



# Facts of Chiapas

## Reading Comprehension Activities

María de los Ángeles Mendoza González

Colección  
Selva Negra



UNICACH



Facts of Chiapas,  
Reading Comprehension Activities

Ma. de los Ángeles Mendoza González



UNIVERSIDAD DE CIENCIAS Y ARTES DE CHIAPAS  
2012

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Nombre de una reserva ecológica en el estado de Chiapas, las implicaciones de carácter antropológico de la Selva Negra han rebasado por mucho la alerta ambiental por su preservación. Es en este sentido que la colección dedicada a las ciencias sociales y humanísticas está sellada por un título cuya resonancia evoca un tema filosófico tan crucial como el que plantea los límites y alcances de la acción humana sobre los recursos naturales que le brindan sustento.

Primera edición: 2012

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Diseño de la colección: Manuel Cunjamá

Imagen de portada: Elva Montoya Gordillo

Impreso en México

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## Introduction

Reading is a very important process in the professional activity of human being, also is a way to know and communicate feelings, ideas and has a great importance in social, educational and practical life.

Reading comprehension can be considered as a strategic process that includes the relationship between the information obtained by the text and the previous knowledge ( linguistic skills and others) that the reader has.

In this way, the comprehension of texts in foreign language becomes a conscience effort to get an specific aim. So, this book has been written to contribute to the practice of the language, develop of vocabulary with the special emphasis in stories about Chiapas State because of the variety of sites, people, customs and traditions.

Ma. de los Ángeles Mendoza González



## Chiapas Amber

Mexican amber, which is found in Simojovel, Chiapas, the Southern state of México, is a fossilized resin of ancient trees and dates back to the Cenozoic Era (between 22 and 26 million years ago). Its color is totally natural and impressive, there are yellow, red, cognac, blue, green and of course amber colors. It is known for its inclusions according to its mixture with the leaves, earth, moss debris and insects.

Simojovel is located in the region of mountains north of Chiapas, it is a humid, rainy territory, surrounded by mountainous areas that reach up to two thousand meters above sea level.

For thousands of years, cultures worldwide have prized amber, as a magic gem believed to have healing powers and it was associated with different cults and religious practices. Before the Spanish conquest occurred, some towns in México and Central America used amber to honor the great warriors. Amber was also traded among the ancient Mayans for use in jewelry and to be burned as incense. Even today, it is used as adornment around necks and wrists to protect people from “bad vibrations” and to ward off “the evil eye” as well as purifies the spirit.

Chiapas amber is polished and used in jewelry, is used for carving sculptures and is often polished and kept as specimen.

Its variety of color and unusual physical characteristics make it a fascinating gem with a long history demonstrating its popularity.

A. Meaning of words in context

Match the columns

- |               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. resin      | a. small pieces                      |
| 2. inclusions | b. exchanged goods                   |
| 3. mixture    | c. sticky substance produce by trees |
| 4. debris     | d. cutting out the amber             |
| 5. worldwide  | e. different things together         |
| 6. healing    | f. a thing part of the gem           |
| 7. traded     | g. throughout the world              |
| 8. carving    | h. magic power                       |

B. Comprehension

1. Amber is a
  - c. precious stone
  - d. mineral gem
  - e. fossilized tree resin
2. Amber comes in
  - a. various colors
  - b. amber color
  - c. green and amber color

3. Amber is found in
  - a. cold weather
  - b. humid and rainy weather
  - c. hot weather

C. Questions

1. Why is amber stone clearly recognized?
2. Why do people think amber stone is magic?
3. How has been amber stone used?

D. Write T for true and F for false

1. Amber comes from trees. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Amber is believed to have  
supernatural powers \_\_\_\_\_
3. Amber is only used in jewelry \_\_\_\_\_
4. Aztecs used the amber as incense \_\_\_\_\_

## Chipilin

Chipilin is a legume native to Central America. Its leaves are a common leafy vegetable in local cuisines of Central America and Southern Mexico, specially Chiapas and Oaxaca.

The leaves are green and small and they are not eat raw. Leaves have a particular flavor, they can be boiled or incorporated to make tamales, sometimes with meat, or in other delicious and aromatic recipes. In Chiapas State, chipilin is a traditional, ancient and very consumed food.

As a result of the numerous seeds that chipilin produce and its easy propagation, in addition to the fact that animals don't eat it, some countries, as Australia, are forbidden the importation of Chipilin because is considered invasive. Even thought, Chipilin has a lot of benefits and researchers have found that is high in iron, calcium, and beta carotene.

### A. Vocabulary

Leafy	researchers	forbidden
Invasive	cuisines	ancient
seeds	flavor	boiled

1. Its leaves are a common \_\_\_\_ vegetable in local \_\_\_\_\_ of Central America and Southern Mexico.
2. Leaves have a particular \_\_\_\_\_, they can be \_\_\_\_ or incorporated to make tamales.
3. Chipilin is a traditional, \_\_\_\_\_ and very consumed food.
4. As a result of the numerous \_\_\_\_\_ that chipilin produce some countries, as Australia, are \_\_\_\_\_ the cultivation of Chipilin.
5. Chipilin is considered \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ have found that chipilin is high in iron, calcium, and beta carotene.

#### B. Questions

1. Is chipilin a vegetable?
2. What is chipilin like?
3. How do people eat chipilin?
4. Why are some countries forbidden the importation of chipilin?
5. Animals do not eat chipilin, why?
6. does chipilin have benefits?

C. Comprehension

1. Chipilin is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. fruit
  - b. legume
  - c. seed
  - d. tree
  
2. Chipilin is eaten
  - a. cooked
  - b. Raw
  - c. In salad
  - d. As dessert
  
3. Chipilin is easy to cultivate because of
  - a. the warm weather
  - b. the cold weather
  - c. its numerous seeds
  - d. its numerous branches
  
4. Some countries have considered the chipilin plant
  - a. nutritive
  - b. medicinal
  - c. invasive
  - d. good for health



D. Main idea

1. Some Countries are forbidden the importation of chipilin
2. Chipilin has a lot of benefits
3. Chipilin is a vegetable that is very popular in Chiapas

## Jocote

Jocote is a species of flowering plant, native to tropical regions of America. Other common names include Red Mombin, Purple Mombin or Hog Plum. The name “jocote” derives from the Nahuatl word xocotl (“fruit”).

The jocote tree is a small to medium-sized tree up to 25 m tall. The leaves are deciduous in the short dry season, but only fall shortly before the new leaves develop. The flowers are small and reddish-purple.

The fruit is an edible oval, ripening red, sometimes yellow and containing a single large seed.

It is now widely cultivated in tropical regions throughout the world for its edible fruit, including the Philippines and Nigeria. It is also abundant in Mexico and Central America.

