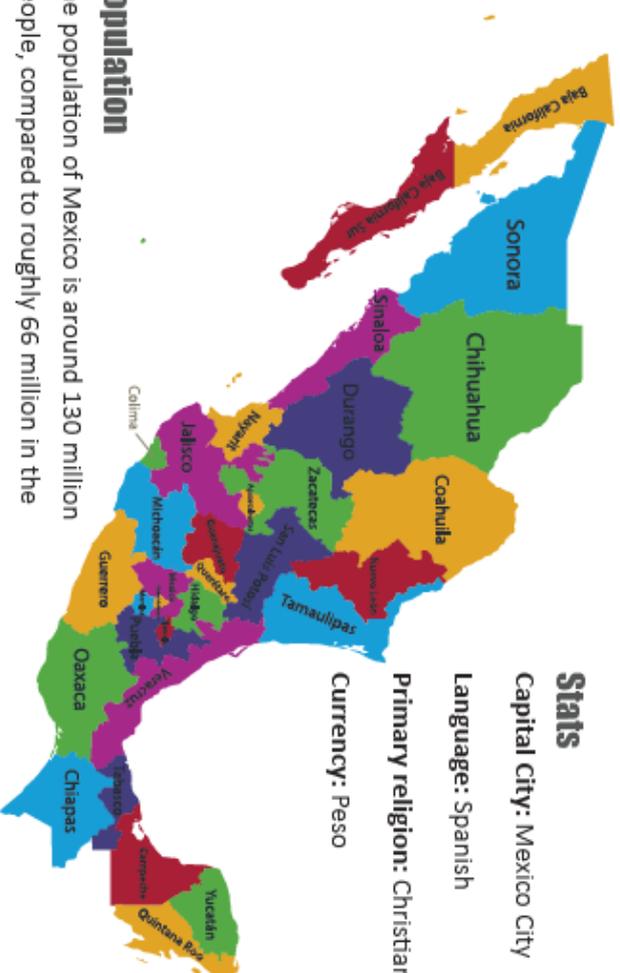


Mexico is a country in the south of the North American continent. The country is broken up into states. Even though it is very close to the equator, all of Mexico is in the northern hemisphere, but it does have a tropical climate. This means that there is a rainy and a dry season, but the temperature doesn't fluctuate much over the year. It is also very humid.



Stats

Capital City: Mexico City

Language: Spanish

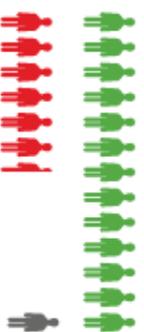
Primary religion: Christian (90% are Roman Catholic)

Currency: Peso

Population

The population of Mexico is around 130 million people, compared to roughly 66 million in the UK.

The capital, Mexico City, has a population of roughly 9 million. That's the same as London.



Borders

To the north, Mexico borders with the United States of America. In the south, it shares borders with Belize and Guatemala. The border with the USA is the second longest border in the world: it is roughly 2,000 miles long.



The Mexican flag has changed several times in the past few hundred years. The meaning of the colours has also changed. In the modern version, the red represents the blood of the heroes who died for Mexican independence. The white stands for unity and the green is for hope. The emblem (officially the Coat of Arms of Mexico) shows an eagle on a cactus, holding a snake. This is in reference to an ancient Aztec myth.

Geography

In the northern and eastern parts of Mexico, it is largely drier and mainly mountainous. The southern and south-eastern parts of the country are more tropical and covered in rainforest. In the west, Mexico is largely desert. Most of the biggest cities are located in the south. Because of where Mexico lies, there are four different time zones across the country!

Mexico is situated on the largest volcano and earthquake region in the world: the Ring of Fire. However, most of Mexico's volcanoes are dormant.

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Which part of Mexico is mostly desert?
2. What is special about Mexico's border with the USA?
3. Which country has the largest population, Mexico or the United Kingdom?
4. In which hemisphere is Mexico?
5. What is the official name for the emblem on the flag?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

Explain why the Mexican flag has the three separate colours.

V

What does the phrase "tropical climate" tell you about Mexico?

V

Find a word that means closest to "positioned or placed".

I

Why do you think most big cities were developed in the south of the country?

V

What does the word "fluctuate" mean?