

Lesson ideas for geography teachers to share: the Americas

Answers for the Americas episode 4

1. How long is the Rio Grande?
The Rio Grande stretches for 1,885 miles acting as a border between the US and Mexico.
2. How many Hispanics live in America?
There are 50 million Hispanic people living in America, by 2050 this number could rise to 130 million people.
3. How long is the border?
The US-Mexico border is 2000 miles long. About a one-third of the border is already fenced.
4. Why do people try to cross?
Violence, poverty, drought in Central America, education and healthcare. The reasons are mixed and complicated.
5. What happened in one month in 2019?
For one month in 2019 more than 140,000 migrants were detained after illegally trying to enter America. That is almost 5,000 a day.
6. What two things do the Cartels traffic across the border?
Drugs and people.
7. Who controls the border city of Reynosa?
The Gulf cartel.
8. What will Mexico not get without internal security?
Investment, and Mexican society will suffer.
9. How many are killed each year by Cartel violence in Mexico?
30,000 people are killed. 70% of firearms used in the killings are smuggled from America.
10. What does America classify the state of Tamaulipas as?
A category 4 conflict zone, on a par with Afghanistan and Yemen.
11. How big is the population in Mexico?
There are 130 million people in Mexico.
12. 5 million cars are produced each year in Mexico with 80% made for export, why do car companies love Mexico?
Wages are lower. For example, factory workers only earn £18,000 per year and proximity to the border with America is a huge advantage.
13. How big is the economy?
The Mexican economy is the 11th biggest economy in the world, by 2050 it might even be bigger than Japan. In fact, more Mexicans are now trying to come *back* rather than crossing over to the US!
14. In Chiapas, what does Simon Reeve say about indigenous Mexicans?
There are 12 million indigenous Mexicans, with over 60 languages.



15. How low is the level of prosperity in Chiapas?
Two-thirds of people live in poverty in Chiapas. Household income is 6 times less than other parts of Mexico.
16. This largely indigenous state has a third of the country's water. What do local people complain about in San Cristóbal?
Large companies like Coca-Cola have priority access to water. There has been a lot of social unrest in the past, such as an armed uprising in 1994.
17. For the Lacandon indigenous people, what is the rainforest?
A larder and a pharmacy.
18. What is the new threat to the Lacandon indigenous people?
Deforestation. Maize and beans require trees to be cleared for farmland. Rainforests are also cleared for logging, plantations and mining. 15 billion trees are chopped down each year.