



# VIVA MEXICO!

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

YEAR 6—SUMMER 1



Word	Definition
civilisation	A well-organised and developed society.
climate	The weather in a particular place over a period of time.
culture	The lifestyle of a group of people or a society.
diverse	Very varied or different.
equinox	A time when the length of the day and night are the same.
festival	A celebration or special event held to mark a special occasion.
heritage	Traditions, languages or buildings from the past that are important to a particular society.
indigenous	People, plants or animals that originated in a place.
landscape	A large area of land.
patron saint	A holy person who is specially chosen as a protector over a person, place, object or activity.
region	A geographical area with its own unique features or characteristics.
tradition	An activity, custom or belief that people have continued to follow for a long time.



### KEY FACTS:

Capital City:  
Mexico City  
Currency:  
Mexican Peso  
National Language:  
Spanish  
Population:  
Estimated 126 million people  
It is the world's 13th largest country by area.

Mexico is a country situated in Central America, between the USA and Guatemala and Belize, on the continent of North America. It is surrounded by bodies of water: The Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of California and the Pacific ocean. It has a diverse landscape that includes mountains, 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.



**Chichen Itza** is a famous pyramid, built by the ancient Maya civilisation. It is known as one of the seven wonders of the world.

### MAYA TIMELINE

3114 BC	1000 BC	750 BC	600 BC	300 BC	100 BC	250 AD	900 AD	1200	1400	1500
The Maya calendar begins	Maya settlements develop	Large stone structures are built in Maya cities	The Maya create a settlement at Tikal that becomes a major city.	The Maya begin to use a monarchy government and develop 'glyphs'.	The largest known ancient city in the Americas, Teotihuacan is founded.	The Maya become one of the most significant civilisations, dominating Central America.	The Maya civilisation begins to mysteriously decline. People begin to live in smaller villages and abandon the great Maya cities.	The Maya abandon their northern cities.	The surviving Maya suffer a period of warfare, natural disasters and disease.	Spanish explorers take land and wealth from the remaining Maya.

## Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo (6 July 1907 – 13 July 1954), was a Mexican painter. She was known for her surreal and very personal works. She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico. After a disabling accident, she no longer continued her medical studies but took up painting. Fifty-five of her 143 paintings are of herself. She was also influenced by native Mexican culture, shown in bright colours, with a mixture of realism and symbolism. Her paintings attracted the attention of the artist Diego Rivera, whom she later married.



A self-portrait

## Festivals & celebrations

Mexican people celebrate many different festivals on special days across the year. They are a central part of Mexican culture and may involve music, food dancing and special dishes.

### Dia de la Independencia (Independence Day)

This festival celebrates the start of Mexico's fight for independence from Spain in 1810. On 15th September, the President of Mexico rings a bell in the National Palace in Mexico City then shouts, 'Viva Mexico!' from the balcony. The Mexican flag is waved and people sing the national anthem. The following day, banks, schools, offices and many businesses close and there are parties and parades for everyone to enjoy.

## Maya Stelae



## Mexican food



## Mexican music



### Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

This festival takes place during the first two days of November. It is a positive celebration to remember loved ones who have died. Families set up brightly decorated altars with photographs of the deceased. Relatives place their loved ones' favourite foods on altars and skeleton costumes and skull decorations are popular.



### Fiesta de Santa Cecilia (Festival of Saint Cecilia)

Mexicans celebrate Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians, on 22nd November. Musicians take part in open-air concerts and people celebrate with food and drink. Over 500 musicians perform a song called Las Mananitas that is dedicated to Saint Cecilia.