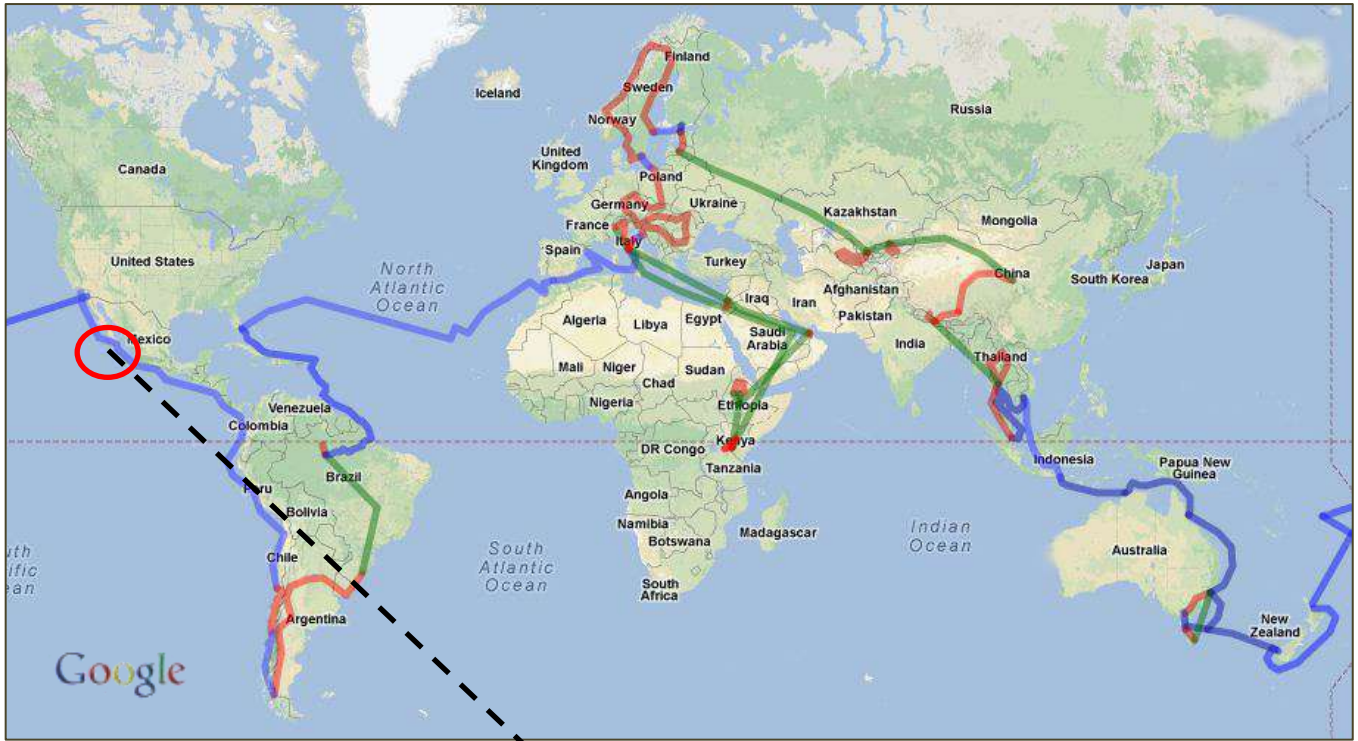




Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, located at 23° N and 110° W.
- We have traveled approximately 75,083 miles (118,939 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- Mexico is officially known as Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States). There are 31 states in the country.
- Many ancient hunting and farming tribes occupied the area now known as Mexico for hundreds of years, including the Maya, Zapotecs, Mixtecs, Tarascans and Aztecs.
- Spaniard Hernando Cortez arrived in central Mexico in 1519 and overthrew the main Aztec city of Tenochtitlan in 1521. Mexico became a colony, known as "New Spain". Other regional conquests continued during the next two hundred years that added to the colony.
- During the colonial period, thousands of indigenous people died from diseases, such as smallpox, that were spread by the Europeans. Today, Mexico's population of about 112 million is comprised of 60% mestizo (mixed Spanish / Indigenous), 30% Indigenous and 10% Caucasian / other).
- Mexico revolted against Spain in 1810 and gained independence in 1821. Its northern territories, such as Texas and California, formally became part of the United States after the Mexican-American War (1846-1848).
- Cabo San Lucas was discovered by Cortez and his navigator in 1535. It became a trading post and stopover for pirates. The completion of a Baja peninsula highway in 1974 paved the way for growth into a resort and fishing destination.

