

THE STORY OF THE MEXICAN FLAG

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand that performers in the circus come from different countries.
- Recognize that people from different cultures enjoy similar forms of entertainment.
- Know the location of places.

Standards

Geography (Gr. 3-5): Students will:

1. Understand the characteristics and uses of maps, globes, and other geographic tools and technologies.

History (Gr. 3-5): Students will:

1. Know cultural similarities and differences and cultural traditions.

Reading Comprehension (Gr. K-12): Students will:

1. Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts.

SOURCE: The Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Language Arts Standards

Materials Needed

Handout #1: The Story of the Mexican Flag

Teacher Notes

Nearly every country in the world has some sort of circus art form – juggling, acrobatics, equestrian, aerials, animal acts, etc. Each year *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*® brings the greatest circus artists from around the world together to create what is truly *The Greatest Show On Earth*®. The international nature of the circus makes it a great way to talk to children about diversity and geography.

Activity Directions

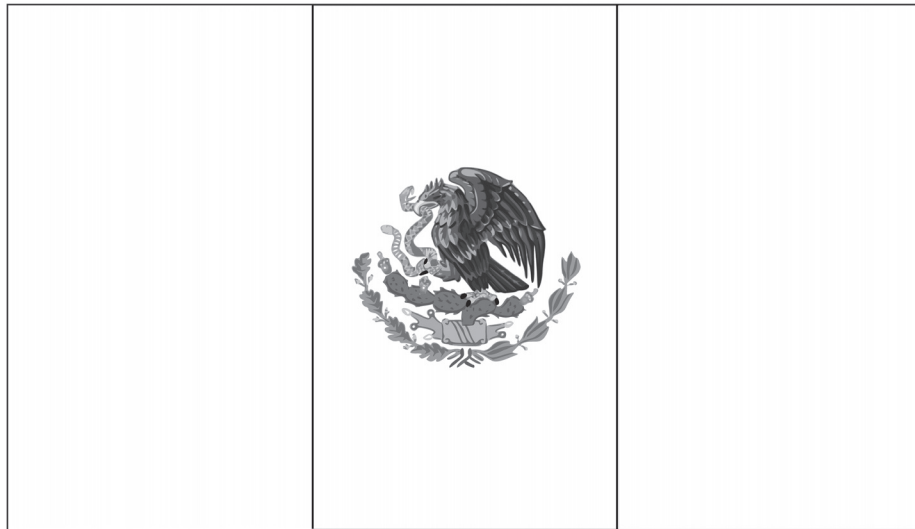
1. Show your students a map of the world. Ask them to name the continents as you point to them.
2. Ask a student to locate Mexico on the world map. Identify that it is part of North America and shares a border with the United States. Identify the other countries that border Mexico.
3. Distribute Handout #1: “The Story of the Mexican Flag,” one to each student. Read the directions and allow time for students to complete the activity.

Extension

1. Have your students research the history of the United States flag.
2. Have students work in groups to research the history of the Aztecs. Each group could focus on one major accomplishment such as: pyramids, astronomy, metallurgy, agriculture, mathematics, etc.

NAME _____

THE STORY OF THE MEXICAN FLAG



GREEN

WHITE

RED

Color the Mexican flag the appropriate colors. The story below tells why the Mexican flag has a picture of an eagle sitting on top of a cactus eating a snake. Oops! Some of the words have fallen out of the story. Use the words in the boxes below to fill in the blanks.

snake

called

crest

legend

locate

capital

conquered

The _____ on the Mexican flag is a symbol from the Aztecs, a group of people who ruled Mexico for hundreds of years, until they were _____ by the Spanish. According to an Aztec _____, they were told by their god to _____ their _____ city in the place where they saw an eagle eating a _____. They discovered this place in 1325 and established the city of Tenochtitlán. This city is still the capital of Mexico. Today it is _____ Mexico City.

