

Chapter 10

Geography of Mexico

- Hernan Cortes
- Spanish explorer who conquered Mexico
 - Described physical features of Mexico as: Crumpled piece of paper
- Mountain ranges –
 - Sierra Madre Occidental – _____ coast
 - Sierra Madre Oriental – _____ coast
 - Plateau (area of high, flat land) lies between
- The Heartland Region
- Natural Hazards
 - Central plateau is _____
 - Mexico is located at the intersection of four tectonic plates – North American, Caribbean, Pacific, and Cocos plates
- Climate Factors
 - Low precipitation to the north, moderate to the south
 - Higher elevation keeps temperatures mild, even though it is in the tropics
- The Four Coastal Regions
- _____
 - Dry, hot, and little population
 - Some of countries best farmlands – because of irrigation
 - Baja California – mostly mountainous desert
- 2. _____
 - Smaller mountain ranges
 - Little farmland
 - Large tourism business
- 3. _____
 - Vast deposits of petroleum and natural gas along the land and offshore
 - One of world's major oil-producing regions
- 4. _____
 - Generally flat

- Limestone bedrock that creates underground caverns, Landscape is dotted with sinkholes
- A Place of Three Cultures
- What are the three cultures that help make up modern Mexico?
- Plaza de las Tres Culturas
 - The Three Cultures – is located on the site of an Aztec center that fell to the Spanish in a 1521 battle
 - In the center there are restored ruins of an Aztec temple pyramid
 - One side has a 1609 Spanish church
 - Another side has twin office buildings of glass and concrete
 - A busy eight-lane highway runs past the plaza
- 3 Cultures
 1. Native American
 2. Spanish
 3. mestizo
- Aztecs and Spaniards
- Early 1400's, Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan was center of an empire
 - Built on an island in a lake, current site of Mexico City
- The Spanish Conquest
 - Hernan Cortes, with 600 soldiers, marched into Tenochtitlan in 1519
 - Spaniards destroyed the Aztec empire within 2 years
 - Became colony of New Spain
- New Spain
 - Four social classes emerged
 1. _____ – born in Spain
 2. _____ – Spanish ancestry born in America
 3. _____ – mix of Native American and Europeans
 4. _____ – Native to America
- Road to Democracy

What events led to the eventual development of Democracy in Mexico?

- Resentment between classes
 - _____ – a criollos priest

- Sparked a war for independence
- Independence did not mean democracy
 - 100 years to achieve democracy
 - End of 1800's, Mexico stable enough to attract foreign capital and industry
 - Oil reserves developed
 - Gap between rich and poor grew even bigger

The Mexican Revolution

- 1910, peasants and middle-class Mexicans rebelled, standing up to the military dictator
- By 1920, a new president and a new constitution
- Social Conditions
- Rural Life
 - After the revolution, the government began program of buying out landowners and breaking up large haciendas – _____
 - _____ – farmland owned by members of a rural community practiced **subsistence farming**
 - 1/3 of Mexican farms are _____ (large commercial farms)
 - 3-4 million rural families are _____
- Urban Life
 - ¾ of Mexico's population live in cities
 - Better opportunity for jobs
 - Majority of people are very poor
- Economic Activities
- 1993, **NAFTA** (North American Free Trade Agreement) was designed to compete with the European Union, a free-trade network in Europe
- Major Industries
 - Petroleum
 - Tourism – the “smokeless industry”
- Border Industries
 - _____ - factories that assemble products almost exclusively for consumers in the U.S.
 - Responsible for large amount of air and water pollution