*What are three ways that Mexico’s geography affects the people living there?
Lesson Objective:

*explain the development of democracy in Mexico

*list main characteristics of Mexican economy
The Plaza of Three Cultures is a broad square in Mexico City, which has a restored Aztec pyramid, a church built by the Spanish in 1609, and modern office buildings. Mexico's culture today is represented by Spanish, Indian, and modern cultures.
Aztecs and Spaniards

*by the 1400s, the Aztecs had built the most powerful empire in Mexico

*their center was Tenochtitlan, built on an island in a lake, and is the site of present-day Mexico City

*it is estimated to be one of the largest cities in the world in the 1400s
Tenochtitlan
Aztecs and the Spaniards

*Hernan Cortes arrived in the Gulf Coast with 600 Spanish soldiers in 1519

*they made their way inland, making allies with the enemies of the Aztecs on the way

*they eventually conquered Mexico and established the colony of New Spain
*the Spanish eventually came to control most of South and Central America, and even a large part of the American Southwest.
Society in New Spain

*social classes emerged in New Spain, and these social classes lasted for over 300 years.

- **PENINSULARES**
  - (Spaniards born in Spain)

- **CREOLES**
  - (born in New Spain of Spanish parents)

- **MESTIZOS**
  - (born of Spanish and Native American Indian parents)

- **NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS**

- **ENSLAVED PERSONS**
  - (brought from Africa and the Caribbean)
Encomienda System

*large parcels of land were granted to the Conquistadors by the Spanish King

*the indigenous (native peoples) that lived on the land were considered part of the property, and most of the indigenous peoples lived under slave-like conditions
Road to Democracy

*in 1810, a criollo priest named Miguel Hidalgo called for a rebellion against Spanish rule

*they eventually won a war for independence from Spain and became the nation of Mexico in 1821

*despite gaining independence, they had about 100 years of dictators and military rule
Mexican Revolution

*in 1910, peasants and middle-class rebelled against the military dictatorship

*by 1920, they had a new government and a new constitution

*their government is a federal republic, like the U.S.
Social Conditions

*Mexicans have freedom of religion

*nearly all Mexicans use Spanish as their official language, but many indigenous still use their own languages at home

*the is a problem of income inequality
Social Conditions

*because of a lack of economic activities, as well as other societal conditions, many Mexicans flock to the United States in search of a better life for their families
Economic Activities

*Mexico entered the trade agreement with the U.S. and Canada called NAFTA in 1993

*by 1999, their trade with the U.S. and Canada nearly doubled, and their unemployment declined

*Mexico also began pursuing more free trade deals with other countries
Economic Activities

* tourism and the oil and natural gas industries are the largest economic activities in Mexico

* many American companies build factories right along the border of Mexico and U.S.

* What reasons might they do this? What impact might it have?