The fruits can be eaten ripe, with or without the skin. It is sometimes eaten unripe with salt or in sweet beverages. In Chiapas, the jocote fruit is fermented with alcohol and sugar like the nance fruit. The single large seed, which takes up most of the fruit, is not eaten.

A. Meaning of words in context

Match the columns

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. flowering      | a. fully grown                  |
| 2. deciduous      | b. drinks                       |
| 3. reddish-purple | c. safe to eat                  |
| 4. ripening       | d. produce flowers              |
| 5. widely         | e. not ever green               |
| 6. edible         | f. no ready to eat              |
| 7. unripe         | g. it measures a large distance |
| 8. beverages      | h. slightly red                 |

B. Comprehension

- The jocote tree is
  - very tall
  - medium tall
  - very short
- The leaves
  - fall in the autumn
  - ever green
  - fall in the summer
- The fruit can be eaten
  - uncooked
  - cooked
  - toasted

C. Main idea

1. Jocote is abundant in Mexico and Central America.
2. Jocote is cultivated for its edible fruit.
3. Jocote seed is not edible.

D. Match

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The jocote can be eaten | a. yellow or red            |
| 2. The seed is             | b. ripe or unripe           |
| 3. The flowers are         | c. grow in tropical regions |
| 4. The fruits are          | d. big and useless          |
| 5. The jocote              | e. purple or slightly red   |

## Lagunas de Montebello

Lagunas de Montebello National Park is located near Comitán, in the State of Chiapas, Mexico. This park consists of over 14,820 acres of mountain forest - pine and oak trees with more than 60 lagoons such as: Triscao, Agua Tinta, Esmeralda, Encantada, Bosque Azul and Ensueño.

The Montebello Lagoons developed from a chain of cenotes (sinkholes) that erosion after many centuries transformed into one of the most gorgeous lake regions in Mexico. The region is famous because of the different colors the lakes exhibit due to their difference in vegetation, bedrock and exposure to light. The different lakes range from a light blue to violet, emerald or turquoise, their depths vary from some 10 to 120 meters. The site is critically important for water harvesting and climate regulation.

The park includes other attractions beyond its lakes, including orchids, quetzals, woodpeckers and various migratory birds. Besides bird watching and hiking, other activities can be done, like take boat rides on some of the lakes, rent a canoe, or go horseback riding.

A. Meaning of words in context.

Match the columns

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Gorgeous   | a. distance Within the upper and lower |
| 2. Bedrock    | b. in addition                         |
| 3. Depths     | c. gathering of a crop                 |
| 4. Harvesting | d. solid rock in the ground            |
| 5. Beyond     | e. very attractive                     |

B. Questions

1. Why are the lakes so colorful?
2. Are all the lakes the same depth?
3. What activities can be done in the place?
4. What kind of flora and fauna are in the forest?

C. Write T for true and F for false

1. Lagunas de Montebello has less than 60 lagoons.
2. The lagoons developed from a chain of rivers.
3. A lot of activities can be done in the place.
4. The lagoons have the same color.
5. There are migratory birds in the forest.

D. Main idea

1. Lagunas de Montebello is located near Comitán, Chiapas.
2. Lagunas de Montebello is special because of its colorful lagoons.
3. There are many activities to do in Lagunas de Montebello.

## Mexican Jaguar

The jaguar is the third-largest feline after the tiger and the lion, and it's considered the biggest cat on America. The jaguar is the only member of the panthera family to be found in the continent. Nowadays it is found on the north and central parts of the South American continent.

Its skin has small and irregular dots within the larger rosette markings, a muscular body and a short tail. Its structure makes the jaguar can climb, crawl and swim. The jaguar is carnivore and its diet includes frogs, mice, birds, fish, monkeys, turtles, deer, tapirs, dogs, foxes and sometimes snakes and caiman.

The major risks to the jaguar include deforestation across its habitat, increasing competition for food with human beings and the ranchers who will often kill it where it preys on livestock because the jaguar has been shown to take cattle as a large portion of its diet.

In another hand, the jaguar has featured prominently in the mythology of numerous indigenous American cultures, including that of the Maya and Aztec. The jaguar has long been a symbol of power and strength being shown as a jaguar warrior. The Aztec considered the jaguar as the representative of the ruler and a warrior, they formed an elite group called The Jaguar Knights. The Maya believed that the jaguar facilitated the communication between the living and the dead. In Palenque, Chiapas, it has been found a lot of masks, figurines and sculptures showing stylized jaguars or humans with jaguars characteristics.

Even today, there are representations of traditional dances, paintings and the name of the Chiapas soccer team has been named Jaguares of Chiapas in honor of this respected animal.



A. Questions

1. Why is the jaguar considered one of the endangered species?
2. What did the Maya think of the jaguar?
3. Why did the Aztec form a group called Jaguar Knights?

B. Comprehension

1. The jaguar is
  - a. bigger than the lion and the tiger
  - b. smaller than the lion and the tiger
  - c. the same size than the lion and the tiger
2. The jaguar can swim, climb and crawl because of
  - a. its long tail
  - b. its skin
  - c. its body
3. The most important risk to the jaguar is
  - a. the deforestation of its habitat
  - b. the people
  - c. the cows and bulls
4. The jaguar has been considered as a representation of a warrior because of its
  - a. weakness
  - b. power and strength
  - c. strong body

C. Main idea

1. The jaguar is the biggest cat in America
2. The jaguar is an endangered animal
3. The jaguar has been considered a very important animal for many people

D. Match

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The jaguar eats              | a. represented as a warrior          |
| 2. The ranchers kill the jaguar | b. a variety of animals              |
| 3. The jaguar was often         | c. because they eat their cows       |
| 4. The jaguar has a             | d. a lot of sculptures and figurines |
| 5. In Palenque there are        | e. muscular body                     |

## Jaime Sabines Gutiérrez

Jaime Sabines was born in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas on March 25, 1926. He is considered the most influential contemporary poet and his work has been translated in many languages.

He studied medicine during three years before moving on to Spanish and literature, he studied at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and obtained a postgraduate degree. Among his published poetry are: *Horas*, *La Señal* (1951), *Adán y Eva* (1952), *Tarumba* (1956), *Diario Semanario y Poemas en Prosa* (1961), *Poemas Suetos* (1951-1961), *Yuria* (1967), *Maltiempo* (1972), *Algo sobre la muerte del Mayor Sabines* (1973) and *Otros Poemas Suetos* (1973). *Pieces of Shadow*, translated by W.S. Merwin, was brought out in a bilingual edition by *Papeles Privados* (1995) and in 2004 Exile Editions (Toronto, Canada) published a bilingual volume of two early Sabines books, *Adam and Eve & Weekly Diary and Poems in Prose*.

