

My Culture

By Tepale, A.



MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY - September 16, 2020.

National Today. (2020, March 23). <https://nationaltoday.com/mexican-independence-day/>.

Mexico and Its language

Mexico is located in the southern part of North America, It is the third largest country in Latin America. As of 2019 the population was estimated at around 126,424,000 according to (Griffin, 2020) . The official language spoken in Mexico is Spanish.



(Chmielewski, K), Encyclopædia Britannica.

[https://www.britannica.com/story/how-the-border-between-the-united-states-and-mexico-was-established.](https://www.britannica.com/story/how-the-border-between-the-united-states-and-mexico-was-established)

Currency

Mexico and its culture is extremely beautiful but it isn't an ideal place to live. Unless you have a lot of money you won't live in good conditions. The lower and middle class suffer a lot. The currency is very different, as of right now one USD equals to 21.09 Mexican pesos. It's constantly changing and so are the prices of goods .



(Pereira, S.) Bills and coins of the mexican peso.

<https://www.shutterstock.com/es/image-photo/bills-coins-mexican-peso-1409030129>



Education and Money

Due to the lack of money many kids are unable to receive proper education. As mentioned in (Levine, 2007) after primary school, the majority drop out. Not many reach high school or college. Another important benefit they lack is healthcare. The people are not able to get annual checkups or even emergent care unless they have the money to pay for it. It is very expensive to pay especially with how much they get paid by working.



Lana, S. M. (2012, May 9). *The PTA arrives in Mexico's schools*. The Christian Science Monitor. <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2012/0509/The-PTA-arrives-in-Mexico-s-schools>.

Cont. Low wages and the effects

The economy isn't doing great in Mexico and the workers are underpaid. In (Naishadham ,2020) it refers to the amount workers get paid which is about 123.22 pesos and 6.53 in U.S dollars. It's not a maintainable wage. Some families don't make enough and struggle to make a living. You will even see children working to help out which is another reason why they drop out. The lack of money is a reason why some can't pay for house expenses such as gas and electricity which are crucial to live.



Bartletti, D. (2014, December 12). *Product of Mexico stores*. Los Angeles Times. <https://graphics.latimes.com/product-of-mexico-stores/>.



Pardo, P. (2020, April 6). *Vendors wear masks in a market in Mexico City on April 6, 2020 amid...* Getty Images. <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/vendors-wear-masks-in-a-market-in-mexico-city-on-april-6-news-photo/1209305699?adppopup=true>.

Socialization

Socialization does play a role in how you are raised. The country your parents were raised in will affect how you are raised. They may raise you with the same beliefs, traditions, and values that are considered to be the norms in their society. An example is that women in Mexico were raised to do everything for a man. As time progresses not much has changed in their society compared to the United States .



The norms

- Sexism

In Mexico and other foreign countries it is normal for women to take the role of a "housewife". Many parents force that idea onto their children. They grow up with the idea that women don't have the ability to maintain themselves and that the man should be the one in charge.

- Celebrations

We celebrate so many holidays and events. Some main celebrations are quinceañeras, christmas, El dia de los muertos, fiestas de los pueblos, dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe and etc.



Rodriguez, C. (2020, October 1)



Sones de Mexico Ensemble. Sones de Mexico Ensemble.

<https://sonesdemexico.com/event/dia-de-los-muertos-with-maru-montero-dance-company/>.



- Pregnancy at a young age

Due to the fact that many kids drop out of school what usually is next in their life is marriage or starting a family. In Latin America, the rates of teenage pregnancy is always increasing. As mentioned in (Crowder, 2020) Mexico is the country with the highest rate of pregnancy in teens.

- Working children

Compared to the United States, the kids over there don't have free time. They are always working, in school, or helping out around the house.

Taboos

- Throwing away food or insult someone's cooking
- Being disrespectful to anyone especially your parents and elders.
- Same sex marriage or relationships
- Being disrespectful to religion
- Not greeting the people you meet (if you walk into a house, you must greet everyone present)
- Refusing to eat or drink when offered
- Not showing up to events when invited
- Not having manners (please and thank you)



Values



Space - Mexican Americans. Google Sites.

