Unit 1: Mexico

Content Area: **Spanish**
Course(s): **Spanish**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will learn about the history of Mexico and the Aztec people. They will also learn about Mexican traditions and customs, such as, *la quineañera* (15th birthday) and *la piñata*. They will be introduced to Mexican gestures, customs (i.e. how to greet someone in the Hispanic culture). This unit also covers Mexico's geography and some of Mexico's important cities, such as, Merida and Guadalajara. Students will also learn about Mexican food and music. They will learn about the importance of corn in Mexican meals and Mariachi bands.

Standards

WL.7.1.NM.A.3	Recognize a few common gestures and cultural practices associated with the target culture(s).
WL.7.1.NM.A.4	Identify familiar people, places, and objects based on simple oral and/or written descriptions.
WL.7.1.NM.B.3	Imitate appropriate gestures and intonation of the target culture(s)/language during greetings, leave - takings, and daily interactions.
WL.7.1.NM.C.2	Imitate, recite, and/or dramatize simple poetry, rhymes, songs, and skits.
WL.7.1.NM.C.5	Name and label tangible cultural products and imitate cultural practices from the target culture(s).

Essential Questions

How is corn important to Mexican culture?

How does Mexico's history influence Mexican life today?

How is Mexican food and music different from food and music in the United States?

How does Mexican greetings reflect their beliefs as a culture?

How does the geography of a city or country influence the way the people live?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- Corn is an important ingredient in Mexican food
- Mexican parties include papel picado and a piñata
- Mexicans greet each other by giving a kiss on the cheek
- Mexico City is the biggest city in the world
- Mexico is known for their Mariachi music
- Mexico is located south of the United States and north of Guatemala and Belize
- Tacos, enchiladas, fajitas are all types of Mexican food
- The Aztec people came from Mexico
- The Mexican flag tells a story of how Mexico was discovered

Students will be able to...

- describe how Mexicans greet each other
- explain the history of Mexico City
- explain the significance of the emblem in the Mexican flag
- identify corn as being an important ingredient in Mexican food
- locate Mexico on a map
- locate two important Mexican cities and describe basic facts about the cities
- name and describe two Mexican dishes
- recognize Mariachi music
- recognize the Aztec Calendar

Assessments

- Diagnostic: Other visual assessments
- Formative: Other oral assessments
- Formative: Other oral assessments
- Geography
- Mexican Food and Music

- Students answer basic questions about Mexican holidays and Hispanic traditional gestures and behavior.
- Students answer questions about popular Mexican dishes and music.
- Students present their favorite city in Mexico and describe why it is their favorite.
- Students work in groups and reenact how the Aztecs discovered the city of Tenochtitlan, today known as Mexico City.
- Summative: Dramatization
- Summative: Oral Report
- The Discovery of Mexico City
- Traditions and Customs
- Using the Smartboard, students respond to questions about cultural images (i.e. a Mariachi band).
- What do you know?

Activities

- Create individual Mexican flags by coloring and cutting out the flag and then gluing it to a popsicle stick.
- Using the Smart Board, students travel through Mexico and create a slide show of the trip.
- Have a Mexican fiesta which results from group work to plan food, music and decorations.
- Listen to Mariachi music and identify the different instruments in the music
- Learn traditional Mexican games and songs such as, *la pequeña arana*

*see link

Mexican Kids Songs
Mexican Flag

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Instead of coloring and cutting out the Mexican flag, create the flag on the computer
- Tiered questions and methods of responding
- Visual and tactile aids to instruction

*see links

Mexican Map
Mexican Kid Games

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Mexican decoration, *papel picado. (*Art*)*
- History of Mexico, such as, the Aztecs, the city of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec Calendar and "Cinco de Mayo". (History)

*see links

papel picado

Resources

- Mexico Worksheets
- Mexican Songs and Games
- Mexico Websites
- ″Cinco de Mayo" video
- Mexico Video
- Mexico Pictures

*see links

Mexico Worksheets
Mexico Map and Worksheets
Mexico Coloring Pages
Mexico Pictures
Mexico Website