Sabines received numerous awards, like Chiapas Award (1979), the Xavier Villaurrutia Award (1972), the Elias Sourasky Award (1982) and the National Literature Award (1983). In 1994 he received from the Senate of Mexico the Belisario Domínguez Medal of Honor, the highest award bestowed by the Federal Government of Mexico. In addition, Chiapas State named 2009 as the year of Jaime Sabines “The major poet”.

Besides his literary activity, Sabines participated in politics and became a federal deputy for the First District of Chiapas in 1976, and for the Federal District in 1988.

He was a living legend and nowadays is a real popular poet, Jaime Sabines died on March 19, 1999 in Mexico City.

A. Questions

1. Why is Sabines considered as “The major poet”?
2. What is the most important award that is conferred by the Federal Government?
3. What other activities Sabines was involved in?

B. Comprehension

1. Jaime Sabines completed
  - a. his medicine studies
  - b. his politic studies
  - c. his Spanish and literature studies
3. His work has been translated in
  - a. several languages
  - b. few languages
  - c. large number of languages
4. Jaime Sabines has been considered
  - a. the most important poet
  - b. one of the most important poet
  - c. the least important poet

C. Main idea

1. Sabines was a politician and writer
2. Sabines won a lot of prizes
3. Sabines is a legend and the most important poet

D. Match

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sabines changed the subject of     | a. is the most important prize he received |
| 2. Adam and Eve is one of his         | b. his studies                             |
| 3. Belisario Dominguez Medal of honor | c. earliest poems                          |
| 4. Sabines wrote                      | d. many poems                              |

## Miguel Álvarez del Toro Regional Zoo

Miguel Álvarez del Toro Regional Zoo is located inside a natural reserve zone called El Zapotal, 5 km (3 miles) from Tuxtla's city center. Species of local fauna are exhibited, preserved, protected and studied in an ambiance similar to their natural habitat, that is why this zoo is considered one of the best in the world of its kind.

There are natural barriers that are used instead of cages, and the animals' surroundings mimic as much as possible their natural habitats, all from Chiapas. Some of the animals are boar, mountain deer, badger, tapir, black jaguar, and pavon, bird cages (with toucan, macaw and other birds), herpetarium (live reptiles), aquatic birds, country deer, spider monkeys, vivarium (spiders and insects), nocturnal housing (houses live species of nocturnal habitat animals), aviary, crocodiles and the pavón, that is a large turkey used as the symbol of the zoo, it is endemic to Chiapas and in danger of extinction. Also, there are native trees and plants like small zapote, amate, jocotillo, cedar and baqueta among other species.

Its facilities are within a small jungle, crossed by small rivers. There is a multimedia auditorium, an ecology-orientation area, library, dining room, coffee shop and picnic grounds. It covers 109 hectares (240 acres) and was founded in 1942 by Eliseo Palacios and derives its name from Miguel Álvarez del Toro, who was a world-famous zoologist, author of *Los animales silvestres de Chiapas* (1952), *Las aves de Chiapas* (1971), and *Los mamíferos de Chiapas* (1977). Álvarez del Toro was its director from 1942 to 1996, the year in which he died.

A. Questions

1. Why is the Zoo so special ?
2. Why is it said that the ambiance mimic their natural habitats?
3. What animal is the Zoo symbol ?

B. Comprehension

1. El Zapotal is
  - a. a small town
  - b. a natural reserve
  - c. a Zoo
2. In the Zoo we can find local species of
  - a. Flora
  - b. Fauna
  - c. Flora and Fauna
3. Miguel Álvarez del Toro was
  - a. A famous zoologist
  - b. a writer
  - c. an explorer
4. In the zoo there are
  - a. only animals
  - b. a lot of places to visit
  - c. many books

C. Write T for true or F for false

1. The regional Zoo was founded by Miguel Álvarez del Toro. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Zoo is in a small jungle \_\_\_\_\_
3. The animals are in cages \_\_\_\_\_
4. The pavón is in danger of extinction \_\_\_\_\_
5. Miguel Álvarez del Toro died in 1971 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Main idea

1. The Zoo derives its name from Miguel Álvarez del Toro, a world- famous zoologist.
2. The Zoo is one of the best in the world because the local species are like in their natural habitat.
3. The Zoo is a small jungle called “The Zapotal”.



## Nance

Nance are trees valued for their small, sweet, orange-yellow fruit. The fruit is peculiarly odorous, round, with thin skin and white, juicy pulp.

The tree is abundant in open pine forests and grassy savannas, it is cultivated mainly in Southern Mexico and Central America. The Nance tree has a lot of light brown leaves. The small flowers are yellow at first and change to orange-red.

Chiapas is one of the southern states in Mexico where people consume the “nanche” fruits raw or cooked as dessert. Also, the fruit can be fermented with alcohol and sugar, this beverage is called “mistela” and is very popular in traditional ceremonies (rezos) in the region.

Other uses of the Nance are astringent bark or leave teas to stop diarrhea; the bark is employed in tanning leather, giving it a light-yellow tone. The wood is used to make cabinetwork and furniture or sometimes for making charcoal.

A. Vocabulary

Odorous	tanning	raw
cabinetwork	juicy	beverage
grassy	charcoal	bark

1. The fruit is peculiarly \_\_\_\_\_, round, with thin skin and white, \_\_\_ pulp.
2. The tree is abundant in open pine forests and \_\_\_\_\_ savannas.
3. People consume the “nanche” fruits \_\_\_\_\_ or cooked as dessert.
4. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ is called “mistela” and is very popular in traditional ceremonies (rezos) in the region.
5. Other uses of the Nance are astringent \_\_\_\_\_ or leave \_\_\_\_\_ teas to stop diarrhea.
6. The bark is employed in \_\_\_\_\_ leather, giving it a light-yellow tone.
7. The wood is used to make \_\_\_\_\_ and furniture \_\_\_\_\_ or sometimes for making \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Questions

1. Describe a nance tree
2. Are nance trees cultivated in Asia?
3. What is nance fruit like?
4. Do people eat the nance fruit in meals?
5. Is the nance fruit good for stop diarrhea?
6. Is the nance wood used to build houses?

C. Comprehension

1. Nance fruits are\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. white and green
  - b. big and oval
  - c. round and odorous.
2. Nance leaves are\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. round and big
  - b. light brown
  - c. orange yellow
  - d. thick
3. The mistela is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. dessert
  - b. recipe
  - c. medication
  - d. beverage

4. Nance plants do not grow in\_\_\_\_\_.
- a. deserts
  - b.pine forests
  - c. grassy savannas
  - d.Southern Mexico

D. Main idea

1. Nance fruits are round, odorous and orange yellow.
2. Nance trees like people because they can use the raw, wood and fruit.
3. Nance is cultivated in Southern Mexico and Central America.