<https://sites.google.com/site/466wikimexamerican/membership>.

- Respect

No matter who you are, respect is extremely important. A symbol that represents this value is hand gestures especially when meeting someone. Another way people show their respect is by calling you señor, señora, señorita. In English they are called ma'am and sir.

- The importance of family

It is important to take care of your family but to also be there for one another. An example of taking care of your family would be to make sure everyone is able to eat and that they are safe. Being surrounded by your family in good or bad is a must.



Rozensky, J., & Hamel, J. (2018, November 6). *Crossing the US-Mexico border: Separated families get a three-minute hug*. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/hugs-not-walls-border-network-for-human-rights/index.html>.

Religion

In Mexico, religion plays a massive role in everyone's life. Usually the main religion people follow is catholicism. The norm is going to church on Sundays. They pray to la Virgen de Guadalupe. She was used as a symbol for freedom during war and is a role model. We even have a holiday which is her birthday that occurs on December 12. They have a celebration in honor of her . A song we sing is called "Las Mañanitas" which is a traditional Mexican birthday song (Huffpost,2017) .





Traditions- Día de los muertos

One of our main cultural traditions that others will see as strange is Día de los Muertos. On that holiday which is celebrated for two days on November 1st to November 2nd. We create ofrendas in honor of our loved ones who passed away. Instead of being upset we celebrate. An ofrenda typically has food, drinks, flowers(marigolds), and photos of our loved ones that passed away



Gámez, Y. (2018, November 2). *Es ofrenda símbolo de Día de Muertos*. Diario El Mundo.

<https://www.diarioelmundo.com.mx/index.php/2018/11/02/es-ofrenda-simbolode-dia-de-muertos/>.

Food

Most of our dishes are served with spice. Everyone knows our typical dishes such as Tacos or Quesadillas. Two dishes you may have not heard of are Pozole and Mole. Pozole is a traditional soup made out of hominy, chili peppers and meat. You can add lettuce, radishes, and lemon. Mole is a sauce made from many ingredients. It is usually marinated over chicken and is served with rice.



Authentic Mexican Pozole Recipe That Everyone Will Love. My Latina Table.

(2020, January 18). <https://www.mylatinatable.com/mexican-pozole/>.



Poulos, C. (2014, June 11). *Chicken Mole*. Food Network. <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/chicken-mole-recipe-1972934>.

Non verbal and verbal communication used in Mexico

Non verbal

- Eye contact
- Hand shakes
- Space (being very close to those you are talking to)
- Nodding your head when agreeing



Verbal

- Verbal greetings such as Buenos días/buenas tardes or noches, hola, *¿Cómo estás?* and *buen día*
- Language/ slang

The Importance of diversity and what I learned

Diversity is extremely important because it is what makes American culture. Everyone is from different backgrounds which allows us to learn from each other. What I learned from my cross cultural experiences is that there are so many differences within cultures such as norms, beliefs, and values. It allowed me to view the different perspectives in Mexican culture.

References

Griffin , E. C. (2020, October 16). *Mexico*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mexico>.

Levine, R. (2007). *CASE 9: Improving the health of the poor in Mexico*. Center For Global Development. <https://www.cgdev.org/page/case-9-improving-health-poor-mexico>.

Naishadham, S. (2020, January 31). *Mexico's new minimum wage: Thanks for trying*. Colombia News | Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/1/31/mexicos-new-minimum-wage-thanks-for-trying>.

Crowder, N. (2020, October 1). *In Mexico, teen girls cope with early motherhood*. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-sight/wp/2015/10/21/in-mexico-teen-girls-cope-with-early-motherhood/>.

HuffPost. (2017, December 7). *Everything You Need To Know About Our Lady Of Guadalupe*. HuffPost. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/virgen-de-guadalupe_n_4434582.