**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 geologically unstable
	+ Mexico is located at the intersection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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

1. Northern Pacific Coast
	* Dry, hot, and little population
	* Some of countries best farmlands – because of irrigation
	* Baja California – mostly mountainous desert
2. Southern Pacific Coast
	* Smaller mountain ranges
	* Little farmland
	* Large tourism business
3. Gulf Coast Plain
	* Vast deposits of petroleum and natural gas along the lain and offshore
	* One of world’s major oil-producing regions
4. The Yucatan Peninsula
	* Generally flat
	* Limestone bedrock that creates underground caverns, Landscape is dotted with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A Place of Three Cultures
* 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. Peninsulares – born in Spain
		2. Criollos – Spanish ancestry born in America
		3. Mestizos – mix of Native American and Europeans
		4. Indians – 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 – **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
	+ **Ejidos** – 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 **migrant workers**
* 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
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – 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