

Capital City

The flag of Mexico consists of three vertical stripes of green, white, and red. Green represents independence; white represents religion; and red represents union. In the center of the white stripe is the Mexican coat of arms, featuring an eagle perched on a cactus with a snake in its beak.

There is an interesting legend behind the coat of arms. The Aztec sun god told the ancient wandering Aztecs to end their nomadic lifestyle. They would find the location for their city when they saw an eagle eating a snake and sitting on a cactus bearing red, heart-shaped fruit. The Aztecs wandered for more than 150 years looking for the sign. They finally found the place their god had told them to settle. It was an island in swampy Lake Texcoco. They built the magnificent city of Tenochtitlán (tay-nawch-tee-TLAHN), which is now Mexico City, or Ciudad de México, the capital of Mexico.



Project

Make Mexican flags to learn about and understand Mexican tradition.

Materials

- Mexican Coat of Arms
- scissors
- tape
- crayons or colored pencils
- red and green construction paper

Directions

1. Color the Mexican Coat of Arms and cut the page along the dotted lines.
2. To assemble the flag, cut a piece of red and a piece of green construction paper the same size as the pattern page. Tape the construction paper to the edges of the pattern page, with the green on the left and the red on the right.

For the Teacher

Copy one Mexican Coat of Arms (page 7) per student.

