



Mexico: Meso-American Indigenous People – The Huichol Pre-Visit Activity: Background Reading

Mexico is a country that is south of the United States. Mexico and Texas share a border along the Rio Grande River, so they are neighbors. Mexico has mountains, deserts, plains, and seacoasts. Most of the time, the weather is warm or hot in Mexico because it is closer to the equator than Texas. Mexico also has many beautiful plants and many animals.

The first people to live in Mexico were the Aztecs. Later, people from Spain came to Mexico to live. Most people living in Mexico today are related to the Aztecs and Spanish people. One group living in Mexico today are known as the Huichol people. They live in small villages in the mountains of Mexico. They have their own special way of life, or culture. Culture includes language, religion, art, music, and celebrations of a group of people.

The Huichol people create art that looks like the things they see in the mountains where they live. This means they love to show plants, animals and the sky. The Huichol people are famous for using colored beads and yarn to create art that shows nature around them.

All Huichol art shows their beliefs, or religion. Each animal, plant, and color used has a special meaning. Today, the Huichol people sell their art to make money that helps them live.



Source: <http://www.indian-cultures.com/cultures/huichol-indians/>



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Pre-Visit Activity: Background Reading

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. The name of the country that is south of the United States is _____.
2. The name of the river that Mexico and Texas share is the _____ River.
3. The _____ people are a special group of people who live in the mountains of Mexico.
4. The reason Huichol people sell their art today is so they can make _____ that helps them live.
5. This picture shows an example of Huichol art. List 3 animals you see in the picture.

- _____
- _____
- _____





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Pre-Visit Activity: Background Reading **KEY**

1. The name of the country that is south of the United States is **Mexico**
2. The name of the river that Mexico and Texas share is the **Rio Grande** River.
3. The **Huichol** people are a special group of people who live in the mountains of Mexico.
4. The reason Huichol people sell their art today is so they can make **money** that helps them live.
5. This is a picture showing Huichol art. Tell 3 animals you see in the picture. **deer, snake, bird**