World Studies

October 29-November 2

Monday- Chapter 6 vocabulary

Tuesday- Finish vocabulary/ Interactive “Mexico” activity

Wednesday- Chapter 6 Guided Workbooks in class

Thursday- “The Road to El Dorado” movie

Friday- Finish movie
Main Ideas
1. Mexico’s physical features include plateaus, mountains, and coastal lowlands.
2. Mexico’s climate and vegetation include deserts, tropical forests, and cool highlands.
3. Key natural resources in Mexico include oil, silver, gold, and scenic landscapes.

Key Terms and Places
- **Río Bravo** (Rio Grande): forms part of Mexico’s border with the U.S.
- **Peninsula**: piece of land surrounded on three sides by water
- **Baja California**: peninsula stretching from northern Mexico into the Pacific Ocean
- **Gulf of Mexico**: body of water that forms Mexico’s eastern border
- **Yucatán Peninsula**: land separating the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean Sea
- **Sierra Madre**: “mother range” made up of three mountain ranges in Mexico

Section Summary
Physical Features
Mexico shares a long border with the United States. Part of this border is formed by a river called the Río Bravo, known as the Rio Grande in the United States. Mexico’s western border is the Pacific Ocean, where a long peninsula called Baja California stretches south from northern Mexico. In the east, the Yucatán Peninsula separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean Sea.

The interior of Mexico is mostly the high, rugged Mexican Plateau, which rises in the west to the Sierra Madre Occidental. In the east it meets the Sierra Madre Oriental. Sierra Madre means “mother range.” The country’s capital, Mexico City, lies at the southern end of the plateau in the Valley of Mexico. The city has earthquakes, and to the south there are active volcanoes.
From the central highlands, the land slopes down to Mexico’s sunny beaches. In the east the Gulf coastal plain is wide, and there are many farms. The Yucatán Peninsula is mostly flat. The limestone rock there has eroded to form caves and steep depressions called sinkholes, many of which are filled with water.

**CLIMATE AND VEGETATION**

Mexico has many climates with different types of vegetation. The mountains and plateaus are cool, and freezing temperatures can reach all the way to Mexico City. The mountain valleys are mild, and the southern coast is also pleasant. Summer rains support tropical rain forests, where animals such as jaguars, monkeys, and anteaters live. The Yucatán Peninsula is hot and dry, supporting only scrub forests. The north is also dry, much of it covered by the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Oil is an important resource. Mexico sells a lot of oil to the United States. Before oil was discovered, minerals were the most valuable resource. Today Mexico mines more silver than any other country. Copper, lead, gold, and zinc are also mined.

Another important resource is water. Unfortunately, this resource is scarce in parts of Mexico, especially the north. However, the water surrounding Mexico draws many tourists to the country’s scenic beaches.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Making Predictions** Write a paragraph making a prediction about which of Mexico’s resources will be most important in Mexico’s future. Support your prediction with information you learned in the section.
DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write T if a statement is true and F if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the term that would make the statement correct on the line after each sentence.

1. In the Yucatán Peninsula, erosion of limestone rock has created many caves and **sinkholes**.

2. The climate in southern Mexico is mostly warm and humid, or humid **peninsula**.

3. Baja California is a narrow plateau that stretches into the Pacific Ocean.

4. Petroleum is one of Mexico’s most important natural resources.

5. The **Gulf of Mexico** is Mexico’s eastern border.

DIRECTIONS Write three words or phrases that describe the term.

6. peninsula ________________________________________________________

7. Río Bravo ________________________________________________________

8. plateau __________________________________________________________

9. Sierra Madre _____________________________________________________

10. Yucatán Peninsula _______________________________________________
Section 2

MAIN IDEAS
1. Early cultures of Mexico included the Olmec, the Maya, and the Aztec.
2. Mexico’s period as a Spanish colony and its struggles since independence have shaped its culture.
3. Spanish and native cultures have influenced Mexico’s customs and traditions today.

Key Terms and Places

empire  a land with different territories and peoples under a single ruler
mestizos  the Spanish name for people of mixed European and Indian ancestry
missions  church outposts
haciendas  huge expanses of farm or ranch land

Section Summary

EARLY CULTURES
People grew corn, beans, and squash in Mexico as early as 5,000 years ago. About 1500 BC the Olmec settled on the southern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. They built temples and statues. About AD 250 the Maya built cities in Mexico and Central America. They were astronomers and left written records. Maya civilization collapsed after AD 900.

Later, the Aztecs moved into central Mexico. In 1325 they founded their capital, Tenochtitlán. They built an empire through conquest of other tribes.

COLONIAL MEXICO AND INDEPENDENCE
In 1519 a Spanish soldier, Hernán Cortés, arrived in Mexico with guns, horses, and about 600 soldiers. The Spanish also brought diseases, which hurt the Aztecs. This helped Cortés defeat the Aztecs in 1521. He called the land New Spain.

Many people in New Spain were of mixed European and Indian ancestry and were called mestizos. The Catholic Church was important in the
colony. Priests tried to convert the Indians, traveling far north to build missions.

