

Between Two Worlds: Mexico at the Crossroads

Tenth edition. May 2015.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with Olmec, Mayan, and Aztec societies.
- Includes Spanish colonialism, Mexican Independence, La Reforma, the Porfiriato, the Mexican Revolution, and rule through the 20th century by the National Revolutionary Party (renamed PRI), NAFTA, and rebellion in the Chiapas.
- Concludes with an overview of the political, economic, and social challenges Mexico faced in 2015.

STUDENT TEXT

- Profiles the vacillation between the call for order and stability and the call for revolution and justice.
- Explains how Mexico's boom and bust economy correlates to political, social, and foreign policy trends.
- Describes activism and social movements.
- Connects Mexico's history to world history.
- Explains the effect of close linkages to the United States in terms of trade, immigration, and the war on drugs.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What should the future of Mexico be? (Note: This role play takes place from a Mexican perspective. It does *not* ask students what U.S. policy should be.)

Setting: A meeting of Mexican citizens

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Read maps;** identify the features of political geography of North America.
- **Analyze** primary source accounts of encounters between the Spanish and the Aztecs.
- **Compare** textbook controversies in Mexico and the United States.
- **Analyze** political murals and create their own.
- **Evaluate** primary sources related to the Zapatista Army.
- **Collaborate** with a team to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen** actively and deliberate with peers on the complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Reflect** and write their own position on Mexico's future.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).