

Spencer S.  
Jan. 22, 2014  
Social Studies

## Mexico City Reflection

Hello, my name is Spencer Staples. My class and I just got back from Mexico City. Although Mexico City used to be a nice place to live, rural migration has made Mexico City extremely crowded. There are very rich people, but there are millions of very poor people. Spatial inequality has made the standard of living for the poor people very low. I would like to tell you about two of the places we visited.

The first place I want to tell you about is a place called Azcapotzalco. We met a shoe store owner who told us a lot about how rural decline has made many people move around this area, most of them are very poor. And how there are 800 Police Officers in this area because there is lots of crime. The Population Density is 34,000 per square mile. The Percentage of people over the age of 15 with education beyond primary school is 66%.

The next place I want to talk about is Iztacalco. The people in Iztacalco are what some people call the "Have Not's". They make up the majority of Mexico City's population and are extremely poor. They live in the city's slums in houses made of scrap material like cardboard boxes and pieces of wood and metal. The Green space per person is 22 square feet. Most homes do not have water or electricity.

What I learned about my trip to Mexico City is that my family, and most of Saline, Michigan, is very lucky to live in such nice, warm and well built houses. And I hope that things will get better in the bad parts of Mexico City.

Nick P.  
Mr.Foster  
#23

# Mexico City Reflection

When i got back from Mexico City, I realized how fortunate, and lucky I am. I was escorted by two people, they helped translate. I felt miserable seeing all of the people that are not as lucky as me.

The third neighborhood I visited was a have not neighborhood, which is where they have little to no supplies. The women we interviewed explained that there houses were made out of good materials, the material was cinderblock. In Mexico City, cinderblock is a good material, in the USA cinderblock is a not so good material. It is not fair how some people are so rich, and others, like neighborhood 3, are struggling to even eat, that is spatial inequality.

Neighborhood 4 was amazing. There was a family of four that was in good close, had a big, nice house, and was very wealthy. They just came back from visiting america for 6 years. They came back, then bought a house in mexico. They are one of the Haves, were they are rich and can afford Luxuries , like a phone, a pool, etc. They are not apart of Rual Decline. Rual Decline is worsening economic conditions, when when the family I interviewed, There economic activity is getting better and better.

So i learned that i have to be grateful for what i have because other people have a lot less. I also learned a ton of stuff about mexico city on my trip like the haves and have nots, how poor some parts of mexico city is, etc. Hopefully You had as much funny reading this, as i did writing this!

Kai J.

## Mexico City Reflection

Mexico City seems to be a place of almost too many people. Lots of people don't live very nicely there, and the ones that do, don't tend to give very much to the poor it seems. One person may live in the finest house in all of Mexico while another may live under the shelter of a cardboard box. There were two tour guides who talked to and translated for the people who only spoke Spanish. They showed us the different lifestyles and told us about the people who live in these different lifestyles.

The first neighborhood we visited was either in Magdalena Contreras or Itzapalapa. There, we learned that only 15% of Mexico is good for farming. Most of that land is owned by the wealthier people which creates problems for the less wealthy who are farmers. The farmers who don't own a lot of money have trouble paying for the equipment needed to successfully grow crops while those with the money are getting great business. Those with hardly any money soon lose their homes due to the fact that the wealthier farmers are taking the people's business from them. Rural decline is a good way to describe what happens there. Rural decline means increasingly bad economic conditions in the country-side, including unemployment that is rising, and growing poverty.

The last neighborhood we visited was in Benito Juarez. We saw that some of the people live way better lives than others. They live very luxurious lives and most of the time have running water unlike many, many, people. Also, most of the homes are built with very good materials. The way these people live completely different lives than others. This most likely is because of spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is basically the giving out of resources or money so that some places have those things more than others do.

I learned that Mexico City is not very fair, and that many people live extremely poorly. I learned that while some people might live in places like castles with hardly anybody, while others will live in a cardboard box with a large-ish family. Many people are very poor. Very few live a grand lifestyle but mostly won't give much to the poor. A poor person may work for a long time for very little pay. For twelve long hard hours of work, someone might get only 6 dollars. Mexico City is a bustling city with many, many, many, people. It is a city where people don't necessarily live fairly. Mexico City might just have way too many people.

Joey Y.

Hello my name is Joey. I'm a college student. This summer I went to Mexico City because I never went to a different country before. I wanted to visit one. When I was flying over the city I noticed there was a a lot of poverty. When I got settled in I met some translators. I set off to one of those neighborhoods to see what was happening there.