## Palenque

The ancient city of Palenque is both grand and mysterious, some of the most fascinating ancient ruins of Mexico can be found here. Palenque was the capital of the important Classic period Maya city-state of B'aakal or B'aak (Bone), it is located near the Usumacinta River in the state of Chiapas. It contains some of the finest architecture, sculpture, roof comb and bas-relief carvings the Maya produced.

Much of the history of Palenque has been reconstructed from reading the hieroglyphic inscription on the monuments. The most famous ruler of Palenque is Pacal the Great whose tomb has been found and excavated in the Temple of the inscriptions, he reigned in Palenque from 615 to 683. During his government, most of the palaces and temples of Palenque were constructed.

Sometime In the 8th century, B'aakal started to vanish like most other Classic Mayan city-states. An agricultural population continued to live there for a few generations, then the site was abandoned and was slowly hidden by the trees. The first to visit the ruins and publish an account was Priest Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada in 1567; at the time the local Chol Maya called it Otolum meaning "Land with strong houses", de la Nada translated and give the site the name "Palenque", meaning "fortification".

The most notable structures of Palenque are the Palace and the Temple of Inscriptions, in 1994 was discovered a secret door that led to the interior of the pyramid, where it was found a solid stone coffin with the remains of a woman who archaeologists have called the "Red Queen" because she was covered in cinnabar.

Several other expeditions visited the ruins before Frans Blom of Tulane University in 1923, who made superior maps of the site and filed a report for the Mexican government on recommendations to preserve the ruins. In the last decades, a great deal more of the site has been excavated, but currently, archaeologists estimate that most of the city has been uncovered.

A. Questions

1. Where is Palenque located?
2. What did happen when people left Palenque?
3. Who named Palenque?
4. What has been the last important discovery?

B. Comprehension

1. History about Palenque has been known
  - a. because of the inscriptions in the structures
  - b. because of some ancient books
  - c. because of the population
2. Palenque was hidden in the jungle during
  - a. 8 centuries
  - b. 6 centuries
  - c. 7 centuries

3. In a secret door of the Temple of inscriptions was found
  - a. Pakal the Great
  - b. The Red Queen
  - c. An unknown body
4. Frans Bloom
  - a. took photos about Palenque
  - b. made draws about Palenque
  - c. made better draws about the ruins location

C. Write T for true and F for False

1. Palenque flourished during the reign of Pakal. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Lorenzo de la Nada was an Archeologist. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Red Queen was found in a clay coffin. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Frans Blom adviced Federal Government to maintain the ruins. \_\_\_\_\_

D. Match

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Palenque is a              | a. 68 years                              |
| 2. Pacal was buried in        | b. thrilling and ancient place           |
| 3. Pacal reigned during       | c. the Palace and Temple of inscriptions |
| 4. The greatest buildings are | d. the Temple of inscriptions            |



## Parachicos

Chiapa de Corzo was founded in 1528 by Diego de Mazariegos. Its rich customs and colorful traditions are the result of a combination of three different cultures: Maya, European and African. Chiapa de Corzo is a small town located near the capital Tuxtla Gutierrez in the State of Chiapas. The parachicos is one of the well known traditions in Chiapa de Corzo.

It is said that the Parachicos are originally a celebration in the memory of a Spanish woman named Maria de Angulo that came to Latin America in search of a cure for her son, and was told of the healers in Chiapa de Corzo. She arrived in Chiapa de Corzo at a time of famine, and promised food and drink for the whole town if they could cure her son, who was ill of sadness. Then, the people dress up in costumes and dance and laugh to make the boy happy, so they are called the parachicos.

Every year in January, they participate in the parade of the festival of Saint Sebastian Martir, the parachicos dance and shake tin rattles, they wear masks made with wood and that are carved to seem a Spanish man. Their wigs, adorned with flowers and ribbons, are made with ixtle (a rough fiber). They also wear brightly-colored cotton ponchos over their sequin and spangle-embroidered leggings. Parachicos visit houses with images of one or more of the saints, pray before their altars and dance to the sounds of drum and flute.

A. Vocabulary

Rattles	famine	wigs	rattles
Parade	ribbons	embroidered	costumes
Healers	customs	drum	spangle
sadness			

1. Its rich \_\_\_\_\_ and colorful traditions are the result of a combination of three different cultures
2. Maria de Angulo was told of the \_\_\_\_\_ in Chiapa de Corzo
3. She arrived in Chiapa de Corzo at a time of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Her son was ill of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The people dress up in \_\_\_\_\_ and dance and laugh to \_\_\_\_\_ make the boy happy.
6. The parachicos participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the festival of Saint Sebastian Martir.
7. The parachicos dance and shake tin \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Their \_\_\_\_\_, adorned with flowers and \_\_\_\_\_ are made with ixtle.
9. They also wear brightly-colored cotton ponchos over their sequin and \_\_\_\_\_ leggings.
10. Parachicos dance to the sounds of \_\_\_\_\_ and flute.

B. Questions

1. Who was Maria de Angulo?
2. Why they are called the Parachicos?
3. What do they wear?

C. Comprehension

1. Maria de Angulo came from
  - a. Latin America
  - b. Mexico
  - c. Spain
  - d. Cuba
2. Maria de Angulo's son was ill of
  - a. fever
  - b. sadness
  - c. flu
  - d. an unknown sickness
3. People in Chiapa de Corzo dress up in customs to
  - a. show sympathy
  - b. help
  - c. make the boy happy
  - d. make a party
4. The healers are people who
  - a. clean houses
  - b. take care people
  - c. use drugs cure
  - d. cure people

D. Main idea

1. Chiapa de Corzo is a traditional place
2. Parachicos wear colorful clothes and represent an ancient tradition.
3. Parachicos visit houses with altars and dance.

## Pozol

Pozol Chiapaneco is a beverage made with corn dough dissolved in water and flavored with chocolate and sugar or left to ferment and served ice cold. Beside other sites, Chiapa de Corzo, located near Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital of Chiapas, is a famous place where people can drink pozol.

Sometimes, pozol is served in unique coconut shell shaped recipients; one characteristic about pozol is that has to be constantly stirred to keep the ingredients from settling.

There is also white pozol, which does not contain cocoa. In the towns and small villages there is the custom of drinking white pozol without sugar, accompanied instead with salt and fresh hot peppers. In some places like Ocosingo, Yajalón and Tila, there's the custom to let ferment the white pozol by wrapping the corn dough in banana leaf and after some days can be drunk sweet or salty.

The consumption of pozol dates back to pre-Hispanic times. At the beginning of the 20th century it was served hot and without sugar. It was known among the population of being refreshing and energizing. To the ancient people of Chiapas, pozol had a mythological importance because it was considered emblematic of life cause of its high corn content. Pozol was traditionally drunk in the fields between 11.00 and noon, basically, it was drunk after a long day.

