



# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## **M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports**

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program  
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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# Mexico Informational Report

By  
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# FACTS



Google Images. (2012). Mexican Crest. Google. Retrieved March 18, 2012, from <http://www.google.com>

- Literacy Rate: Approximately 87%
- Ethnic Groups: Mestizo 70%; White 15%; Indigenous 9.8%
- Students memorize information; prefer structure; highly kinesthetic
- Mexico makes up a 1/3 of the world's Spanish-speaking population

Ethnologue. (2012). Retrieved March 18, 2012, from [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=MX](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=MX)

# Writing System

Spanish Alphabet									
Letter	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>
Name	a	be	ce	de	e	efe	ge	hache	i
IPA	/a/	/b/	/k/, / θ/ <sup>2</sup>	/d/	/e/	/f/	/g/, /x/	silent	/i/
Letter	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Ñ</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>
Name	jota	ka	ele	eme	ene	eñe	o	pe	cu
IPA	/x/	/k/	/l/ <sup>3</sup>	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/o/	/p/	/k/
Letter	<b>R<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
Name	erre	ese	te	u	uve	doble uve	equis	i griega, ye	zeta
IPA	/r/, /r̄/	/s/	/t/	/u/	/b/	/gw/	/ks/, /x/, /s/	/j/, /i/	/θ/ <sup>a</sup>

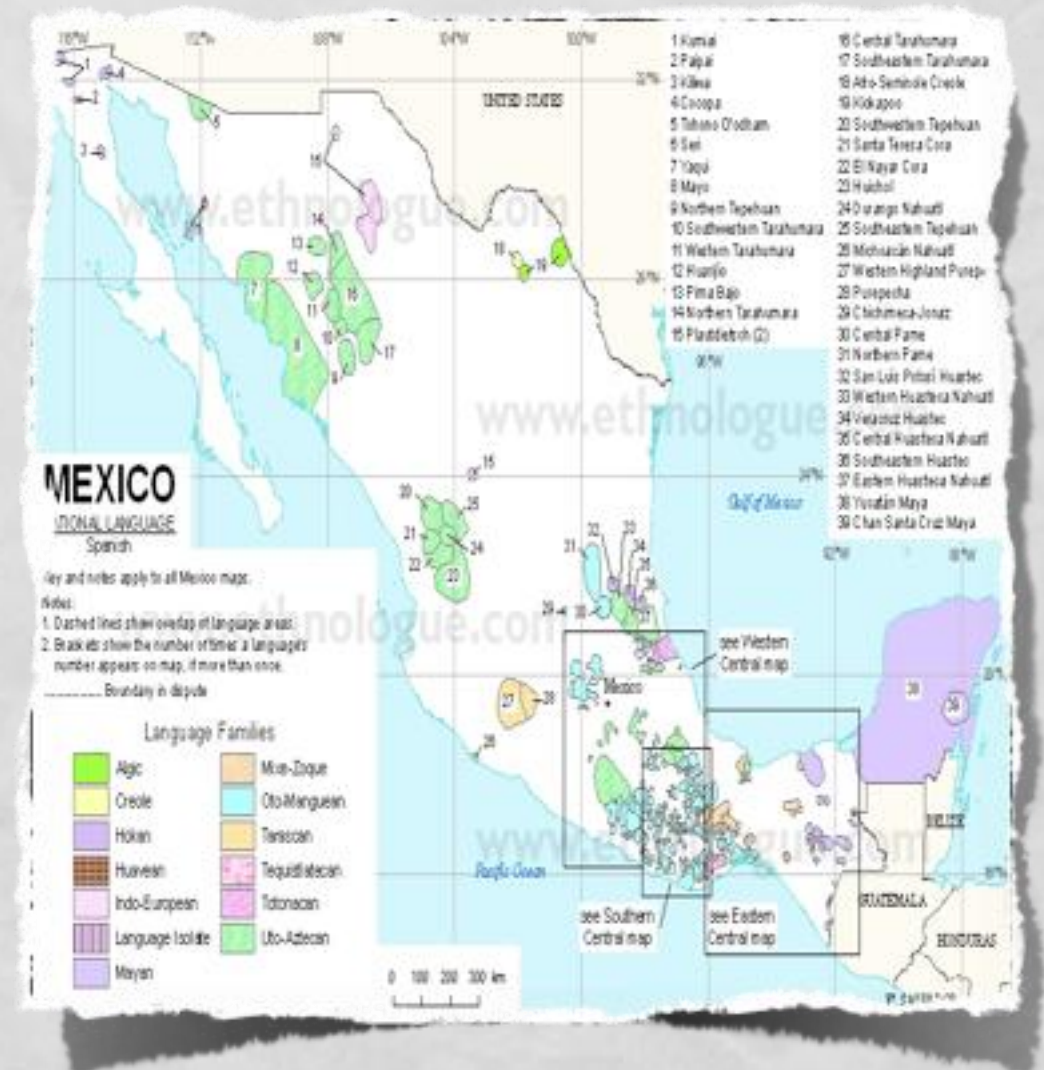
Wikipedia Images. (2012). Spanish Alphabet. Wikipedia.  
Retrieved March 18, 2012, from  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_orthography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_orthography)