Once we got there, we interviewed a family living in a one room house made out of cardboard and other junk. The house lacked water and electricity. I learned that they came to Mexico City to find work after losing their farms, from big farming companies stealing their business. They told us that in the Itzapalapa neighborhood only 57% of the people have a education over 15 years of age! After speaking with her we thanked her and got back into the taxi.

After seeing the struggling part of the city. I wanted to see what Mexico's upper class looked like. Once we got there we saw a almost castle like house. When we went over to interview him he said that he just came back to mexico after moving to America for a while. He said that this neighborhood is safe and that there is 1300 police officers in the neighborhood. It seemed like they are very wealthy and enjoy a luxurious standard of living. Standard of living means the amount of wealth and other things a person has. We went back to the taxi again and headed back to the hotel.

When I was done with the trip I learned that not a lot of people have a high standard of living. And the ones that do have a high standard of living are very wealthy and live a very luxurious life style. And that rural decline is in effect here. Rural decline means a declining population in rural areas and a rising population in urban areas. I learned that in the U.S.A we have a very high standard of living compared to some countries and we take for granted a lot of things.

## **Life in Mexico City**

by James B.

Mexico City, Mexico is a very interesting place. There is spatial inequality almost everywhere. We took a taxi and a translator with us. They have some urbanization going on. For example, from 1960 until today about 75% of the Mexican population has moved to the city.

Neighborhood #1 The first neighborhood we traveled to had a lot of airplanes flying overhead. It was very loud and difficult to carry on a conversation. The rural decline outside the city is causing urbanization. The population density was 18 people per square foot. The percentage of people over 15 years of age with an education beyond primary school is 57 percent. The percentage of homes with running water is 55 percent. The people that live in this area are in need of a lot.

Neighborhood #4 This was by far the nicest neighborhood I saw on my trip to Mexico City, Mexico. The area had really nice brick mansions. The standard of living is very high in this area. They have a low crime rate due to the fact that they have 1,300 police officers in the area. The percentage of homes built with good materials was 94%. The area is extremely populated with 14,000 people per square mile.

My trip to Mexico City, Mexico was fun and very informative too. The people I talked to were really nice and willing to share information about their neighborhoods. I learned how different locations can have their own style of housing. From the tarps to the brick mansions this is what people call home. The life lesson I got from this trip is to be thankful for what I have.

Ethan T.

When I went to Mexico City i saw and learned a lot of people don't have job's or a nice house to live in wood or cardboard or mixed together by a airport and they are called the have not's. and their are some people that live in rundown apartments and some people have electricity and some have running water. and most of them live there because they were farmer and they lost their land to rich people have the good farm land.

#6

in the area 6 the people that live in that area live in shacks which lacks water and electricity which is rural decline because it says they struggle to keep their houses.

#14

Most of the people that live in the area 14 work as business people or teacher's and live in large homes like mansions and they are called the haves. They have a lot of money and big houses That doesn't lack water or electricity.

I learned that some people don't have a real house or job because because of urbanization and the "haves" and the "have not's". How they have different lives.

# Mexico City

Katelyn G.

When I was in Mexico City, I rode around in a taxi with a translator. I saw many different types of homes. Some were as big as castles, and others were nothing more than a cardboard box with a tarp over the top. I also saw a lot of spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is the unequal distribution of wealth or resources in geographic area, so some places are richer than others.

The neighborhood in Itzacalco had people who lived in slums. Slums are made of cardboard shacks and other junk with one room. The standard of living in this neighborhood was very low, as many of the homes lack electricity, and running water. Standard of living is the overall level of comfort and well-being in a group or country. The streets are littered with trash. Most people have little or no work. Most migrants who have been in the city for a while may live in somewhat better conditions and have some kind of work such as maids, dishwashers, cooks, bus drivers, street vendors or construction workers. Others live in large tenements.

In a neighborhood is Benito Juarez, 94% of the homes are built with good material. The homes are much nicer and bigger than the ones in Itzacalco. These are very wealthy people. The population density is 34,000 per square mile. The people here work in business, education or government. They can usually afford some luxuries such as a telephone at home. The houses are large and castle like. Estates with high walls and security systems.

During this lesson, I learned that I should always be thankful for what I have and to realize that there are some people who don't have anything.

## **Mexico City reflection**

*By: Spencer S.*

When I went to Mexico city, I visited four neighborhoods. I also had a translator with me. Some neighborhoods were decent, and some were horrible. Three out of the four neighborhoods had spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is the unequal distribution of wealth or resources in a geographic area, so that some places are richer than others.

In the third neighborhood I visited in district six, Iztacalco. The people that I visited lived in a cinder block house. The mother and her children had only twenty two square feet of green space. Only seventy five percent of the people in that district had running water. At least they had a tin roof and not a cardboard one that can incinerate.

