



## **¡ de México!**

- **President:** Felipe Calderón
- **Population:** 108,700,891
- **Currency:** Pesos (approximately 11 pesos per dollar)
- **Religion:** 89% Christian, specifically 76% Catholic
- **Capital:** Mexico City-- known as "D.F." (pronounced "day eff-ay")  
D.F. stands for "Distrito Federal" or "Federal District", sort of like our D.C.
- **History:** México was once the home of ancient indigenous cultures such as the Aztecs and Mayans. Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés and his troops conquered the Aztecs in 1521. The priest Miguel Hidalgo initiated a revolt against the Spanish rule on the 16th of September, 1810 and Mexico gained independence. This is now México's National Day, kind of like our 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

## **¡ de Baja !**

- Mexico is divided into states much like our own country. There are 31.
- We are going to the state of "Baja California", which is the northernmost state in Mexico. It is sometimes called "Baja California Norte", (Number 2 on the map).
- Almost 3 million people live in Baja California – and about 1.5 million (half) of those in Baja live in Tijuana!
- The border crossing at Tijuana is the world's busiest border crossing.

## **¡ México & the U.S. !**

In a meeting between Mexican President, Felipe Calderón, and Barack Obama, the presidents discussed the dynamic relationship between the US and Mexico. Calderón said, "It will be the beginning of an extraordinary age in the relationship between the United States and Mexico." Obama remarked, "The friendship between the United States and Mexico has been strong, I believe it can be even stronger and that's going to be the commitment of my administration. My message today is that my administration is going to be ready on Day One to work to build a stronger relationship with Mexico."

*as reported in The Boston Globe, January 12, 2009*

## **¡ Research !**

*We highly advocate spending time researching before you come.*

- <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/dinamarca/index.php> (Click "Tourism (English Only)" or "About Mexico".)
- [www.countryreports.org](http://www.countryreports.org) (Use scroll feature to locate "Mexico".)
- [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook) (Use scroll feature to locate Mexico.)
- <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html> (Select "Mexico" from "Choose a Country Study".)