- The Spanish alphabet consist of 30 letters
- 5 pure vowels
- 5 diphthongs
- Uses Roman alphabet



# Regional Languages

- Nahuatl, spoken by approximately 1.45 million people
- Yukatek Maya spoken by some 750,000 people
- Mixtec Zapotec languages each spoken by more than 400,000 people
- Spanish is the official language of Mexico
- 8% consists of 62 Ameri-Indian Languages



Ethnologue. (2012). Retrieved March 18, 2012, from [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_map.asp?name=MX&seq=10](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=MX&seq=10)



# Mexico Educational Information

- Located in North America; south of the United States of America
- School life expectancy: 14 years for males and females
- Federal, state, and local governments provide 93% of basic education, while 7% comes from private schools
- Upper grades have more males than females.
- Use number grading system: 1 to 10 scale; 10 highest, 6 minimum passing grade.

# Educational facts

- Mexico spends less than 5% of GDP on education.
- Mexicans rank 46th in reading, 49th in mathematics, and 51st in science according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- Mexico's economic status is the world's 14th largest.
- [Improving Education in Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities](#) <<<<Link to Video



# Education opportunities

- Typical Classroom Setting: up to 30 students in class.
- Most classrooms contained a dry erase board, an overhead projector, a television, and audio equipment could be easily retrieved from a nearby room.
- Students tend to be highly vocal and participatory during class as well as social and talkative after class.



Google Images. (2011). Classroom. Google. Retrieved March 18, 2012, from <http://www.google.com>



# Poor Education Quality Attributed to These Factors

- Lack of adequate teacher preparation
- Short school day in primary
- Teacher absenteeism in rural areas
- Poor articulation of curriculum between primary and secondary
- Poor infrastructure overall



# Education Opportunities

- Approximately 45% of Mexicans finish secondary school compared to 75% of American students.
- Mexicans read less than 3 books a year on average.
- English is mandatory in all Mexican schools from seventh through ninth grade, although many private schools start as early as preschool.



# Attitudes towards English Speakers



Wikipedia. (2011). Caracas. Wikipedia. Retrieved from: [http://http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Antiimperialismo\\_caracas.jpg](http://http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Antiimperialismo_caracas.jpg)

- Many Mexicans see Americans as racist, dishonest and exploitative.
- According to a BBC World Service Poll, Mexico has a 13% positive attitude and 49% have a negative attitude.



# Schooling and Values

- School is important with mandatory preschool for children, but high school isn't mandatory
- Most students stay in school until the age of 14
- Family is the extremely important value
- 96% of the country follows Catholicism
- Teachers importance was realized in 1999 with a curriculum that was focused on content.



# Communicating

- Personal relationships are key to Mexicans
- Refrain from using first names until invited to do so.
- Use two surnames. The first listed is from the father, and the second is from the mother. When speaking to someone, use their father's surname.
- Do not use red ink when writing someone's name.
- Never discuss the Mexican-American war, poverty, illegal aliens, or earthquakes.
- A key Mexican American cultural difference is the value that is placed on the nuclear and extended family.
- Mexican classrooms encourage discussion more than American classrooms.



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