

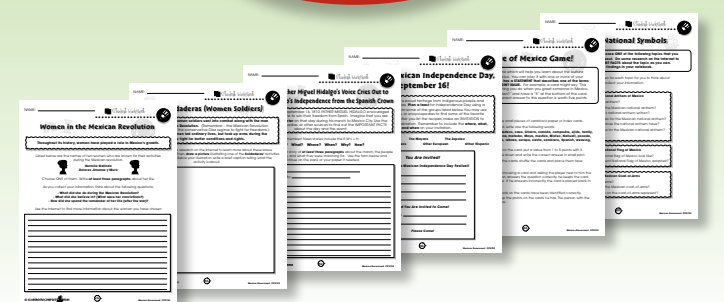
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# The Constitution of Mexico

1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. You may use a dictionary, an encyclopedia or the Internet to help you.

The Constitution of the United Mexican States	federation	Mexico City
February 5, 1917	Miguel Hidalgo	citizen
liberty	September 16, 1810	

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ was the Mexican priest who began a revolt against the Spanish government.
- b) Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) The Mexican states are called a \_\_\_\_\_ because each one is equal and controls its own internal affairs.
- d) The official name for the supreme law of Mexico is \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Another word for freedom is \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) The national capital of the United Mexican States is \_\_\_\_\_.
- g) A person who has rights within a government is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- h) The current Mexican Constitution was signed on \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Mexico has had six constitutions during its history. Put them in the correct order from 1 to 6.

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ a) Constitution of 1824 | _____ d) Constitution of 1821 |
| _____ b) Constitution of 1857 | _____ e) Constitution of 1835 |
| _____ c) Constitution of 1917 | _____ f) Constitution of 1814 |



# The Constitution of Mexico

**M**exican history is filled with its struggles for **independence**. Throughout these battles, or revolutions, Mexicans have worked to make their country strong. From the time of its discovery in 1519 until 1821, Mexico was a **colony** of the absolute monarchy of Spain. Spain directly controlled Mexico in every area of life.

A priest named **Miguel Hidalgo** led a revolt against the Spanish rule on September 16, 1810. This date is celebrated as **Mexico's National Independence Day**. Later, in 1821, the first independent Mexican government was formed.

There have been six constitutions in Mexican history. The latest one was signed on February 5, 1917. This day is also remembered as a national holiday. To Mexican citizens, the Constitution of 1917 is the most important set of laws ever made.

## What Is the Constitution?

The official name of Mexico's Constitution is the **Political Constitution of the United Mexican States of 1917**. It outlines the rights and responsibilities each citizen has and describes how the government should be run.

The Constitution divides the country into 31 separate and **sovereign states** along with a Federal District, and the Mexican Islands. The **Federal District** is a territory that belongs to all of the states. **Mexico City**, the nation's capital, is in the Federal District. The group of states which form the United Mexican States is called a **federation**. This means that the states are separate and equal with each one controlling its own internal affairs.

The Constitution of 1917 was the result of seven years of fierce fighting. The fighting was about rights and equality among the citizens of Mexico. During this time, over one million people died in the violence. The Constitution was written to describe the rights and privileges all citizens should have no matter how rich or poor they are.



# The Constitution of Mexico

1. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- a) In its early years, Mexico was a colony of France.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Mexicans celebrate their Independence Day on July 4.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The Mexican government is divided into three parts or branches.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- d) The president's advisors are called Secretaries of State.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write each word or group of words beside the statement that describes it.

Miguel Hidalgo	Titles	federation	Mexico City
----------------	--------	------------	-------------

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) The national capital of Mexico
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) States are separate and equal with each one controlling its own internal affairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) Led a revolt against the Spanish rule on September 16, 1810
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) Sections of the Mexican Constitution



Here are six writing tasks about the government of Mexico. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the Mexican government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

**Task #1** Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. All governments have leaders. What is the title of the person who leads the Mexican government? How is he or she selected?

**Task #2** Being the leader of a large country like Mexico is a very big task for anyone. What kind of qualities do you think the leader of the Mexican government should have? What kind of qualities do you think the leader of your country should have? Compare the qualities you have given for each leader. Give good reasons for your opinion.

**Task #3** Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 states, "Every individual has the right to receive education." Why do you think the writers of the Constitution thought an education was so important?

**Task #4** All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, homelessness). If you were president of the United Mexican States which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

**Task #5** The Mexican president has many powers. Think about what you have learned about the Mexican government and describe three of the powers the Mexican president has. What document gives him these powers?

**Task #6** The Constitution of 1917 states that slavery is forbidden in Mexico. What is slavery? What basic rights are taken away from a person who is a slave to another person or group of people?



