

Aventura cultural 14/México



I. Información útil

México es un país con una envidiable riqueza cultural. Ha sabido sentar las bases de su identidad en su grandioso pasado histórico y proyectarse hacia un futuro prometedor para sus más de cien millones de habitantes.



II. Productos de la cultura

1. **Ubicación:** México está en Norteamérica y tiene frontera con Estados Unidos, Belice y Guatemala, además de costas sobre el océano Pacífico y el golfo de México.
2. **Capital:** Ciudad de México y la zona metropolitana del valle de México suman una población de 21 000 000 de personas.
3. **Otras ciudades importantes:** Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, Mérida, Oaxaca
4. **Grupos étnicos:** 60 % mestizos, 30 % indígenas, 9 % blancos y 1 % otros
5. **Geografía/Área y población:** 1 964 375 km² y 119 530 753 habitantes
6. **Forma de gobierno:** república federal
7. **Moneda:** el peso mexicano
8. **Sitios de interés:** Chichén Itzá, la zona arqueológica de Tulum, el Malecón de Puerto Vallarta, la zona arqueológica de Coba en Quintana Roo, Uxmal, Teotihuacán
9. **Comidas:** las enchiladas, el mole poblano, los tacos al pastor, los tamales, el guacamole, las gorditas, el pozole, las quesadillas, los burritos, las carnitas, los chilaquiles, las tortas, las tostadas, los nachos, la sopa de tortilla, las ahogadas
10. **Bebidas:** rompopo, atole, pozol, agua de horchata, café
11. **Modismos:** mi detalle: mi novio/a; ¡me vale madre!: ¡no me importa!; ¡híjole! : wow!; güey: chico/amigo; pachangón: fiesta grande; chamaco/a: niño/a y pequeño/a; lana: dinero; ¡no manches!: ¡increíble!
12. **Costumbres:** Los mexicanos tratan de encontrar una solución a cualquier problema en la vida diaria, sin contratar servicios de plomeros, carpinteros, albañiles, mecánicos y jardineros.
13. **Figuras históricas:** Emiliano Zapata, Benito Juárez, Francisco Villa, Cuauhtémoc, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, Porfirio Díaz, Agustín de Iturbide, sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Moctezuma, Ignacio José de Allende

Panorama cultural



14. **Artistas famosos:** Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Octavio Paz, Carlos Santana, Juan Gabriel, Thalía, Vicente Fernández, Paulina Rubio, Cristian Castro, Alejandra Guzmán, Carlos Fuentes, Juan Rulfo, Rosario Castellanos, José Clemente Orozco, Luis Miguel, Alfonso Cuarón, Salma Hayek, Dolores del Río, Lupe Vélez
15. **Días festivos:** Día de Año Nuevo – 1 de enero; Día de los Reyes Magos – 6 de enero; Día de la Constitución – 5 de febrero; Natalicio de Benito Juárez – 21 de marzo; Día de la Independencia – 16 de septiembre; Día de los Muertos – 2 de noviembre; Día de Navidad – 25 de diciembre
16. **Deportes:** el fútbol, el básquetbol, el béisbol, el vóleybol, el boxeo, el ciclismo
17. **Bailes:** el jarabe tapatío, la polka nortea, la bamba, la flor de piña, la danza de los viejitos, la danza del venado, la jarana
18. **Economía:** el maíz, la soya, el arroz, el ganado vacuno, el petróleo, el gas natural, el procesamiento de alimentos, la industria automotriz, la minería, el turismo
19. **Religiones:** el catolicismo, el protestantismo, el evangelismo y el islam
20. **Idiomas:** el español, más unas 66 lenguas indígenas (náhuatl, maya, zapoteca, mixteca, etc.)
21. **Monumentos de CDMX:** el Castillo de Chapultepec, el Palacio de Bellas Artes, el Palacio Nacional, la Basílica de Santa María de Guadalupe, el Paseo de la Reforma, el Centro Histórico, la Catedral Metropolitana, el Zócalo, el Estadio Azteca, el Museo del Templo Mayor, el Museo de Antropología

III. Realia/lo auténtico

Contesta en español:

1. ¿Qué vemos en esta foto?
2. ¿Qué objetos tiene este lugar?
¿También puedes encontrarlos en tu ciudad?
3. ¿Qué está haciendo la gente que aparece en esta fotografía?
4. ¿Qué día de la semana crees que es?
5. ¿Qué tradiciones y costumbres de la cultura mexicana podemos ver en esta foto?
6. ¿Cuáles son los «**Productos de la cultura**», las «**Prácticas**» y las «**Perspectivas**»?



