sports park. Mexico’s busiest port is quite a sight too.
  - Mexico City: the capital city is built on the site of the former Aztec capital Tenochtitlan. Make sure to also visit the ruins of the ancient Aztec pyramids at nearby Teotihuacan.
  - Oaxaca: Visit the archaeological site of the Monte Alban ruins, shop at the city’s colorful market or see the rock formations and bubbling waters at Hierve el Agua.
- Stone tools have been found in Mexico that suggest the existence of humans there around 23,000 years ago.
- History: Mexico was conquered and colonized by the Spanish from the 16th century.
- The highest mountain in Mexico is Pico de Orizaba, a dormant volcano that reaches 18,491 feet above sea level.
- Mexico is situated on the ‘Ring of Fire’, the world’s most prominent volcano and earthquake region. However, the volcanos on Mexico’s Baja California, a popular tourist destination, are mostly dormant.
- The national symbol of Mexico is the golden eagle which features prominently on the coat of arms.
- The Mexican flag shows three bands in green, white and red. The emblem on the white ground shows an eagle standing on a cactus with a snake in the beak. What do the colors in the flag
stand for? The colors of the Mexican flag stand for independence, unity and religion. The legend describes, that the Aztec settled and built their capital city which they named Tenochtitlan, which is today Mexico City, on the place where they saw an eagle sitting on a cactus, eating a snake.

- The main language spoken in Mexico is Spanish.
- Mexican food is known for its range of flavors and spices. Popular dishes include tacos, burritos and enchiladas. Chocolate and chilies originally come from Mexico. One dish many of you will know is chili con carne, a spicy mincemeat dish with beans. The main staple food in Mexico is corn and rice, fruits and vegetables, chicken, pork, beef, lamb and along the coastal regions also seafood. Chile peppers are usually among the main ingredients in many Mexican dishes.
- Did you know? Hot chocolate was considered the sacred drink by the Aztecs!
- The most popular sport in Mexico is soccer, called football in Mexico.
- Mexico hosted the Football World Cup in both 1970 and 1986.
- Mexico City hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1968.