

Mexico is a country in North America. It was once home to the Mayans, Aztecs, and other American Indians. They built great cities and pyramids that can still be seen today. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers conquered the native people. Spain ruled the country for about 300 years, until Mexico won its independence in 1821.

Today, most people in Mexico have Spanish and Indian ancestors. Some people still speak Indian languages, but Spanish is the country's official language. The money in

Mexico is called the peso (PAY-soh). The capital is Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world. About 20 million people live in and around the city. The capital city of the Aztecs was in the same location.

Mexico has a warm climate with rainy tropical areas in the south and dry deserts in the north. There are many mountains, and even a canyon that is bigger than the Grand Canyon in Arizona!

Tourism is an important part of Mexico's economy. Many people come to see the ancient pyramids.



The Mayan pyramids at Chichén Itzá (CHEE-chen EETS-uh) are a popular destination for tourists.

1. Who ruled Mexico from the 1500s to 1821?

- (A) the Aztecs
- (B) the Mayans
- (C) Spain

Circle the place where you found the answer.

3. Which of these does not border Mexico?

- (A) Gulf of Mexico
- (B) Indian Ocean
- (C) Guatemala

2. The capital of Mexico is _____.

- (A) Mexico City
- (B) Chichén Itzá
- (C) peso

Underline the sentence that supports your answer.

4. Who built the pyramids at Chichén Itzá?

- (A) the Aztecs
- (B) the Spanish
- (C) the Mayans

5. What is paragraph 3 about? How does it support the topic of the passage?
