

PEPITO'S PRESS



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Celebrating the Holidays in Mexico

In Mexico, Christmas is a nine day celebration called "Las Posadas." Nine families in the neighborhood schedule a night for the Posada to be held at their home, starting the evening December 16th and ending on the 24th. Every home has a nativity scene and the hosts of the Posada act as the innkeepers. The neighborhood children and adults are the pilgrims (peregrinos), who request lodging by going home to home singing traditional songs about the pilgrims. All pilgrims carry small lit candles and four people carry small statues of Joseph leading a donkey, on which Mary is riding.

At each house, the residents respond by refusing lodging (also in song), until the weary travelers reach the designated house for that night, where Mary and Joseph are finally allowed to enter. The grandest celebration is on Christmas Eve, when there are Christmas carols (villancicos) and children break open piñatas by striking the colorful papier-mâché objects with wooden sticks, while blindfolded, to obtain candy hidden inside. There is also a great feast.



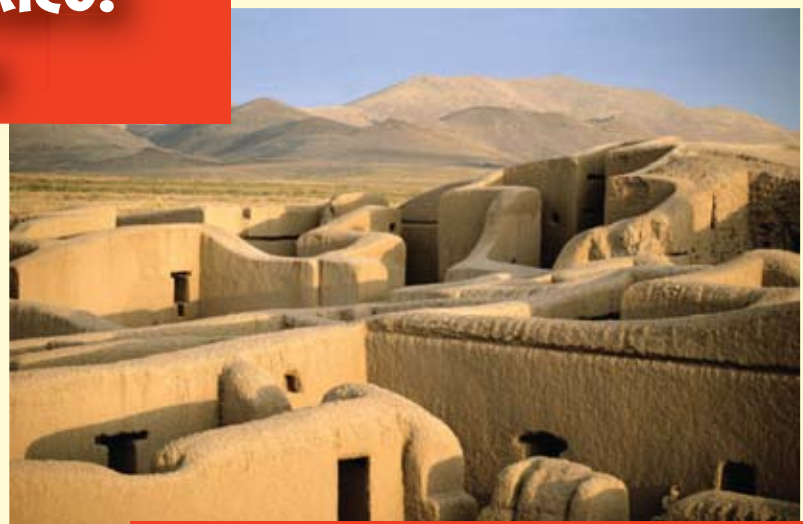
To celebrate the New Year in Mexico, people down one grape for each of the twelve chimes of the bell during the countdown, while making a wish with each one. On New Year's Eve, those who want to find love in the New Year wear red underwear or yellow if they want money.

¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Places to see in Mexico! Casa Grandes

Casas Grandes, also known as Paquime, located in the state of Chihuahua, was a cultural center in northern Mexico for over 300 years. At the height of its power in the 13th century, the city's population is thought to have reached 10,000 with most of the citizens living in five or six story buildings, very similar to modern apartments.

Casas Grandes featured a ceremonial area, temple structures, a ball court, pyramids and effigy mounds, including one that resembled a cross with perfect astronomical orientation. Turkeys and parrots were kept in special cages, possibly to supply feathers used for ceremonial and personal adornment.



Casa Grandes

Did you know?

Children are given both their father's name and their mother's maiden name? It helps preserve the heritage of both parents.

The largest bullfighting ring is in Mexico.

Mexico has the smallest volcano in the world at 43 feet tall.

Many dinosaur bones have been found in northern Mexico.

Mexico has:

- 770 different types of reptiles
- 408 different types of mammals
- 290 different types of amphibians
- 26,000 different types of flora.

Want more fun facts...
AND free food?

Join Pepito's Club!

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Fun & Games



N D A A E A E A D A C A V A Z A U Q
O E M V V V V V B V V V V V E E
I I I E S C O N D I D A S I I I M L
V O L O U O M O I I O Y O L W P O Y
A N B E A T R A P A D A S Z P M U O
A L A V I B O R A D E L A M A R A Y
T D D X O U Z S A C I N A C U R M O
L A C U E R D A T D P Y E M Y O E E
P I E D R A P A P E L O T I E R A A

Children in Mexico enjoy activities just the same as children of the United States and around the world.

Complete this word search to become familiar with these games in Spanish.

- avion – hopscotch
- escondidas – hide and seek
- la cuerda – jump rope
- atrapadas – catch
- piedra, papel, o tijeras – rock, paper, scissors
- el yoyo – yoyo
- canicas – marbles
- a la vibora de la mar – London bridges