Spain was eager to mine gold and silver in Mexico. The native people and enslaved Africans did most of the mining. They also worked the huge farms and ranches, called haciendas, that were owned by people of Spanish ancestry.

Mexico gained independence in 1821. Miguel Hidalgo started the revolt by asking for equality in 1810. Later, Texas broke away from Mexico and joined the United States. The two countries fought over its border in the Mexican War. Mexico lost the war and almost half its territory.

In the mid-1800s, the popular president Benito Juárez made many reforms. But in the early 1900s the government helped the hacienda owners take land from the peasants. People were angry and started the Mexican Revolution in 1910. In 1920 a new government took land from the large landowners and gave it back to the peasants.

CULTURE
In Mexico language is tied to ethnic groups. Speaking an American Indian language identifies a person as Indian. Mexicans have combined Indian religious practices with Catholic practices. One example is a holiday called Day of the Dead. On this day, Mexicans follow native traditions for remembering ancestors. The holiday is celebrated on November 1 and 2—the same dates as similar Catholic holidays.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Sequencing  Make a time line with important dates and events in Mexican history.

Who owned the haciendas?
_______________________

What did the government do that made people angry?
_______________________
_______________________

Underline the Indian aspects of the Day of the Dead
Section 2, continued

ancestors  chinampas  conquistadors  empire
haciendas  mestizos  missions  revolt

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and circle the word in the word pair that best completes each sentence.

1. The Aztecs grew corn, beans, and peppers on raised fields called (ancestors/chinampas).

2. In 1521 Hernán Cortés and his (conquistadors/mestizos) conquered the Aztecs.

3. During colonial times, Catholic priests at (haciendas/missions) taught the Indians Spanish and learned their language.

4. To seek independence from Spain, Miguel Hidalgo began a/an (revolt/empire) in 1810.

DIRECTIONS Look at each set of four vocabulary terms. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

_____  5. a. haciendas
       b. ranches
       c. peasants
       d. smog

_____  6. a. Olmec
       b. revolt
       c. independence
       d. equality

DIRECTIONS Choose five of the words from the word bank. On a separate sheet of paper, use these words to write a summary of what you have learned in the section.
Section 3

### Main Ideas
1. Government has traditionally played a large role in Mexico's economy.
2. Mexico has four distinct culture regions.

### Key Terms and Places
- **inflation**: a rise in prices that occurs when currency loses its buying power
- **slash-and-burn agriculture**: the practice of burning forest to clear land for planting
- **cash crop**: a crop that farmers grow mainly to sell for a profit
- **Mexico City**: the world's second-largest city and Mexico's capital
- **smog**: a mixture of smoke, chemicals, and fog
- **maquiladoras**: U.S.- and foreign-owned factories in Mexico

### Section Summary
#### Government and Economy
Although Mexico is a democracy, one political party ran the government for 71 years. This ended in 2000 when Vicente Fox was elected president. Like other developing countries, Mexico has foreign debts, unemployment, and inflation. Due to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexico now sells more products to its neighbors. Trucks bring cash crops like fruits and vegetables to the United States. Some farmers who don’t own much land and only grow enough to feed their families use slash-and-burn agriculture.

Mexicans work in oil fields and in factories. Many Mexicans also come to the U.S. looking for work. Tourists visit Mexico to enjoy its attractions.

#### Mexico’s Culture Regions
Mexico has four culture regions that differ from one another in population, resources, and climate.

The Greater Mexico City region includes the capital and about 50 nearby cities. More than 19 million people make Mexico City the world’s...
second-largest city. Many people move there to look for work, and air pollution has become a problem. The mountains trap the *smog*—a mixture of smoke, chemicals, and fog. Poverty is also a problem.

Many cities in Mexico’s central region were colonial mining or ranching centers. Mexico’s colonial heritage can be seen today in the churches and public squares of this region. Family farmers grow vegetables and corn in the fertile valleys. In recent years, cities such as Guadalajara have attracted new industries from Mexico City.

Trade with the United States has helped northern region cities like Monterrey and Tijuana grow. Foreign-owned factories, called *maquiladoras*, have been built in this region. Many Mexicans cross the border to shop, work, or live in the United States. Some cross the border legally. The U.S. government tries to prevent illegal immigration.

Many people in the southern Mexico region speak Indian languages and follow traditional customs. Sugarcane and coffee, two major export crops, grow well in the humid southern climate. Oil production in the region has brought population growth to southern Mexico. Maya ruins, sunny beaches, and clear blue waters make tourism a major industry in the Yucatán Peninsula. Many of today’s cities were tiny villages just 20 years ago.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Compare and Contrast** Make a four-columned chart—one column for each cultural region in Mexico. Make three rows and write information for each region about History, Population and Economy, and Geography and Natural Resources. When you are done, circle things that are similar among the regions.
DIRECTIONS  Answer each question by writing a sentence that contains at least one term from the word bank.

1. Why is Mexico called a developing country?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

2. Why is northern Mexico’s economy growing today?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

3. What problems exist in Mexico City today?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

4. How do many farmers in southern Mexico earn a living?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

DIRECTIONS  Look up the terms smog, cash crop, and inflation in a dictionary. On a separate sheet of paper, write the dictionary definition of the term that is closest to the definition used in your textbook.