

Geography

Mexico features a wide variety of geographic regions, including tall mountain ranges, canyons, deserts, and rainforests.

Most of Mexico's landscape is dominated by plateaus.

The Mexican Plateau occupies much of central and northern Mexico.

It is situated at an altitude of about 5,988 feet above sea level and is mostly covered in deserts and shrublands.

The Mexican Plateau is surrounded by several of mountain ranges collectively called the Sierra Madre. This mountain range consists of three parts: The Sierra



Sierra Madre Occidental

Madre Occidental, the

Sierra Madre Oriental, and the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Some of these mountains are volcanoes, especially in the center of the country. Pico de Orizaba is a volcano and is the highest point of the country at an altitude of 18,701 feet. It is part of the Sierra Madre Oriental.

Mexico has two, large peninsulas: Baja California and the Yucatan Peninsula. The Yucatan Peninsula is Mexico's

easternmost portion of land. This area was once home to the Mayan civilization and still features some of its ancient buildings. Much of the Yucatan Peninsula is covered in thick tropical rainforests.

Baja California is a narrow, mountainous strip of land that stretches 750 miles south from the border with the United States.

The Rio Bravo del Norte makes up part of the northern border with the United States. In the U.S., this river is known as the Rio Grande.



Rio Grande



Source: WorldAtlas.com

Exercise 3: Fill in the gaps below.

- 1) Mexico's landscape is dominated by _____, the most important one being the _____.
- 2) Much of northern Mexico is covered in _____, and _____.
- 3) The Sierra Madre consists of the Sierra Madre _____, the Sierra Madre _____, and the Sierra Madre _____.
- 4) _____ is Mexico's highest point. It is part of the _____.
- 5) _____ and _____ are Mexico's peninsulas.
- 6) In Mexico, the Rio Grande River is called the _____.

Exercise 4: Name the geographic features.

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|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ | 9) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ | 10) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ | 11) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 8) _____ | 12) _____ |

