

Geography Key Knowledge

- Mexico is located in the south of the continent of North America.
- It has a diverse landscape that includes mountains, rivers, rainforests and deserts. This means that its climate is also very varied and there are a wide range of plants and animals found there, including many types of cacti and over 700 species of reptile.
- The capital city is called Mexico City and it is home to nearly nine million people. It is a vibrant, diverse city with a rich cultural heritage.



A map of Mexico

The Mexican flag



A typical Mexican desert

Vocabulary

Mexico	climate
Mexico City	culture
desert	landscape
mountain	diverse
rainforest	culture
river	region
tourism	
gulf	
borders	

History: Key Knowledge

- The Maya were a group of indigenous people who lived in Mexico and other parts of Central America over 3000 years ago.
- The Maya were experts in farming, pottery, writing and maths.
- Around 900 AD, the Maya civilisation began to decline; people moved into small villages rather than staying in the great cities they had built.
- The Maya had their own calendar system that was based on their understanding of maths and astronomy.
- The Maya played a popular ball game called *ulama*.

El Castillo is a Mayan temple in Chichen Itza



One of Frederick Catherwood's drawings



It is believed that the Maya invented chocolate

Vocabulary

Maya	settlement
civilisation	<i>ulama</i>
heritage	<i>pok-ta-pok</i>
indigenous	cacao
Chichen Itza	pyramid
El Castillo	
deity	
glyphs	
temple	

Design and Technology: Key Knowledge

- ♦ Mexican people celebrate many different festivals and special days across the year. They are a central part of Mexican culture and many involve music, dancing, special clothes, food and drink.
- ♦ Two popular festivals include:
 - Dia de la Independencia (Independence Day) celebrates the start of the fight for Mexico's independence from Spain in 1810.
 - Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is celebrated during the first two days of November. It is a positive celebration to



Lots of fruits grow in Mexico due to its tropical climate.

Vocabulary

cooking	seasonality
nutrition	availability
healthy	instructions
ingredients	consumer
recipe	dietary needs
hygienic	
measurements	

Art and Design Key Knowledge

- ♦ Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by the nature and artefacts of Mexico.
- ♦ Skeletons are a constant emblem during Day of the Dead. The skull toys and images are called calacas and are used to introduce children to the idea of death without scaring them.



A self-portrait by Frida Kahlo (1940)

Day of the Dead artwork



Vocabulary

portrait	bold
pattern	subtle
line	dramatic
shape	vibrant
layering	expression



Scan this to find out more about the Maya Civilisation.