Did you know?

- Mexico is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world and has the greatest number of Native American language speakers in North America.
- Mexico introduced the foods of chocolate, chilies and corn. Hot chocolate was thought by the Aztecs to be a drink of the gods.
- The border between Mexico and the United States is one of the longest and most frequently crossed in the world.

*sources: Randomhistory.com,
Wikipedia.org*



Map of Mexico (1835-1846) (source: Citizendia.org)



*Cabo San Lucas
(source: Commons.wikimedia.org)*



Copper Canyon
(source : [Flickr.com](http://Flickr.com/Sjors_Provoost)
[/Sjors Provoost](http://Sjors_Provoost))

Monarch Migration

One of the most remarkable seasonal migrations in the world is that of the monarch butterfly. It travels from the United States and Canada to central Mexico in the fall and back again in the spring. They migrate because they cannot survive the cold winter temperatures, becoming paralyzed if the temperature falls below 40°F (4°C). Their migration is an average of 1,800 miles (2,897 kilometers) each way and they cover about 80 miles (129 kilometers) per day during their journey. It is not exactly known how millions of butterflies find their way year after year to the same area.



sources: About.com, [Flickr.com/Scott Clark](http://Flickr.com/Scott_Clark)

Nature and Environment

- Mexico is the third largest of the Latin American countries (Central and South America). It is about three times the size of the U.S. state of Texas.
- The sheer size of Mexico means that it has varied terrain, ranging from two different deserts in the north, several mountain ranges, coastal plains and lowlands and marshy jungle in the south.
- In the northern state of Chihuahua, Copper Canyon is actually a series of six separate canyons that have sections deeper than the Grand Canyon in the United States. Deforestation is an environmental threat to Copper Canyon as only two percent of the original old-growth forest remains.
- The national bird of Mexico is the golden eagle. It is featured on the country flag. The golden eagle is North America's largest bird of prey with a wingspan up to 7.5 feet (2.3 meters).



sources: Search.com,
Animals.nationalgeographic.com

Our Plans

- Mexico is our last country on our journey. We spent three days at sea prior to arriving in Cabo San Lucas. We will spend the day here relaxing and exploring the town.
- After leaving Cabo San Lucas, we have one more day at sea before reaching the United States and the end of our voyage in Los Angeles.
- We are looking forward to seeing our family and friends after being gone for so long! We are also hoping to meet with as many classrooms as possible after we get home so that we can answer any other questions that you may have. Thanks for all your support throughout our journey!

Mariachi Music

Mariachi groups usually consist of at least two violins, one Spanish guitar, one vihuela (a high-pitched guitar) and one guitarrón (a small acoustic bass). Groups can be as big as 20 people. The mariachi sound has Spanish, native and African influences. It started in the 19th century as laborers, moving from town to town, sang songs of heroes, enemies and news of other places.



sources: Sheppardsoftware.com,
Britannica.com

More Information

- <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/fun-facts-about-mexico-for-kids.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Mexico
- <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Americas/Mexico.html>
- http://www.questconnect.org/mexico_cc_geography_climate.htm
- <http://www.cabopacific.com/cabohistory.html>
- <http://www.tour-life.com/p927/l14/index.html>
- <http://history-world.org/mexico.htm>
- <http://www.wwfblogs.org/travel/2011/03/24/ten-facts-about-copper-canyon/>

Our Partners



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License.