

## North America

### Things You Should Know about Mexico

1. Mexico is a country in North America. It is located south of the United States.
2. The full name of Mexico is Estados Unidos Mexicanos. This means the United States of Mexico.
3. Mexico has a political system similar to that of the United States.
4. Mexico has many mountains. This makes travel around Mexico difficult.
5. Mexico is about three times as big as the State of Texas.
6. The people of Mexico are a blend of Native American and Spanish.
7. Most Mexicans speak Spanish.
8. More than ninety percent of Mexicans are Catholic.
9. The Rio Grande River forms most of the border between the United States and Mexico.
10. The **population**<sup>1</sup> of Mexico is growing very fast.
11. Mexico City is the capital of Mexico. It is the largest city in the world.
12. About 30% of the population lives in the Mexico City.
13. More than half of Mexico's **industry**<sup>2</sup> is located in or near Mexico City.
14. The Mexican **monetary**<sup>3</sup> unit is called a *peso*.

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<sup>1</sup> **population**: the number of people

<sup>2</sup> **industry**: business activity, factories, manufacture or trade

<sup>3</sup> **monetary**: relating to money, a nation's currency or coinage.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which religion would you most likely identify with if you were Mexican?
  - a. Islam
  - b. Buddhism
  - c. Catholicism
  - d. Protestantism
  
2. When you pay for your lunch in a restaurant in Mexico, what is the name of the money you use?
  - a. Pesos
  - b. Dineros
  - c. Dollars
  - d. Meal Vouchers
  
3. What does it mean to “form a border” like the Rio Grande does?
  - a. To create a wall around a country.
  - b. To build a hotel for Americans to stay in when they visit.
  - c. To use river water for growing crops when you farm.
  - d. To be the line that separates two different places.
  
4. Why would most of the industry in Mexico be near the biggest city rather than out in the countryside?
  - a. Industry means factories, and they don’t take up much room.
  - b. Industries need lots of people to work in them, and cities are where you find lots of people.
  - c. The government wants most of the pollution to be near where most of the people live.
  - d. The countryside is too beautiful to spoil with factories, so they aren’t allowed out in the country.
  
5. The passage is mostly about
  - a. Things you should be able to say in Spanish
  - b. A test given about Mexico
  - c. Important facts about Mexico
  - d. A test given in Mexico

6. Why do you think the author chose to present this information in a list?

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7. Why would the fact that Mexico has many mountains make it difficult to travel around the country?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Mexico has a lot of Catholic people \_\_\_\_\_ to the United States.

- a. better
- b. compared
- c. despite
- d. above

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Thirty percent of Mexicans live in Mexico City because that's where a lot of the jobs are.

Who? thirty percent of Mexicans

(do) What? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** industry: business activities, factories, manufacture, or trade.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Guide and Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 560

**Featured Text Structure:** Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution.

**Passage Summary:** This piece is a list of things that people should know about Mexico.

1. Which religion would you most likely identify with if you were Mexican?
  - a. Islam
  - b. Buddhism
  - c. Catholicism**
  - d. Protestantism
  
2. When you pay for your lunch in a restaurant in Mexico, what is the name of the money you use?
  - a. Pesos**
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4. Why would most of the industry in Mexico be near the biggest city rather than out in the countryside?
  - a. Industry means factories, and they don’t take up much room.
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5. The passage is mostly about
  - a. Things you should be able to say in Spanish
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  - d. A test given in Mexico

6. Why do you think the author chose to present this information in a list?

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but could suggest that the author used a list because it would help the reader focus on each separate piece of information about Mexico. A list can be an easier format to understand than a paragraph because the facts are separated.

7. Why would the fact that Mexico has many mountains make it difficult to travel around the country?

**Suggested answer:** The fact that Mexico has many mountains might make it difficult to travel around the country because it takes a long time to drive up and down mountains, and it's even hard to build roads that let you do so.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Mexico has a lot of Catholic people \_\_\_\_\_ to the United States.

- a. better
- b. compared**
- c. despite
- d. above

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

30% of Mexicans live in Mexico City because that's where a lot of the jobs are.

Who? 30% of Mexicans

(do) What? **live in Mexico City**

Why? **because that's where a lot of the jobs are**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** industry: business activities, factories, manufacture, or trade.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.