Mexico

Digital Resources and Children’s Books

Updated 1/2021

Kid-Friendly YouTube Clips:

Beautiful Mexico: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xgk-5rTPq3c
Mexico History in 5 Minutes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOXR5rtHJbk
Geography Now, Mexico: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxy74EAjAec
Mexico, Fun Facts for Kids: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bil9E5wdaY
Olmec Culture of Ancient Mexico: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTqgksmmAuY
Origin of the Aztec Empire: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mig0VtHe83M
Ancient Maya 101: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6eBJjdca14
Chichen Itza, the Great Mayan City: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8sSq2bXHBw
The Maya People: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86F10IrVVus
The Huichol People: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoRqcYj8h3c
Mexican States, Traditional Dress: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5RQpNbfAzQ
Huichol Flute/drum Dance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6ecjKvVW4g
Mariachi Music & Folklorico Dance Heritage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyQbLrbzS78
Diego Rivera, Mexican Muralist: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyLHcwBH6Pl
Traditional Mexican Cuisine: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhZ-EKPPQkU
Weird & Wonderful Mexico Wildlife: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vcY-LhhywU
Websites:

Overview of Mexico: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico


The Concheros Aztec Dance: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concheros

Introduction to the Aztec Calendar: https://www.azteccalendar.com/azteccalendar.html

Maya Numerals: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_numerals

The Indigenous Tribes of Baja California: https://www.mexinsurance.com/the-indigenous-tribes-of-baja/

10 Things to See in Chiapas, Mexico: https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/mexico/articles/top-10-things-see-chiapas-mexico/


Mexican Handcrafts and Folk Art: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_handcrafts_and_folk_art

Mexican Embroidery: https://www.rebeccadevaney.ie/mexican-embroidery/

Mexican Mask Folk Art: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_mask-folk_art

Pottery of Mexico: https://www.mexican-folk-art-guide.com/Mexican-Pottery.html#.YAtOcOhKjIU

How Mayan Hammocks are made: https://stylemexican.com/resources/how-hammocks-are-made/


History & Types of Sombrero Hats: http://www.historyofhats.net/hat-history/history-of-sombrero/


Cinco de Mayo Festival https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco_de_Mayo


Mexico’s Day of the Dead: https://www.mexperience.com/day-of-the-dead-in-mexico/


Folktales of Mexico: https://latinfolktales.wordpress.com/category/mexican-folk-tales/
Lesson Plans:

Mexico Lesson Plans: https://www.pinterest.com/elaineannap/mexico-lesson-plans/

Mexico, Arts & Crafts for Kids: https://www.seasidemexico.com/mexican-crafts-for-kids/

How it’s Made, The Pinata: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzMvm3X3l4Q

How to Make a God’s Eye (Ojo de Dios): https://layers-of-learning.com/ojo-de-dios/

Mariachi Instruments Lesson: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9r1PekfQR4

Ancient Mexico Lesson Plans: https://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/ancient-mexican-civilizations/all

Ancient Mayan Lesson Plans: https://kidskonnect.com/history/ancient-mayan/

The Mayan Math Game: https://maya.nmai.si.edu/maya-sun/maya-math-game

Mexico Ancient Civilizations: https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:mexico%20ancient%20civilizations
# Children’s Books:

**Title:** Who Was Frida Kahlo  
**Author:** Sarah Fabiny  
**Grade Level:** 3 - 7  
**Paperback:** 112 pages  
**Publisher:** Grosset & Dunlap  
**ISBN-10:** 0448479389  
**Summary:** You can always recognize a painting by Kahlo because she is in nearly all—with her black braided hair and colorful Mexican outfits. A brave woman who was an invalid most of her life, she transformed herself into a living work of art. As famous for her self-portraits and haunting imagery as she was for her marriage to another famous artist, Diego Rivera, this strong and courageous painter was inspired by the ancient culture and history of her beloved homeland, Mexico. Her paintings continue to inform and inspire popular culture around the world.

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**Title:** Off We Go to Mexico  
**Author:** Laurie Krebs  
**Grade Level:** Kindergarten and up  
**Paperback:** 32 pages  
**Publisher:** Barefoot Books; 1st edition  
**ISBN-10:** 1846861594  
**Summary:** Swim in turquoise seas, admire grey whales and monarch butterflies, trek to native villages and sing and dance to the music of Mariachi bands. Along the way, you can learn Spanish words and phrases and discover Mexican culture. Enjoy your journey!
**Let’s Learn About Mexico**

**Title:** Let’s Learn About Mexico  
**Author:** Yoko Green  
**Grade Level:** Preschool - 5  
**Series:** Dover Children's Activity Books  
**Paperback:** 48 pages  
**Publisher:** Dover Publications  
**ISBN-10:** 0486489949  
**Summary:** Welcome to Mexico, land of tropical rain forests, volcanoes, deserts, and beaches—and a vibrant array of ancient and modern traditions. This book introduces kids, ages 6 to 10, to fascinating aspects of Mexican geography, language, food, arts, sports, and festivals. Puzzles and activities range from dot-to-dots, crosswords, and spot-the-differences to easy directions for making piñatas and maracas. Cute illustrations offer plenty of opportunities for coloring.

