**Section 2: Mexico’s History and Culture**

**1. The Olmec built temples and giant statues.**

**2. The Maya studied the stars and developed writing and a calendar.**

**3. The Aztec built Tenochtitlan right on top of a lake.**

**4. Hernan Cortes arrives and defeats the Aztecs with war and disease.**

**5. Spanish and Americans intermarry and have “mestizo” children.**

**6. Roman Catholic Missions teach native people about God and “civilize” them.**

**7. Natives work on Spanish haciendas, or farms.**

**8. Catholic priest, Miguel Hidalgo, calls for independence from Spain (1810).**

**9. Mexican Revolution of 1810; they become independent in 1821.**

**10. Mexican-American War: Mexico loses Texas to the U.S.**

**11. Benito Juarez stood up for rights of Mexicans and formed democratic government.**

**12. Mexican Revolution of 1910-land given back to peasants**

**Mexico Regions:**

**1. Greater Mexico City**

**-capital; 50 cities close by**

**-world’s 2nd largest city**

**-jobs and education**

**-pollution (smog)**

**-poverty (slums)**

**2. Central Mexico**

**-mining or ranching centers**

**-colonial style churches**

**-fertile valleys and small family farms (vegetables, corn, wheat)**

**-Guadalajara (industries)**

**3. Northern Mexico**

**-rich and modern**

**-maquiladores (foreign-owned factories)**

**-American influence**

**4. Southern Mexico**

**-speak Indian languages**

**-subsistence farming**

**-slash and burn agriculture**

**-sugarcane, coffee**

**-oil in Gulf coast**

**\*Yucatan Peninsula: Maya ruins, beaches, tourism**