



with the United States and Canada, as it accounts for nearly 90% of all exports and 55% of imports.

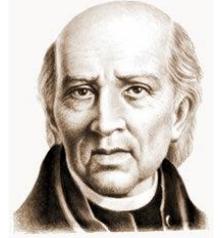
24% of Mexico's total revenue comes from oil, a resource of which Mexico is one of the world's leading producers. Another important economic resource for the country is tourism. Because of its exciting history, geography, wealth of natural resources and intense cultural life, Mexico offers visitors a wide variety of tourist attractions. The national currency is the Mexican peso.

The human presence in present-day Mexico dates back 30,000 years BC. After the emergence of agriculture and livestock (American Neolithic), they began to highlight different nuclei until forming a series of civilizations, the most important being the Maya and the Olmeca. During the first quarter of the XII century the domination of the Mexicans (Aztecs) began. This warrior people began a process of conquest that crystallized in the control of practically all the current Mexican territory. Effective domination of the Spanish began in 1519, when Hernán Cortés founded the town of Villa Rica de la Veracruz (present-day Veracruz). After the violent conquest of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán, in August 1521, the Spanish Empire of Charles V took three more decades to take control of much of the present-day South America and much of the territory of the United States. Under Spanish rule, the Mexican territory encompassed much of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. During this period trade, agriculture, livestock and especially mining were promoted.

The Grito de Dolores, in 1810 by the priest Manuel Hidalgo, was the beginning of the process of Mexican independence that culminated in the year 1821. From that year until today, Mexico is a country that has had a convulsive history, with many clashes and various political systems. Mexico has had two monarchical periods (with Augustine of Iturbide and Maximilian of Austria), a liberal government for much of the nineteenth century with clashes between the conservative and progressives, also several episodes of civil wars, coups and dictatorships (Porfirio Díaz 1876-1911), charismatic leaders of the popular classes (Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa). In 1917 the current constitution was approved, with Venustiano Carranza as president. From that moment on, Mexican political activity was dominated by the IP. (Institutional Revolutionary Party), until 2000, when Vicente Fox's P.A.N. (National Action Party) became president.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What are the two Mexican states with the highest percentage of indigenous population?
  - a. Sinaloa and Yucatan.
  - b. Guanajuato and Oaxaca.
  - c. Yucatán y Oaxaca.
  - d. Guanajuato and Sinaloa.
2. What two countries do Mexico limit Mexico to the south with?
  - a. Guatemala and Honduras.
  - b. Guatemala and El Salvador.
  - c. Belize and Honduras...
  - d. Belize and Guatemala.
3. Which of the following relevant historical figures of Mexico has not been cited in the text?
  - a. Hernán Cortés.
  - b. Ignacio Zaragoza.
  - c. Augustine of Iturbide.
  - d. Pancho Villa.
4. What other countries have signed the NAFTA trade treaty with Mexico?
  - a. Uruguay y Argentina.
  - b. Canada and the United States.
  - c. Canada and Brazil.
  - d. United States and Brazil.
5. What two great cultures were the predecessors of the Mexicans/Aztecs?
  - a. Olmeca and Maya.
  - b. Zapateca and Maya.
  - c. Tolteca and Maya.
  - d. Olmeca and Zapateca.

