

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Mexican Culture

Geographic context:

- Mexico is a North American country bordering the United States, Guatemala and Belize. Its culture is primarily influenced by its Indigenous inhabitants and the culture of Spain. Mexican culture is described as the 'child' of both western and native American civilizations.

History and Language:

- There were over 85 different 'pueblos indigenas de Mexico' (indigenous peoples of Mexico) when the Spanish first arrived.
- Today, roughly 65 survive, speaking over 60 languages and 290 dialects.
- The official language of Mexico is Spanish.

Religion and Ethnicity:

- Mexico does not have an official religion.
- However, Roman Catholicism is the dominant faith and deeply culturally pervasive.
- It is estimated over 80% of the population identifies as Catholic.
- The majority of the population is Mestizo, meaning they share a mixture of European and Amerindian heritage to some degree, while approximately 21.5% self-identify as indigenous.
- There are also many people with mostly European ancestry. As international migration increased over the 20th century, communities of people from other ethnicities have also grown.

Communication style:

- Mexicans are generally indirect communicators and don't give direct refusals.

Demographics in Australia:

- It is indicated that there are 6,845 people who were born in Mexico living in Australia and there are 10,754 Australians who have Mexican ancestry in the 2021 Australian Census.



References:

- [Cultural Atlas](#)