IV. Más sobre productos de la cultura

A. Figuras históricas y artistas famosos

1. **Frida Kahlo:** Born in 1907 in Coyoacan, Kahlo first began studying medicine, but later turned to painting for a career. Of her 143 paintings, 55 were self-portraits, which infuse various elements symbolic of pain. She also painted with bright colors and drew other indigenous characters to demonstrate pride for her Mexican heritage. She is the first Mexican artist to have ever sold a painting to the Louvre: in 1939, the museum purchased *The Frame*.
2. **Thalía:** Born in 1971, Ariadna Thalía Sodi Miranda, better known as simply “Thalía,” is well-known not just for her acting, but for her music as well. Thalía has sold over 40 million records worldwide with 28 top-10 singles, two Latin Billboard chart toppers, and several *Premios Juventud*. She is considered one of Mexico’s most famous soap opera actresses, with worldwide success and fame.
3. **Alfonso Cuarón:** Cuarón was born in Mexico City in 1961. He is a famous movie director and producer. Some of his movies include *Y tu Mamá también*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Children of Men*, and *Gravity*. He is viewed as one of the most creative film directors and producers in movie history. Today he is viewed as one of Mexico’s most well-known celebrities. Fantasy is one dominant theme in many of his movies.
4. **Octavio Paz:** Born in 1914 in Mexico City, Paz was encouraged by his grandfather to choose a creative writing career. He is Mexico’s most famous poet and essayist, writing more than 20 books. His first book of poems, *Luna silvestre*, was written in 1933. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990. His writing demonstrates overcoming solitude through love and artistic creativity.

Answer the following:

1. What themes and symbols influenced Frida Kahlo’s paintings? Which famous museum purchased one of her works?
2. Who is Thalía and what does she do? Why do people around the world love her?
3. Name two of Alfonso Cuarón’s movies. What are some of the themes of his movies?
4. Who was Octavio Paz? What award did he receive?
5. **Prácticas:** When did they live? How did they influence society? Is there a lot about these people online?
6. **Perspectivas:** Why do Mexicans admire these four people? What values do they exemplify?



B. Sitios de CDMX

1. **La Basílica de Santa María de Guadalupe:** According to tradition, in 1531 the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Catholicism. She told him, in his native Nahuatl language, to build a church at the site. A basilica was built in 1709 but, since its foundations were sinking, a larger basilica was built in 1976. Its circular floorplan allows a view of the famous image of the Virgin from any point within the church. It is one of the most visited Catholic shrines in the world.
2. **El Zócalo:** It was the main center of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlán. Today it's the main square of the city. It is one of the largest squares in the world. People gather often here for civic and cultural events and important celebrations throughout the year. It is bordered by the Cathedral and the National Palace. Tourists and locals walk this area where Mexico's past and present intersect.
3. **Chapultepec:** Also known as Chapultepec Forest, it is the largest city park in Latin America. Almost 1,700 acres, it includes a zoo, the Museum of Anthropology, the Rufino Tamayo Museum, and the former Chapultepec Castle, also known as the *Castillo de Miravalle*.

Answer the following:

1. What did the Virgin Mary ask Juan Diego to do? When was the new basilica built?
2. What is the *Zócalo*? What can you see if you visit this place?
3. What attractions can you visit in Chapultepec?
4. **Prácticas:** What can you do at these sites? How are these sites used by Mexicans? When are they used?
5. **Perspectivas:** What values and behaviors can we observe happening at these sites?

V. Situaciones: Usa la información de «Productos de la cultura». Habla en español.

1. You are in a dance class in Guadalajara, Mexico. Ask the dance instructor to tell you what the classic Mexican dances are. They give you a short demonstration of two Mexican dances. What are the **Productos de la cultura** here? What are some **Prácticas** and **Perspectivas**?
2. You want to prepare a surprise birthday party for a Mexican friend. You ask your host mother to give you some Mexican foods to prepare for the party. Ask her if she can help you. She replies to you in an appropriate manner. What are the **Productos de la cultura**, **Prácticas**, and **Perspectivas**?



VI. Proyectos/Pensemos un poco más

Proyecto 1: Monumentos de la Ciudad de México Browse information online about the Virgin of Guadalupe and prepare a PowerPoint for the class. Present it to the class. **Perspectivas:** What does it tell us about the religious beliefs of most Mexican citizens? Why did the Virgin of Guadalupe become so worshipped by Mexicans? **Prácticas:** When and where is the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe celebrated? How is it celebrated?

Proyecto 2: Bailes. Find the lyrics to the song *La Bamba*. Sing the song and do the *bamba* dance. Perform the song and record it on your smartphone. Identify the **Productos de la cultura** here. **Prácticas:** When do Mexicans usually sing and dance *La Bamba* in Veracruz? **Perspectivas:** What does this song tell us about love?

Proyecto 3: Comidas. Using Popplet (popplet.com), create a diagram containing five of the most famous Mexican recipes and the list of ingredients for each of them. Include pictures from the web. Choose your favorite one and include instructions to prepare this meal. Try to cook one recipe at home and bring it to class. **Perspectivas:** What does the list of main ingredients used in these Mexican recipes tell us about the Mexican culture and its people? Why do they like these foods?

Proyecto 4: Días festivos. Run a Google search using the Spanish words *calaca* (skull) and *colorear* (to color). Print your favorite *calaca* for the Mexican festival *el Día de los Muertos* and use crayons to color it. Share it with the class. Vote for the best one in class. Identify the **Productos de la cultura** here. **Perspectivas:** What does this festivity tell us about death as perceived by Mexicans? Values? Why?