**Cactus Soup**

**Title:** Cactus Soup  
**Author:** Eric A. Kimmel  
**Grade Level:** 1st - 3rd  
**Paperback:** 32 pages  
**Publisher:** Two Lions; Reprint edition  
**ISBN-10:** 0761458328  
**Summary:** When a group of hungry soldiers ride into San Miguel, the townspeople don’t want to share their food. They hide their tortillas, tamales, beans, and flour and put on torn clothes to look poor. But the Capitán is not fooled. He asks for a cactus thorn to make some cactus soup, and before long he has tricked the townspeople into giving him salt and chilies, vegetables, and a chicken as well! Whimsical watercolors by Phil Huling add to the humor in this southwestern twist on the classic Stone Soup tale.
| Title: The Ancient Maya | Author: Jackie Maloy  
| Grade Level: 2 and up | Series: True Books  
| Paperback: 48 pages | Publisher: Scholastic Books  
| ISBN-10: 0531241106 | Summary: A True Book: Ancient Civilizations series allows readers to experience what makes each ancient civilization distinctive and exceptional as well look at its influence on the some of the practices of the modern world. This series includes an age appropriate (grades 3-5) introduction to curriculum-relevant subjects and a robust resource section that encourages independent study. |

| Title: The Pot That Juan Built | Author: Nancy Andrews-Goebel  
| Grade Level: 1 and up | Paperback: 32 pages  
| Publisher: Lee & Low Books  
| ISBN-10: 1600608485 | Summary: Juan Quezada is the premier potter in Mexico. With local materials and the primitive methods of the Casas Grande people — including using human hair to make brushes and cow manure to feed the flames that fire his pots — Juan creates stunning pots in the traditional style. Each is a work of art unlike any other. This celebratory story tells how Juan’s pioneering work has transformed Mata Ortiz from an impoverished village into a prosperous community of world-renowned artists. |

| Title: What Can You Do With A Paleta? | Author: Carmen Tafolla  
| Grade Level: Preschool - 2 | Paperback: 32 pages  
| Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Bilingual edition | Language: English/Spanish  
<p>| ISBN-10: 0385755376 | Summary: In this bilingual paperback edition, discover the joys of a paleta—the traditional Mexican popsicle treat sold from the wagon with the tinkle bell that brings children running from every direction. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer’s day—there’s so much to do with a paleta. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: In My Family</th>
<th>Title: My Abuelita</th>
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<tr>
<td>Author: Carmen Garza</td>
<td>Author: Tony Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Level: 1 and up</td>
<td>Grade Level: Preschool - 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paperback: 32 pages</td>
<td>Hardcover: 32 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher: CBP; Bilingual edition</td>
<td>Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers</td>
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<td>Summary: In her eagerly-awaited second book for children, In My Family/En Mi Familia, internationally-renowned artist Carmen Lomas Garza takes us once again to her hometown of Kingsville, Texas, near the border with Mexico. Through vibrant paintings and warm personal stories, Carmen brings to life more loving memories of growing up in a traditional Mexican American community: eating empanadas, witnessing the blessing on her cousin's wedding day, and dancing to the conjunto band at the neighborhood restaurant.</td>
<td>Summary: Abuelita's hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her carcacha—her jalopy—with all the things she needs: a plumed snake, a castle, a skeleton, and more. Her grandson knows he has the most amazing grandmother ever—with a very important job. What does Abuelita do? With her booming voice and wonderful props, Abuelita is a storyteller. Next to being a grandmother, that may be the most important job of all. Sprinkled with Spanish and infused with love, My Abuelita is a glorious celebration of family, imagination, and the power of story.</td>
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**Title:** Just A Minute!: A Trickster Tale & Counting Book  
**Author:** Yuyi Morales  
**Grade Level:** Preschool - 7  
**Series:** Pura Belpre Medal Book Illustrator (Awards)  
**Hardcover:** 36 pages  
**Publisher:** Chronicle Books; Library Binding edition  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN-10:** 0811837580  
**Summary:** In this original trickster tale, Senor Calavera arrives unexpectedly at Grandma Beetle's door. He requests that she leave with him right away. "Just a minute," Grandma Beetle tells him. She still has one house to sweep, two pots of tea to boil, three pounds of corn to make into tortillas -- and that's just the start! Using both Spanish and English words to tally the party preparations, Grandma Beetle cleverly delays her trip and spends her birthday with a table full of grandchildren and her surprise guest. This spirited tribute to the rich traditions of Mexican culture is the perfect introduction to counting in both English and Spanish.

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**Title:** The Dead Family Diaz  
**Author:** P.J. Bracegirdle  
**Grade Level:** 1 - 4  
**Hardcover:** 1 pages  
**Publisher:** Dial Books  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN-10:** 0803733267  
**Summary:** Every skeleton in the Land of the Dead is excited to celebrate el Día de los Muertos with the Living. But not Angelito. His big sister has told him all about their horrifying bulgy eyes and squishy skin. So when Angelito is separated from his family in the Land of the Living, he's petrified--until he makes a new friend who is just as terrified of THEM as Angelito is. Then his new buddy turns out to be (gulp!) a living boy! Angelito runs as fast as his bony feet can carry him. Fortunately the traditions of the Day of the Dead reunite the two boys, just in time for some holiday fun.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: The Day of the Dead/El Dia De los Muertos</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author: Bob Barner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Level: Preschool and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paperback: 32 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher: Holiday House; Bilingual edition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: English</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN-10: 0823423816</td>
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<td>Summary: Follow two children as they celebrate their ancestors on this vibrant holiday. They offer marigolds, sugar skulls, and special bread, and make delicious foods. By spreading marigold petals, they guide the dead home to join the festivities. Finally, after singing and dancing, it's time for bed. Bob Barner's luscious collages incorporate the traditional symbols of Day of the Dead. His poetic text is both English and Spanish. An author's note provides additional information on the holiday.</td>
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