Pozol is a part of the diet of the families and remains as an example of the deep roots of the indigenous traditions and mestizo cultures in Chiapas. So, in Chiapas, despite the introduction of soft drinks, pozol continues popular and preferred by most of people.

A. Write T for true and F for false.

1. Drink pozol is a modern tradition. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Pozol always is drunk with sugar. \_\_\_\_\_
3. White pozol contains chocolate. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sometimes, pozol can be fermented. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pozol has been displaced because  
of soft drinks. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Pozol is refreshing and energizing. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Drink pozol is a mixture of indigenous and  
mestizo traditions. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Questions

1. How was pozol drunk in the 1900's?
2. Why was pozol considered mythology?
3. How can be pozol fermented?

C. Comprehension

1. To ferment pozol is needed to
  - a. cover it with sheets of sweet corn.
  - b. wrapped it in banana leaf
  - c. wrapped it in corn dough
2. A very well known place to drink pozol is
  - a. Tuxtla Gutiérrez
  - b. Yajalón
  - c. Chiapa de Corzo
3. Pozol can be drunk
  - a. with sugar or salt
  - b. sweetie
  - c. salty
4. Pozol usually was drunk
  - a. around 11:00 and 12:00
  - b. at night
  - c. at noon
5. Pozol was considered a symbol of life
  - a. because of being refreshing and energetic
  - b. because of it is made from corn
  - c. because of its content of cocoa and sugar

## Rosario Castellanos

Rosario Castellanos was born in May 25, 1925, in Mexico City, but she was raised in Comitán, Chiapas. She studied philosophy and literature at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and joined the National Indigenous Institute. In 1950 she received her master's degree in philosophy and served as the cultural program director of Chiapas.

Castellanos wrote poetry, essays, plays, and novels. Among her bibliography are: Balún-Canán (1957), Poemas (1953-1955) (1957), Ciudad Real: Cuentos (1960), Oficio de tinieblas (1962), translated into English as The Book of Lamentations, Album de familia (1971), Poesía no eres tú; Obra poética: (1948-1971, 1972), Mujer que sabe latín . . . (1973), El eterno femenino: Farsa (1973), Los convidados de agosto, Cartas a Ricardo (1994) and Rito de iniciación (1996)

In addition to her literary work, Castellanos held several government posts. In recognition for her contribution to Mexican literature, Castellanos was named ambassador to Israel in 1971.

Rosario Castellanos was one of Mexico's most important literary voices in the last century and her work has influenced feminist theory and cultural studies; she has been considered a predecessor to many contemporary feminist literary critics. She died in Tel-Aviv in August 7, 1974.



A. Write T for true or F for false

1. Rosario Castellanos was born in Chiapas. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Rosario always worked as a writer \_\_\_\_\_
3. Her job had an important effect \_\_\_\_\_
4. She only wrote poems \_\_\_\_\_

B. Meaning of words in context

Match the columns.

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Raised      | a. A period of a hundred years |
| 2. Joined      | b. Publicly acknowledge        |
| 3. Among       | c. Became an adult             |
| 4. Recognition | d. Come before other people    |
| 5. Century     | e. In a particular group       |
| 6. Predecessor | f. Became a member             |

C. Main idea

1. Rosario Castellanos studied literature and obtained a Master Degree
2. Rosario Castellanos was Mexican ambassador in Israel
3. Rosario Castellanos is a very important writer and her work influenced feminist theory

D. Comprehension

1. Castellanos worked with
  - a. The National Indigenous Institute
  - b. The National Cultural Institute
  - c. The Federal Indigenous Institute
2. Castellanos died
  - a. in Chiapas State
  - b. in Israel
  - c. In Mexico City
2. Most of her work was
  - a. about women and their environment
  - b. about children
  - c. about politics and history

## Some languages of Chiapas

In Chiapas, there are many ethnic groups that keep their languages, traditions and folklore alive. The largest concentration of indigenous speaking are living in five of Chiapas' nine regions: Los Altos, Norte, Selva, Fronteriza, and Sierra.

According to the 2005 census people that speak an indigenous language are about 932,436. The most spoken languages are Tzeltal ( 362,658), Tzotzil ( 320,921), chol (161,794), zoque (43,936), tojolabal (37,677) and mame (5,450). In addition, there are several dialects, considered different languages by some.

The colorful costumes of the ethnic groups in Chiapas are very varied, women practice ancestral weaving techniques, each piece is an original creation and each artist incorporates sun symbols, butterflies, flowers and cornfields in the blouses, shifts, purses, velvets, tablecloths, and many other things.

Their economy is mostly based on cultivation of flowers, corn, squash, peaches and pears. They also raise animals such as sheep, which are kept mainly for their wool, pigs and poultry. Some of them work on farms, coffee plantations or make wood furniture.

A. Questions

1. What are the most speaking languages in Chiapas?
2. What are the mainly occupations of the indigenous in Chiapas?
3. How do women do the clothes and other things they create?

B. Comprehension

1. Indigenous in Chiapas live in
  - a. four regions
  - b. five regions
  - c. nine regions
2. The least spoken languages are
  - a. mame and tojolabal
  - b. tzotzil and tzeltal
  - c. tojolabal and tzeltal
2. Women practices
  - a. modern weaving techniques
  - b. ancient weaving techniques
  - c. new weaving techniques
4. Their economy is based on
  - a. tourism
  - b. handicrafts
  - c. cultivation of flowers and vegetables

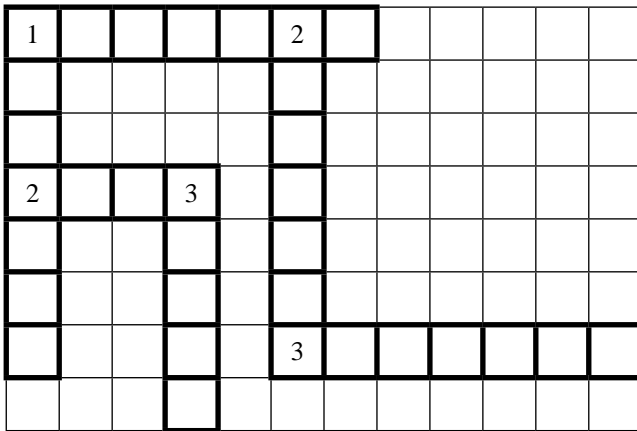
C. Crossword

I. Across

1. Southern state of Mexico
2. Regions where indigenous of Chiapas mostly live
3. Most spoken indigenous language in Chiapas

II. Down

1. A hot and aromatic drink
2. Very old
3. Relating to a particular kind of people



## Sumidero Canyon

Declared a National Park in 1982, the Sumidero is a spectacular canyon, filled with beautiful flora and many interesting species of animals, among which there are butterflies, spider monkeys, sea birds and crocodiles.

