Mexico

Location

Mexico is located on the continent of North America. It's absolute coordinates are 23° N, 102° W. The Pacific Ocean lies on the country's western coast. To the east lie the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Mexico is bordered to the north by the United States. Belize and Guatemala border Mexico on the southeast.

Place

Landscape & Climate - Mexico has various regions with different temperatures and rainfall. The northern desert region is typically dry and hot. In the southeast there are humid, tropical jungles. Rain typically falls in the summer. The country's capital, Mexico City, is located on a central plateau bordered by two mountain ranges: the Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental. Two thirds of the country is covered by mountainous regions, including volcanoes.
Population - Mexico's population is 123,166,749. The majority of the people live in urban areas. The capital, Mexico City, is one of the largest cities in the world.
Language - Throughout Mexico, Spanish and indigenous languages like Nahuatl and Mayan are spoken.
Religion - 83% of Mexicans are Roman Catholic.

Region

Mexico is often considered a part of Central America, with countries like Guatemala, Belize and Honduras. Mexico is also a part of Latin America, a region defined by Spanish language and heritage.

Movement

Most of Mexico was originally settled by indigenous tribes like the Maya, Aztec and Olmecs. After 1500, Europeans migrated to Mexico. Spanish settlers integrated with indigenous populations and created the mestizo ("mixed") race. Today there is frequent immigration between Mexico and the United States. One pull factor for many Mexicans is the availability of higher paying jobs in the U.S. Because of these, many Mexicans migrate north for employment. One pull factor for U.S. companies to build factories throughout Mexico is the cheap cost of operating and reduced environmental restrictions. Northern border cities like Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana and Nogales are visited by American tourists.

Human-Environment Interaction

Mexico faces many environmental issues like hazardous waste treatment and a lack of drinkable water in major cities. Large cities, like Mexico City, battle massive air pollution. Deforestation in the rainforest region is an ongoing problem.