

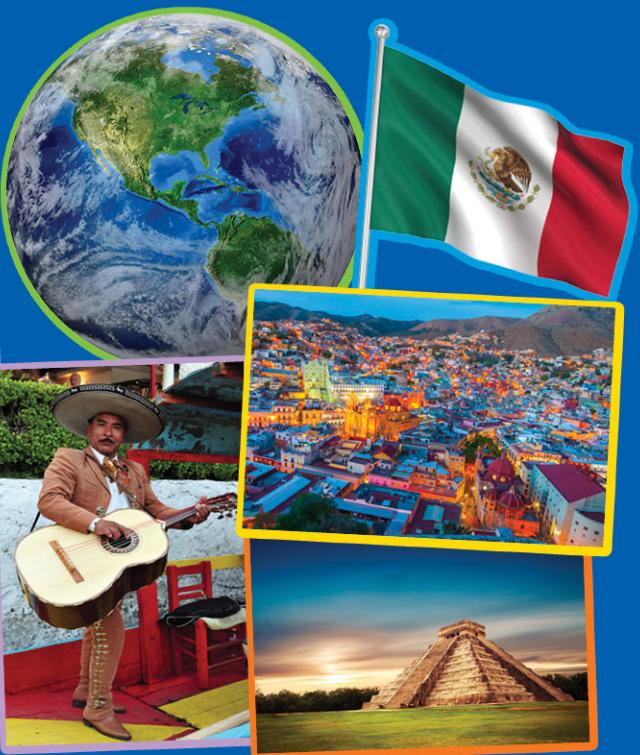
# MEXICO

## WHERE IS MEXICO?

Mexico is located on the North American continent and shares borders with the USA in the north and Belize and Guatemala in the south. The border between Mexico and the USA is the second longest border in the world and is about 3,155km long. In Mexico there are beaches, mountains, deserts, volcanos, and forests. It is usually hot and humid on Mexico's coasts.

## MEXICAN PEOPLE

Most people in Mexico speak Spanish. Mexico is the country with the most Spanish speakers in the world. More people speak Spanish here than in Spain, because many more people live in Mexico and the country is also more than three times bigger. Mariachi 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.



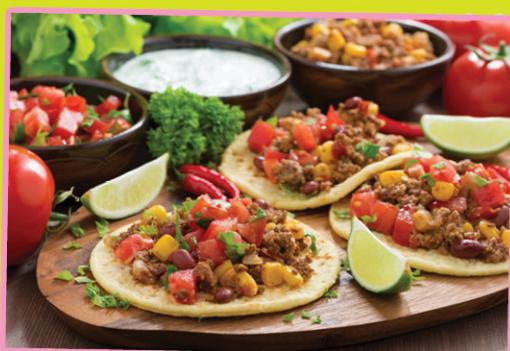
## DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL.

The Day of the Dead—also known as *Dia de los Muertos*—is a special holiday celebrated at the beginning of November. This tradition that originated in Mexico is a time when families come together to celebrate and remember their ancestors and their loved ones who have passed away. It is Mexico's most colourful, and most famous celebration. Many Mexican communities celebrate the festival with traditional Aztec dances, Mexican music and crafts.

One of the most iconic and colourful items you will see during the Day of the Dead festivities is the sugar skull. These skulls, are made of sugar and are decorated with icing to be fun and colourful, and taste like lollies. Some even have feathers, glitter, hats.

## MEXICAN ANIMALS

In Mexico, there are jaguars, pumas and huge iguanas. Whales, manta rays and manatees are common in the oceans and can sometimes be spotted off the Yucatan coast. In the jungles of southern Mexico, one can encounter various types of lizards, monkeys and colorful birds, such as parrots.



## WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Mexican food is known for its range of flavors and spices. Popular dishes include tacos, burritos and enchiladas.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT MEXICO:

Mexico City sinks up to 25cm each year as it was built on an ancient lake

50 percent of the population is under the age of 28.

Mexico has over 125 million people living in an area not much larger than Queensland.