

# Mexico



# Vocabulary

**Aztec** - a member of the American Indian people dominant in Mexico before the Spanish conquest of the 16th century.

**Span** - if something spans a long period of time, it lasts throughout that period of time or relates to that whole period of time.

**The Tropic of Cancer** - the parallel of latitude that is approximately  $23\frac{1}{2}$  degrees north of the equator and that is the northernmost latitude reached by the overhead sun.

**Solely** - not involving anyone or anything else; only.

**Indigenous** - originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

**Nuclear family** - a couple and their dependent children, regarded as a basic social unit.

**Suave** - (especially of a man) charming, confident, and elegant

# Introduction

From the stone cities of the Maya to the might of the Aztecs, from its conquest by Spain to its rise as a modern nation, Mexico boasts a rich history and cultural heritage spanning more than 10,000 years.

The Mexican flag consists of three vertical stripes. The left green stripe stands for hope, the middle white stripe represents purity, and the right red stripe represents the blood of those who died fighting for Mexico's independence.

The picture of an eagle eating a snake is based on an Aztec legend.

