Chapter 2: Mexico, Answer Key

Chapter Opener

Page 36-37

1. The capital of Mexico, Mexico City, is located at approximately 20oN and 100oW.
2. Because of its location immediately on the southern California of the United States, Tijuana is more likely influenced by the United States than Merida, which is located on a peninsula almost to Central America.

Section 1

Page 39

1. The Yucatan Peninsula extends into the Gulf of Mexico.
2. It is easiest to cross from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Page 40

Some of Mexico's major physical features: the Baja and Yucatan Peninsulas, mountain ranges such as the Sierra Madre Occidental, the Sierra Madre Oriental and the Sierra Madre Del Sur, the Mexican Plateau, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and the volcano Popocatepetl.

MAP ZONE

1. Mexico's desert climates are located along its northern border with the United States, in the north central and north western parts of Mexico.
2. Mexico probably gets the most rain in the south, at the edge of the Yucatan Peninsula where the climate is described as humid tropical.

Page 41

Mexico City sometimes experiences freezing temperatures even though it is in the tropics. This happens because areas of high elevation, even on a plateau, can have surprisingly cool temperatures.

Page 41
One of Mexico's most important resources is petroleum, or oil. Minerals, such as gold and silver, are also of great importance to Mexico.

Section 2

Page 43

CONNECTING TO TECHNOLOGY
The Aztecs decided to build raised fields, called chinampas, because the land was too swampy and wet to farm otherwise.

Some achievements of Mexico's early cultures were:
Olmec- built great temples and giant statues, carved and traded stones like jade and obsidian
Maya- built large cities that included temples to worship their gods, studied the stars and developed a calendar, kept written records and established an intra-city trade network
Aztec- built an impressive city on an island and ruled a large empire, farmed in otherwise unusable areas by inventing raised fields called chinampas

Page 44
The picture shows all sorts of people revolting against Spain. Student answers may vary but should accurately name and describe the different types of people shown in the painting on page 44.

Page 45
After Mexico gained independence, there was a short period of time before Texas broke away and joined the United States. Eventually Mexico fought wars against the US and then against the French. Finally, in 1910, the Mexican Revolution brought about land reform and a reestablished government.

BIOGRAPHY

Benito Juarez drew from his heritage as an Indian and fought for the rights of all Mexicans, passing reforms and establishing more equitable justice procedures for all Mexicans, regardless of status.

FOCUS ON CULTURE

Mexicans celebrate Day of the Dead to acknowledge death as a part of life and to celebrate the belief that the souls of the dead return every year to visit their living relatives.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS
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PRACTICE

1. Notes should be written in 2 columns in a notebook.
2. Jotting down key ideas, terms, and questions can help clarify notes after you take them because you will associate the facts and details about each important main idea with the supporting details about it.

APPLY

1. Student answers to these questions will vary but should reflect an accurate knowledge of the material presented in Section 1 of this chapter. Student should appropriately list the ideas and questions he or she recorded in the Recall column on his or her chart.
2. Answers to this question will vary. Students should articulately explain some of the advantages to taking notes. Answers may include the idea that taking notes can help you remember what you read in your textbook or heard in class.

Section 3

Page 49
The government's role in the Mexican economy is changing. The government used to control most of the country's economic activity but today the government has less control of the economy.

Page 49, continued

SATELLITE VIEW
In the satellite picture, the wind is blowing to the east.

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MEXICO'S CULTURE REGIONS
Student answers to this question may vary. Answers may be similar, but are not limited to the idea that life in greater Mexico City is very modern while life in Northern Mexico is more rural. In greater Mexico City, an urban center, streets are clogged with traffic, areas are densely populated to the point of overcrowding, and buildings are modern. This way of life differs from life in northern Mexico, where ranching is an important part of the region's economy.

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While greater Mexico City is a densely populated, urban center where manufacturing is a big part of the economy, Southern Mexico is the least populated and industrialized region of the country. These two areas are very different, but both play a vital role in sustaining Mexico's economy.