Visible from the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, in the southern state of Chiapas, the 1-kilometer-deep Sumidero Canyon was the stage for an epic battle between the Spanish and the Chiapa Indians, who chose to jump into the sacred canyon rather than obey to the invaders.

The Sumidero canyon has great attractions, one of the most surprising is a waterfall called Christmas tree, it is a formation of unusual rock tiers which are covered with green moss and purple flowers.

Beside the boat trips through the Grijalva river, another way to visit the Sumidero is by taking a scenic drive on the park's paved roads to five different lookouts: La Ceiba, El Coyote, El Roblar, El Tepehuaje and Los Chiapa for special views of the many different types of vegetation.

A. Vocabulary

Filled	attractions	tiers
Sacred	moss	waterfall
Stage	paved	deep

1. The Sumidero is a spectacular canyon, \_\_\_\_\_ with beautiful flora.
2. The 1-kilometer-\_\_\_\_\_ Sumidero Canyon was the \_\_\_\_\_ for an epic battle.
3. The Chiapa chose to jump into the \_\_\_\_\_ canyon rather than obey to the invaders.
4. The Sumidero canyon has great \_\_\_\_\_, one of the most spectacular is a \_\_\_\_\_ called Christmas tree.
5. Christmas tree is a formation of unusual rock \_\_\_\_\_ which are covered with green \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Another way to visit the Sumidero is by taking a scenic drive on the park's \_\_\_\_\_ roads.

B. Questions

1. What kind of animals are there in the Sumidero Canyon?
2. How deep is the Sumidero?
3. Why did the Chiapa choose to jump to the Canyon?
4. Why is a waterfall called Christmas tree?
5. How can you get to the Sumidero?
6. How many lookouts are there by taking the paved roads?

C. Comprehension

1. The Sumidero canyon was a place where
  - a. The Spanish won a battle
  - b. The Chiapa decided to jump
  - c. The Spanish chose to jump
  - d. The Chiapa won a battle
2. The Christmas tree waterfall is
  - a. A big tree
  - b. A formation of rock tiers
  - c. A formation of flowers and plants
  - d. A tree formed by green moss and plants



3. By taking the park's road you can see
  - a. Many birds, butterflies, and flowers
  - b. A waterfall called Christmas tree
  - c. Five lookouts
  - d. An epic battle
4. Sumidero Canyon is located
  - a. Far from Tuxtla Gutierrez
  - b. Big and deep
  - c. Near Tuxtla Gutierrez
  - d. 1-kilometer deep

D. Main idea

1. The Christmas tree waterfall is a great attraction.
2. Sumidero Canyon has great attractions, beautiful flora and fauna
3. Sumidero Canyon has many lookouts.

## Tacaná Volcano

Tacaná is a volcano whose name means “House of Fire” in the local Mam dialect. The Tacaná starts a series of Central America volcanoes, and its rich flanks are populated and inhabited. It is the second-highest peak in Central America after Tajumulco volcano, in Guatemala. The volcano is in the frontier of Mexico and Guatemala, in the state of Chiapas, and it is part of a protected biosphere reserve.

Because its location is possible to find in it all kinds of weather and vegetation from Sierra Madre; Also, there is a variety of birds and other animals along passing through tropical, pine and cloud forests in the way to reach the top.

Tacaná is a 4060-m-high composite strato-volcano with caldera rings and a small culminating plug. It has a wide, symmetrical cone with a diameter of 10 km at the base. The top of the volcano has two craters, one inside of the other, with a total diameter of 400 meters.

Historic activity of Tacaná has consisted of some explosions (1855, 1878, 1949–1950 and 1986). In May 1986, a seismic swarm was followed by a small eruption at an elevation of 3,600 m. on the northwest flank of the volcano. This eruption reactivated fumarolic activity at Tacaná. Although it hasn't erupted since 1986, geologists consider it an active volcano and as a result, Tacaná could be dangerous for about 250,000 people who live on or near its border.

A. Questions

1. Has the Tacaná been abandoned?
2. How many craters does the volcano have?
3. Why is Tacaná considered dangerous?

B. Write T for true and F for false

1. Tacaná is the highest volcano in Central America. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tacaná is located in a biosphere reserve. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The last eruption was in 1985. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tacaná is not an active volcano. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tacaná has a big culminating plug. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Comprehension

1. Tacaná is the first of
  - a. a serie of Central América volcanoes
  - b. many American volcanoes
  - c. some South American volcanoes
2. Tajumulco volcano is
  - a. the second highest in Central América
  - b. the highest in Central América
  - c. less higher than Tacaná Volcano
3. Tacaná volcano is located
  - a. in México
  - b. in Guatemala
  - c. in the border with Guatemala and México
4. The diameter of its cone is
  - a. of 400 m.
  - b. of 4060 m.
  - c. of 10 km.
5. Its last eruption was in
  - a. June 1986
  - b. May 1985
  - c. May 1986

## Tamales of Chiapas

Mexico offers a big variety of tamales since every region and state have certain types of them. Nowadays, the tamales are an important part of the Mexican diet and very usual in the significant events. They are very popular in social celebrations, posadas and Christmas holidays. Also an important element for the offering of the Day of Dead (November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>); and in the holidays of the day of the Virgin Candelaria, celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> every year.

The Tamal (of the nahuatl tamalli, which it means wrapped) is a dish of indigenous origin prepared generally with masa (cornmeal dough) wrapped in banana leaf or sheets of sweet corn, that can or not to take filling, which is content of meat, vegetables, fruits, seeds, sauce, and can be sweet or salty.

Chiapan cooking is still influenced by indigenous roots using native herbs such as chipilin and hoja santa. There are a great variety of tamales in Chiapas, like the chipilin with tomato and chicken or cheese, hoja santa with smash beans; mole and chicken or meat; bola with pork, simojovel chili and tomato; cambray with meat, raisin, sauce and olive; frijol that are quite simply, these are bean filled tamales, and the very popular picetes that are made with fresh sweet corn.

Tamales are a delicious, nutritious and portable food, the leaves in which the tamales are steamed in not only sealed in the moisture, but also provided perfect covering that made the food easy to transport.

A. Meaning of words in context

Match the columns

- |               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Offering   | a. A rectangular piece                |
| 2. Wrapped    | b. A small hard part of a fruit       |
| 3. Sheets     | c. tiny drops of water in the surface |
| 4. Content    | d. when water boiled                  |
| 5. Seeds      | e. A gift for Gods                    |
| 6. Roots      | f. Easy to carry                      |
| 7. Portable   | g. folded and covered completely      |
| 8. Steamed in | h. Culture                            |
| 9. Moisture   | i. Inside                             |

B. Questions

1. Why is it said that tamales are a portable food?
2. Are picetes tamales sweet or salty?
3. Why do tamales of Chiapas still have indigenous influence?