# Crossword Puzzle!

**Word List**

balances	dictator
government	conflicts
pardon	candidate
executive	Hidalgo
Deputies	Senate
democracy	sexenio
good	federation
rights	titles
	judicial
	protect
	branch
	power
	anarchy
	vote

**Down**

- Chamber of the \_\_\_\_\_
- to forgive
- Another word for "might"
- The common \_\_\_\_\_
- An army should \_\_\_\_\_ the citizens
- A group of independent states
- Checks and \_\_\_\_\_
- One who has all the power and rules by force
- The Chamber of \_\_\_\_\_

**Across**

- Presidential term in Mexico
- Person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else
- Privileges due to a person because he lives in a particular place
- Sections of the Mexican Constitution
- Another word for disagreements or battles
- One division of government
- Miguel \_\_\_\_\_, Mexican patriot
- A form of government in which the people select the ones who govern them
- In a democracy, a citizen casts his \_\_\_\_\_ for president
- The branch of the Mexican government which makes sure that the laws are constitutional
- Having no government at all
- Judicial, Legislative and \_\_\_\_\_



# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

leader	democracy	titles	chambers
citizens	independence	branches	publishes
rights	hidalgo	sexenio	democracy
enforce	sovereign	checks	elected
anarchy	mexico city	veto	political
monarchy	federation	pardon	parties
constitution	president	authority	vote

c	h	e	c	k	s	a	b	s	r	e	b	n	a	h	a	c	d
m	i	l	k	j	t	i	h	g	f	e	r	d	c	b	u	z	y
n	d	o	p	q	h	i	n	o	a	r	a	p	r	s	t	u	v
d	a	c	b	a	g	z	t	y	w	h	v	u	t	h	r	q	
e	l	f	g	h	i	i	j	k	l	c	m	n	b	o	p	q	
r	g	s	p	o	r	n	m	l	s	k	h	j	i	h	r	e	a
a	o	e	d	f	g	t	e	w	q	s	e	n	m	u	i	i	n
e	v	i	i	b	o	i	n	e	x	e	s	e	n	e	t	l	s
m	n	t	s	y	t	u	b	v	e	j	q	k	b	e	y	l	i
h	o	r	n	o	e	l	k	r	y	c	a	r	c	o	m	e	d
t	r	a	e	r	v	o	t	e	p	o	r	y	k	r	j	a	w
w	i	p	z	l	m	e	x	i	c	o	c	i	t	y	y	d	c
s	n	v	i	p	e	y	r	d	s	a	q	w	e	h	r	e	o
b	d	e	t	y	q	c	u	e	j	w	b	e	e	c	o	r	n
w	e	g	i	h	k	t	s	i	z	x	p	a	r	t	e	s	
i	p	e	c	w	q	a	r	e	s	g	d	o	f	a	h	j	t
j	e	c	r	v	b	e	m	y	d	e	n	l	w	n	e	r	i
y	n	f	g	n	b	l	h	x	c	n	m	i	q	o	w	e	t
p	d	q	u	m	r	c	e	r	w	q	m	t	n	m	b	v	u
l	e	w	a	o	r	y	o	t	n	e	d	i	s	e	r	p	t
a	n	h	b	a	j	f	g	d	s	d	s	c	a	q	w	q	i
l	c	a	n	m	n	o	f	e	d	e	r	a	t	i	o	n	o
h	e	a	f	e	f	y	s	e	h	s	i	l	b	u	p	h	n



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part A



Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Constitution of 1917 was written in order to set up a government for Mexico.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Institutional Revolutionary Party and the National Action Party are the two most popular political parties in Mexico.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The government of the United Mexican States is a representative monarchy.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The government of Mexico is divided into four branches.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Mexican president's advisors are called Secretaries of Senate.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- In Mexico, the right to introduce laws or decrees belongs to the deputies and senators of the Congress only.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL: /10

# Political Map of Mexico



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read 



# The Constitution of Mexico

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. The history of Mexico is filled with revolutions and fighting. In most of the battles, what were the Mexicans trying to gain? Why do you think they fought so hard for this goal?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the purpose of the Constitution of 1917?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What had happened in Mexico in the seven years before the Constitution of 1917 was written?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the three branches of the Mexican government? What job does each branch do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Become a Research Detective!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to help you find the answers to the following: Washington, D.C. and Mexico City are both national capitals located in a federal district. Learn more about the two cities by comparing their:

country names  
populations  
areas

monetary units (money)  
languages  
climate

Record your answers in the chart on the next page.



3. Freedom. Accept any reasonable response.

4. Outlines rights and responsibilities of citizens, describes how the government should be run

5. Fierce fighting about and equality

6. executive, legislative, judicial

7. Accept any verifiable answers



Accept any reasonable response

12

14

15

Answers will vary

### Across:

- 1. sexenio
- 3. government
- 4. rights
- 5. Titles
- 6. conflicts
- 7. branch
- 8. Hidalgo
- 10. democracy
- 11. vote
- 12. judicial
- 13. anarchy
- 15. executive

### Down:

- 1. Senate
- 2. pardon
- 4. power
- 5. good
- 6. protect
- 7. federation
- 8. balances
- 9. dictator
- 10. Deputies
- 12. candidate

# EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

