

# Hola Mexico!

## Imaginative learning project 1 for year 5/6.



Welcome to Mexico! Get ready to explore this unique country, from its towering temples and stunning geography to its pulsing rhythms and fun festivals. Is your tummy rumbling? Concoct a traditional fruit cocktail or a delicious Mexican meal. What's on your shopping list? Go steady with the spices. Discover the mysterious world of the ancient Mayan civilisation. Make their chocolate, learn their poetry, play their ball game and follow all of their curious rituals. Just try to keep your head. Feel like celebrating? Design a flute, grab a drum, join a tribe and make some noise. Have you got what it takes to be chief? Let's find out.

## Geography and History Focus. Key Facts:

- Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area
- Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the north to the south pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area
- The Northern Hemisphere is the part of the Earth that is to the north of the Equator
- The Prime Meridian is the imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole that passes through Greenwich in England and marks zero degrees longitude from which all other longitudes are measured
- The Chihuahuan is the largest desert in North America stretching all the way from south-west United States deep into the central Mexican highlands
- Mexico is located in the south of the continent of North America. Mexico City is the capital city. It is home to nearly nine million people. It has a diverse landscape including mountains, rainforests and deserts.
- The Maya were a group of indigenous people who lived in Mexico and other parts of Central America over 3000 years ago.

### Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ Civilisation: a well organised and developed society
- ⇒ Desert: a waterless, desolate area of land with little or no vegetation, typically covered with sand
- ⇒ Maya Glyphs: the writing system of the Maya civilisation
- ⇒ Ancient: coming from, or belonging to, a time that was long ago
- ⇒ Maya temple: a place of worship
- ⇒ Maya stelae: Tall stone monuments made by the Maya civilisation
- ⇒ Taco: a Mexican food that consists of a folded and usually fried piece of thin bread (called a tortilla) that is filled with meat, cheese and lettuce for example
- ⇒ Latitude: Invisible lines running horizontally around the Earth
- ⇒ Longitude: Invisible lines running vertically around the Earth

### Homework Projects

- ⇒ Which part of Mexico would you prefer to live in? Write down your ideas and share them with others in your class
- ⇒ Find out about Mexican flowers, trees and animals. Some are very different to those found in the UK! Record what you learn in a notebook or picture chart
- ⇒ Go to the supermarket and see if you can find out about any food that is imported from Mexico—try fruit or vegetables
- ⇒ Play an imaginary trip or holiday to Mexico. Look at holiday brochures or research online. How many ways are there to get there? How long would it take? How much would it cost? Make an itinerary for your trip, showing what you would like to see and do while you are there