C. Main idea

1. Tamales are very easy to carry
2. Tamales are delicious
3. Tamales are a popular tradition

D. Comprehension

1. Tamales are
  - a. normal in social events
  - b. not eaten in social events
  - c. served only in the holiday of 2<sup>nd</sup> February
4. Tamales are
  - a. boiled
  - b. roasted
  - c. toasted
4. Tamales can be
  - a. salty
  - b. salty or sweet
  - c. sweet

## The Faustino Miranda Botanical Garden

The Faustino Miranda Botanical Garden is located in Madero Park in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, next to Sabinal River. Across the Botanical Garden is The Botanical Museum that contains a botanical library, and some steps up are the Museum of Paleontology and the Museum of Anthropology.

The place is more than 4 hectares wide and the vegetation is grouped according to their habitat and uses, there are medicinal , ornamental, desert, jungle, forest, and tropical forest plants, among others.

It was created in 1949 under the direction of Faustino Miranda , who dedicated the greater part of his life to studying the flora of the state of Chiapas and is author of the book “The Vegetation of Chiapas”.

Every day, some people like to go walking, running or visit this beautiful place to have some peace and relax in the heart of the city.



A. Vocabulary

Grouped	located	wide
Peace	greater	ornamental
Contains	steps up	habitat

1. The Faustino Miranda Botanical Garden is \_\_\_\_\_ in Madero Park in Tuxtla Gutiérrez.
2. The Botanical Museum \_\_\_\_\_ a botanical library
3. Some \_\_\_\_\_ are the Museum of Paleontology and the Museum of Anthropology.
4. The place is more than 4 hectares \_\_\_\_\_ and the vegetation is \_\_\_\_\_ according to their \_\_\_\_\_.
5. there are medicinal , \_\_\_\_\_, desert, jungle, forest, and tropical forest plants.
6. Faustino Miranda dedicated the \_\_\_\_\_ part of his life to studying the flora of Chiapas.
7. Some people like to go walking, running or visit this beautiful place to have some \_\_\_\_\_ and relax.

B. Questions

1. Where is located the Faustino Miranda Botanical Garden?
2. What kind of vegetation can we find in the Botanical Garden?
3. Are there another places near the Botanical Garden that are interesting to visit?
4. When was created the Botanical Garden?

C. Comprehension

1. The Botanical Museum contains
  - a. a lot of vegetation
  - b. a botanical library
  - c. animals and medicinal plants
  - d. plants of Chiapas
2. The vegetation is classified according to
  - a. their sizes
  - b. their properties
  - c. their habitat
  - d. their benefits

3. Faustino Miranda wrote the book
  - a. The medicinal plants
  - b. The different plants of Chiapas
  - c. The vegetation of Chiapas
  - d. The plants of Chiapas
4. The Botanical Garden is a
  - a. romantic place
  - b. beautiful place
  - c. relaxing and peaceful place
  - d. stressing place

## Traditional drinks of Chiapas

### Tascalate

Tascalate is a special chocolate drink made from a mixture of chocolate, toasted tortillas (tortillas are made from corn) or corn, ground pine nuts, vanilla, cinnamon, achiote (the source of the red pigment annatto) which gives it a nice orange color, and sugar. It's served cold with either milk or water, and sometimes it is also added as a main ingredient in smoothies.

Traditionally, tascalate is prepared by washing corn, sun drying it and later broiling it in an oven, side by side, with the cacao. When ready, it is ground with all the ingredients. Finally, it is mixed with cold water or milk and sweetened with sugar, it can be drunk hot or cold.

Tascalate can be sweetened with honey or sugar, but traditionalists prefer it with only the sweetness of the toasted corn meal.

### Pineapple punch

It consists of fruit cooked in water with spices. Sometimes, a little rum is added to taste it.

The pineapple punch is made with pineapple, sugar, cinnamon and ginger. The pineapple is mashed with water and the other ingredients are added to cook together. It's always served hot and it is traditional to put some small pieces of bread (marquezote) into the beverage.

### Sour atole

It is considered a Maya ritual drink, atole is made from a mixture of corn, sugar, sometimes cloves and cinnamon.

The corn is soaked in water for three days, enough to produce some souring. Then is drained, grinded, and mixed with water and the spices. Then, atole is cooked stirring constantly until it thickens. It is a hot beverage very popular in Chiapas.

#### A. Questions

1. Which of the beverages can be drunk hot or cold?
2. What is the main ingredient of the beverages?
3. Which of the beverages can be mixed with some alcohol?

#### B. Write T for true and F for false

1. Tascalate is a sour drink. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tascalate is a ritual drink. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sour atole is made from corn. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pineapple punch has to be stirred constantly. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pineapple punch is served with some bread in it. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Tascalate has a red color. \_\_\_\_\_

## Key Answer

### Chiapas Amber

#### A. Meaning of words in context

1. c
2. f
3. e
4. a
5. g
6. h
7. b
8. d

#### B. Comprehension

1. c
2. a
3. b

#### C. Questions

1. because of its inclusions and mixture of animals and leaves.
2. because they think amber has healing powers
3. as incense, jewelry and to protect against “the evil eye”.

D. Write T for true and F for false

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F

2. Chipilin

A. Vocabulary

1. leafy, cuisines
2. flavor, boiled
3. ancient
4. seeds, forbidden
5. invasive
6. researchers

B. Questions

1. Yes, it is.
2. It's a leafy vegetable, its leaves are green and round, it has a particular flavor.
3. boiled
4. because of its easy propagation
5. because of its flavor
6. yes, it has calcium, iron and beta carotene.

C. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (a)
3. (c)
4. (c)

D. Main idea

(3)

Jocote

1. Meaning of words in context

1. (d)
2. (e)
3. (h)
4. (a)
5. (g)
6. (c)
7. (f)
8. (b)

2. Comprensión

1. (b)
2. (a)
3. (a)



3. Main idea  
( 2 )

4. Match

1. ( b )
2. ( d )
3. ( e )
4. ( a )
5. ( c )

### Lagunas de Montebello

A. Meaning of words in context

1. ( e )
2. ( d )
3. ( a )
4. ( c )
5. ( b )

B. Questions

1. because of the vegetation, bedrock and exposure to light.

2. No, they're not.

3. bird watching, hiking, take boat rides on some of the lakes, rent a canoe, or go horseback riding.

4. pine, oak trees, orchids, birds, woodpeckers.

C. Write T for true and F for false

1. ( F )
2. ( F )
3. ( T )
4. ( F )
5. ( T )

D. Main idea  
( 2 )

Mexican Jaguar

A. Questions

1. Because of the deforestation of its habitat and people.
2. that the jaguar facilitated the communication between the living and the dead
3. because the jaguar was the representative of the ruler and a warrior to them.

B. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (b)

C. Main idea

(3)

D. Match

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (e)
5. (d)

Jaime Sabines Gutiérrez

A. Questions

1. because of its literary work that has been translated into many languages
2. the Belisario Domínguez Medal of Honor
3. politics

B. Comprehension

1. (c)
2. (c)
3. (a)

C. Main idea

(3)

D. Match

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (d)

Miguel Álvarez del Toro Regional Zoo

A. Questions

1. because the local fauna is exhibited, preserved, protected and studied in an ambiance similar to their natural habitat
2. because there are natural barriers that are used instead of cages
3. the pavón

B. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (b)

C. Write T for true and F for false

1. (F)
2. (F)
3. (F)
4. (T)
5. (F)

D. Main idea

(2)

Nance

A. Vocabulary

1. odorous, juicy
2. grassy
3. raw
4. beverage
5. bark
6. tanning
7. charcoal, cabinetwork

B. Questions

1. The Nance tree has a lot of light brown leaves. The small flowers are yellow at first and change to orange-red.
2. No, they're not.
3. is odorous, round, with thin skin and white, juicy pulp.
4. No, they don't
5. Yes, it is.
6. No, it's not.
- 7.

C. Comprehension

1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (d)
4. (a)

D. Main idea

(2)

Palenque

A. Questions

1. it is located near the Usumacinta River in the state of Chiapas.
2. the site was abandoned and was slowly hidden by the trees.
3. Priest Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada in 1567
4. the remains of a woman who archaeologists have called the “Red Queen”

B. Comprehension

1. (a)
2. (b)
3. (b)
4. (c)

C. Write T for true and F for false

1. (T)
2. (F)
3. (F)
4. (T)

D. Match

1. (b)
2. (d)
3. (a)
4. (c)

### Parachicos of Chiapa de Corzo

A. Vocabulary

1. Customs
2. Healers
3. famine
4. sadness
5. Costumes
6. parade
7. rattles
8. wigs, ribbons
9. spangle-embroidered
10. drum

B. Questions

1. A Spanish woman that came to Latin America in search of a cure for her son
2. Because they dressed up in costumes and danced to make María de Angulos's son happy.
3. they wear masks made with wood and that are carved to seem a Spanish man. Their wigs, adorned with flowers and ribbons, are made with ixtle (a rough fiber). They also wear brightly-colored cotton ponchos over their sequin and spangle-embroidered leggings.

C. Comprehension

1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (c)
4. (d)

D. Main idea  
(2)



## Pozol

### A. Write T for true and F for false

1. (F)
2. (F)
3. (F)
4. (T)
5. (F)
6. (T)
7. (T)

### B. Questions

1. Hot and without sugar
2. Because of its high corn content
3. By wrapping the corn dough in banana leaf during some days

### C. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (a)
4. (a)
5. (b)

Rosario Castellanos

A. Write T for true and F for false

1. (F)
2. (F)
3. (T)
4. (F)

B. Meaning of words in context

1. (c)
2. (f)
3. (e)
4. (b)
5. (a)
6. (d)

C. Main idea

(3)

D. Comprehension

1. (a)
2. (b)
3. (a)

### Some languages of Chiapas

#### A. Questions

1. Tzetzal, Tzotzil, chol, tojolabal (37,677) and mame
2. Cultivation of flowers, corn, squash, peaches and pears. They also raise animals such as sheep, which are kept mainly for their wool, pigs and poultry.
3. By using ancestral weaving techniques

#### B. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (a)
3. (b)
4. (c)

#### C. Crossword

Across :

1. Chiapas
2. Five
3. tzeltzal

Down:

1. Coffee
2. Ancient
3. Ethnic

## Sumidero Canyon

### A. Vocabulary

1. filled
2. deep, stage
3. sacred
4. attractions, waterfall
5. tiers, moss
6. paved

### B. Questions

1. there are butterflies, spider monkeys, sea birds and crocodiles.
2. 1 kilometer
3. because they didn't want to obey to the invaders.
4. because it seems to be a Christmas tree
5. Beside the boat trips through the Grijalva river, another way is by taking a drive on the paved roads.
6. five

### C. Comprehension

1. ( c )
2. ( d )
3. ( c )
4. ( c )

### D. Main idea

( 2 )

## Tamales of Chiapas

### A. Meaning of words in context

1. (e)
2. (g)
3. (a)
4. (i)
5. (b)
6. (h)
7. (f)
8. (d)
9. (c)

### B. Questions

1. Because they are small and the banana leaf where is wrapped is sealed.
2. They are sweetie.
3. Because of the use of native herbs such as chipilin and hoja santa.

### C. Main idea

(3)

### D. Comprehension

1. (a)
2. (a)
3. (b)

## Tacaná Volcano

### A. Questions

1. No, it's not.
2. It has two.
3. Because is an active volcano.

### B. Write T for true and F for false

1. (F)
2. (T)
3. (F)
4. (F)
5. (F)

### C. Comprehension

1. (A)
2. (B)
3. (C)
4. (C)
5. (C)

## The Faustino Miranda Botanical Garden

### A. Vocabulary

1. located
2. contains
3. steps up
4. wide, grouped, habitat
5. ornamental
6. greater
7. peace

### B. Questions

1. It is located in Madero Park in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, next to Sabinal River.

2. there are medicinal , ornamental, desert, jungle, forest, and tropical forest plants

3. the Museum of Paleontology and the Museum of Anthropology.

4. In 1949.

### C. Comprehension

1. (b)
2. (c)
3. (c)
4. (c)

## Traditional drinks of Chiapas

### A. Questions

1. Tascalate
2. corn
3. pineapple punch

### B. Write T for true and F for False

1. (F)
2. (F)
3. (T)
4. (F)
5. (T)
6. (F)



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She has collaborated with the EBC Weekly Financial and Business Section in “El Heraldo de Chiapas” Journal, “Ciencia para todos” (COCYTECH) and “Pholio” (INEF) magazines.

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**Facts of Chiapas,  
Reading Comprehension Activities**

Se terminó de imprimir en el mes de noviembre de 2012, El diseño tipográfico estuvo a cargo de Elva Montoya Gordillo y el cuidado de la edición de la Oficina Editorial de la UNICACH, durante el rectorado del Ing. Roberto Domínguez Castellanos.



***“Facts of Chiapas, reading comprehension activities”*** offers interesting readings about places, people and traditions of Chiapas. It is designed for students of English as a second or foreign language.

It teaches the reading skills of comprehension, finding the main idea, and using the context to understand vocabulary items. Students can increase their active vocabulary with a variety of activities, building student’s confidence and critical thinking skills.



ISBN : 978-607-7530-97-0



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