



Mexico

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The background is a collage of three images. The top left shows a mountain range under a blue sky with white clouds. The top right shows a colorful parrot (macaw) flying through a dense green forest. The bottom half shows a vast, green valley with a winding road and a large, brown, rocky structure in the foreground.

# Where is your country?

- Mexico is home to The Sierra Madre Oriental which is sometimes considered an extension of the Rocky Mountains. The mountains are formed of limestone and shales.
- Another cool place to visit would be Mesa Del Norte is mostly land broken up by Plateaus and depressions.
- Mexicos highest peak is a volcano called 'Pico de Orizaba' or 'Volcan Citlaltepētli' (sorry if I spelled that wrong) and it's 5,636 meters high.
  - Over 120 species of cacti grow in Mexico, the most common being The Nopal cactus.
- Mexico consists of many different pieces of geography such as things like Deserts, Plateaus, and Mountains to even rivers and rainforests.



# What are some interesting facts about its history?

- A very famous piece of architecture is the Chichen Itza. It is very famous because the Mayans built it themselves before they all disappeared.
- The Spanish arrived in Mexico in the early 1500s. The Aztecs (the people who were living there at the time) got sick from smallpox that the Spanish brought with them.
- Many ancient societies of Mexico are very well known for their works of art like pyramids, temples, cities, etc.
- Many people believe that May 5<sup>th</sup> is just the day of Cinco de Mayo but in reality that's not all it is. That is also the day that in 1892 the Mexican army defeated the French, so they made it on May 5<sup>th</sup> to honor the Mexican Army.
- Under the leadership of Hernan Cortés, between 1519 and 1521 the Spanish conquered the Aztec Empire.





# What are some interesting facts about its culture?

- Sports are taken very seriously. In ancient times if you lost a ritual ball game you were killed.
- “People of the Sun” is what the Aztecs called themselves. They thought they needed to perform rituals for the sun to rise everyday. They also made sacrifices to give the sun strength.
- Every month the Inca would have a religious festival. Sometimes part of the ceremony would include human sacrifices.
- The Hero twins were popular figures in Mayan Mythology. The Hero twins would fight lords of the underworld as well as demons.
- The calendar and the stars had a lot to do with Mayan culture and religion. There were days considered lucky and unlucky. The position of the stars was part of the calendar.







# What do you like best about this country?

- Mexico's animals and insects are incredible. Mexico is home to over 700 reptile species, over 430 species of mammals, and so much more.
- Mexico has many well-known artists. One of them is Diego Rivera, he is considered the greatest Mexican painter of the twentieth century.
- The hardest working country is Mexico. An average civilian averages about 43.2 hours of work a week.
- In Mexico City there's a monument called "El Angel". This monument symbolizes independence for the Mexican people and victory.
- One famous tradition is Bullfighting. Bullfighting is a 500-year-old Mexican sport.

How does Fishers Junior High benefit from having families from this country as a part of our school and community?

Mexican families bring so much opportunity to FJH. Mexican families can show us more about their culture as we can to them as well. If everyone was the same Fishers and FJH would be very different and boring. That's why we are so lucky to have this diverse community and school. If we didn't have any Mexican families at our school there probably wouldn't be any Spanish classes because no one would want to learn Spanish. Think about it, If no Spanish speaking people went to your school who would you speak Spanish too. In conclusion, I believe we are a better, more diverse community with Mexican students and families!



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