**1st Grade Core Knowledge**

**History and Geography**

**Mexico Today Unit Organizer**

**Summary:** The students will learn the location of Mexico relative to Canada and the United States. They will learn the location of Central America, the Yucatan Peninsula, the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio Grande, and Mexico City. Students will learn about the mix of native American and Spanish heritage in Mexican culture. They will learn about the representative traditions of the fiesta and a pinata. Students will also learn the reason that September 16 is Mexican Independence Day and a national holiday.

**The Big Idea:** Mexico has a rich and varied history and combines native Americans and Spanish legacies to create a vibrant culture.

**Colorado State Standards:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 1.2.1.b. Use terms related to directions - forward and backward, left and right – and distance – near and far – when describing locations.  1.4.2.d. Identify significant civic holidays.  2.1.2.c. Give examples of people and events, and developments that brought important changes to the community.  2.1.2.e. Describe the history, interaction, and contribution of the various peoples and cultures that have lived in or migrated to neighborhoods and communities.  2.2.1.b. Identify and locate various physical features on a map.  3.2.1.b. Find oceans and continents, major countries, bodies of water, mountains, and urban areas, the state of Colorado, and neighboring states on maps. | | |

**Common Core Standards**:

**RI1.1** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

**RI1.2** Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

**RI1.3** Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.

**RI1.6** Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

**RI1.7** Use illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

**RI1.8** Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.

**RL1.1** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

**RL1.2** Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

**RL1.3** Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

**RL1.7** Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

**SL1.4** Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.

**Core Knowledge Unit:**

Modern Civilization and Culture: Mexico

1. **GEOGRAPHY**
   * + North American continent, locate Mexico relative to Canada and the United States
     + Central America, Yucatan Peninsula
     + Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Rio Grande
2. **CULTURE**
   * + Indian and Spanish heritage
     + Traditions: fiesta, pinata
     + National holiday: September 16, Independence Day

**Core Knowledge Language Arts:**

I. Listening and Speaking

A. Classroom Discussion

* Understand and use narrative language to describe people, places, things, locations, events, actions.

B. Comprehension and Discussion of Read-alouds – All Texts

* Retell key details.
* Use pictures accompanying the read-aloud to check and support understanding of the read-aloud.

**Previous Unit:**  Early Exploration of the American West

**Prior Knowledge:**

Kindergarten

* Location of the 7 Continents and 4 Main Oceans
* Native American Peoples, Past and Present
* Christopher Columbus

**Next Unit**: N/A

**What Students Will Learn in Future Grades:**

**Grade 2**

* Geography of the Americas
  + North America: Canada, United States, Mexico
  + South America: Brazil, Peru, and Chile, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina
    - Main languages: Spanish and Portuguese

**Grade 3**

* The Earliest Americans
  + Crossing from Asia to North America
    - During the Ice Age, nomadic hunters cross from Asia to North America. Different peoples, with different languages and ways of life, eventually spread out over the North and South American continents. These early people include:
      * Inuits (Eskimos)
      * Anasazi, pueblo builders and cliff dwellers
      * Mount builders
* Native Americans
  + In the Southwest
    - Pueblos (Hopi, Zuni)
    - Dine (Navajo)
    - Apaches
* In the Southwest
  + Cherokee
  + Seminole
* Early Exploration of North America
  + Early Spanish Exploration and Settlement
* Settlement of Florida
* Ponce de Leon, legend of the Fountain of Youth
* Hernando do Soto
* Founding of St. Augustine (oldest continuous settlement in what is now the U.S.)
* Geography: Caribbean Sea, West Indies, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi

Exploration and Settlement of the American Southwest

* Early Spanish explorers in the lands are now the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California; missionary settlements (missions), especially in Texas and California
* Coronado and the legend of the “Seven Cities of Cibola” (of Gold)
* Geography: Grand Canyon and Rio Grande
* Conflicts between the Spanish and the Pueblos (1680 revolt led by Pope)

**Grade 5**

* Early American Civilizations
  + Geography
    - Identify and locate Central America and South America on maps and globes
    - Amazon River
    - Andes Mountains
  + Maya, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations
    - The Mayas
      * Ancient Mayas lived in what is now southern Mexico and parts of Central America; their descendants still live there today
      * Accomplishments as architects and artisans; pyramids and temples
      * Development of a system of hieroglyphic writing
      * Knowledge of astronomy and mathematics; development of a 365-day calendar; early use of concept of zero
    - The Aztecs
      * A warrior culture, at its height in the 1400s and early 1500s, the Aztec empire covered much of what is now central Mexico
      * The island city of Tenochtitlan: aqueducts, massive temples, etc.
      * Moctezuma (also spelled Moctezuma)
      * Ruler-priests: practice of human sacrifice
    - The Inca
      * Ruled an empire stretching along the Pacific coast of South America
      * Built great cities (Machu Picchu, Cuzco) high in the Andes, connected by a system of roads
  + Spanish Conquerors
    - Conquistadors: Cortes and Pizzaro
      * Advantage of Spanish weapons (guns, cannons)
      * Diseases devastate native peoples

**Cross Curricular Links:**

Music: “La Cucaracha”

Art: Pomo Baskets (native American); Diego Rivera, *The History of Medicine in Mexico (mural)*

**Additional Resources:**

*Core Knowledge History Books,* edited by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.