

**MEXICO Guided Reading**

All responses should be in YOUR OWN WORDS!

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mexico/Government-and-society>

Fill in the blank

1. Mexico is a \_\_\_\_\_ composed of \_\_\_\_\_ states and the Federal District. Governmental powers are divided constitutionally between \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ branches, but, when Mexico was under \_\_\_\_\_ in the 20th century, the \_\_\_\_\_ had strong control over the entire system. The \_\_\_\_\_, which has been amended several times, guarantees \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and also establishes economic and political principles for the country.
  - a. Now, **compare** that whole mess to the United States –

2. **Describe** the components of the legislative branch (now might be a good time to construct a chart of some kind...or never mind, you just got into college, I'll do it.) –

It's BICAMERAL!	UPPER HOUSE -	LOWER HOUSE -
How elected?		
Terms		

3. **Explain** how the legislature is elected (this is tricky) –
4. **Explain** how the president (excuse me, el presidente) is elected –
  - a. And the powers too –
5. **Explain** how local governments (very similar set up to US in terms of sets and federalism and all that junk) are limited in Mexico –
6. This is the part where you read about a judicial system in Latin America – it's everything you would imagine – fraud, corruption, drogas – discuss how this limits “**rule of law**” (your favorite COPO term) in Mexico –
7. **Discuss** how the PRI party maintained political control from 1929 until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (tactics) –

<https://mexicoinstituteonelections2015.wordpress.com/>

***Mexico Institute 2015 Election Guide***

***-The Parties-***

8. Describe each of the parties (history, electoral success, ideology)
  - a. PAN –
  - b. PRI –
  - c. PRD –
  - d. Describe the Morena party –

**-2015 Election-**

The Mexican legislature passed a series of reforms in 2014 (so not in your book) go through and summarize each.

**9. New national electoral body –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**10. Reelection –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**11. Election annulment –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**12. Sanction of electoral offenses –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**13. Coalition government and other checks and balances –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**14. Voting abroad and gender parity –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**15. Independent candidates –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

**16. New political parties –**

- a. Explain how this makes Mexico either more of a liberal democracy or more of an illiberal democracy –

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/07/opinion/mexico-election-lopez-obrador.html>

***The End of Mexican Democracy? (Opinion piece)***

\*So this guy provides really good context for Mexican political history, I basically just need you to know that history.

1. Explain how President Calles institutionalized power of the PRI –

-Explain how the 2000 election, and subsequent reforms, marked the end of this –

3. What are the four terrible problems cited as complicating Mexican democracy?

<https://www.vox.com/world/2018/6/30/17514176/mexico-2018-president-election-lopez-obrador>

***The 2018 Mexican Election, Explained***

1. What party does Obrador represent?

2. In addition to the president, whom else did Mexican's elect in 2018?

3. Provide a narrative for why Mexican's elected Obrador (provide context for his victory, why is it that he didn't win the first two times he attempted, but now Mexican's are more attracted to him?) –

4. Why has there been a wave of violence associated with this election?

5. Why was Pena Nieto's approval rating so low by the end of his presidency?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/02/world/americas/mexico-election-lopez-obrador.html>

***Mexico Elections: 5 Takeaways from Lopez Obrador's Victory***

1. Explain how the election of Lopez Obrador is seen as another step towards Mexican political liberalization –

2. What major problems did Lopez Obrador inherit and how does he plan on solving them?

3. What do the election results mean for the establishment parties in Mexico?

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/mexico>

***Human Rights Watch – Mexico 2019***

1. Why is torture used by the Mexican state? Describe the methods –

2. Explain how the Mexican legislature has attempted to combat this –

3. How would you describe freedom of the press in Mexico after reading about the treatment of journalists? (And please don't just write "bad."...That's annoying.)

4. Describe abortion access in most Mexican states –
  
5. Describe the legal status of same-sex marriages –

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/25/world/americas/mexico-press-government-advertising.html>

***Using billions in government cash, Mexico controls the news media***

1. **Explain** how 3 claims in this article support that Mexico is an **illiberal democracy** –
  - a. Claim 1 and support –
  
  - b. Claim 2 and support –
  
  - c. Claim 3 and support –

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-38840076>

***Car ban fails to curb air pollution in Mexico City***

1. **Describe** 3 different methods that Mexico has attempted to reduce being “**the world’s most polluted city**” –
  - a. Method 1 and description –
  
  - b. Method 2 and description –
  
  - c. Method 3 and description –

<https://www.thebalance.com/mexico-s-economy-facts-opportunities-challenges-3306351>

***Mexico’s Economy Facts, Opportunities, and Challenges***

1. Describe Mexico’s trade relationship with the United States (this is throughout the article)–
  
2. What is Mexico’s No. 1 export?
  
3. Describe Nieto’s “Pact for Mexico” –
  
4. Explain how the cartels pose a challenge to economic success –
  
5. Describe the irony of Mexico’s recent population surge -