In district fourteen, Benito Juarez, I met a wealthy family with a well protected castle like mansion. They definitely had the highest standard of living. The standard of living is the overall comfort and well being of a group or country. People in developed countries have a higher standard of living than developing countries, which have a lower one. There was not to much crime here. There were 13,000 police officers in the neighborhood. In district fourteen the population density was 34,000 people per square mile.

I learned that Mexico City has rural decline. Rural decline is the worsening economic conditions in the countryside, including unemployment and growing poverty. Rural decline drives migration to cities. I also learned that if you are looking for a job, Mexico City is not the place to go. I'm lucky I live in the U.S.A. Where we don't have any spatial inequality and rural decline.



1-20-14

# Mexico City

Lucas H. # 13

My trip to Mexico City was life changing. At one point we go from rags and cardboard houses to mansions and beautiful gardens. We drove around Mexico City with tour guides and translators. We learned a lot by going to different types of neighborhoods. The air pollution is huge in Mexico City over 70% of it is caused by vehicles. The large numbers of vehicles is due to urbanization (which is a lot of people moving from the suburbs to the city). All of the pollution adds up to smog which is a mixture of smoke and fog.

The next thing we did on our trip is visit a neighborhood called Cuajmaplaor. The standard of living is very low there. We talked to a woman who gets paid \$6 for working 12hrs. Only 55% of the houses there having running water. Another amazing fact is only 57% of kids over 15 make it beyond primary school. People who live in Cuajmaplaor only get 18 square feet of living space per person/family. They get paid minimum wage. They also work for the wealthy. There are scarcely paved roads there.

The last neighborhood we went to was called Benito Juarez. There are 34,000 people per square mile. The people who live there are mostly big landowners, or leaders in the government or business. 94% of homes there are built with good material. They live a luxurious lifestyle with running water and telephones. There are over 1,300 police officers so it is safe.

In the trip I learned about Standard of Living which is the average level of comfort and well-being of people. That was definitely a trip I will not forget anytime soon.

Max B.

### **Mexico City Reflection**

I arrived in Mexico City by plane, and soon after met my tour guides. They would translate for me during the interview. They told me we would visit 4 neighborhoods, which we would travel to by taxi. Throughout the trip we would travel from tarps to castles, all in the same city! We would see lots of spatial inequality due to urbanization. Spatial inequality is the unfair distribution of money and jobs. Because of this, the 17 districts vary greatly. Also, Mexico city is huge because of rural decline. That is when rural conditions get worse, so people moving to the city. In 1970-1980 around 1,000 people a day moved to Mexico City.

First, we visited District 8, Magdalena Contreras. There they had only 18 ft.<sup>2</sup> of green space per person! And, only 57% continue after elementary school. But what was truly terrible was their houses, which were little more than tarp tents! It was hard to believe these people lived this way. The reason the people had moved here, I learned, was because of rural decline, caused by the high unemployment in rural areas. Most unemployment is caused by large commercial farms buying all the land. So now they have moved here, to a place full of tarp tents, full of people like them looking for work only managing to scrape by.

As promised, next we are heading to the castles of Cuajimalpa, District 4. Here, we saw a much different situation, with 94% of homes built with good materials. The people who live here are wealthy landowners, leaders of business, and government officials. This area has a population density of 34,000 per ml.<sup>2</sup>. The people here are rich enough to pay lower class citizens to be their maids, gardeners and chauffeurs. They have a high standard of living, but there are few upper class.

Before my trip I had know idea how different a place could be. i now see my family is lucky to be middle/upper class. It is terrible how much less these people have than us. I think everybody should at least have a solid roof over their head. Nobody should have to live under a tent made of tarps. And because of this I will never be able to forget my trip from tarps to castles. A trip through Mexico City!

## Mexico City Reflection

By Emma Rose R.

I just got back from Mexico City and man it was a wild trip! With Mexico City being one of the world's largest cities in population, it was jam packed full of people. Something I found interesting was the spatial inequality in Mexico City, which means the unequal distribution of wealth over an area of land. I saw a house made of tarps and a mansion all in the same city! I will never forget this trip.

One of the areas I visited in Mexico City was shocking. This area was so poor that only 55% of homes have running water. The family we visited in this area had a very low standard of living. They live without running water, electricity, and their house is made of tarp walls. But it gets worse, only 57% of people over age 15 in this area have an education beyond primary school. How are people expected to get a job if they don't have an education? I find it hard to believe that some kids don't continue school. This area was fun to visit but I wouldn't want to live there.

Another area we visited was more of the upper class region. About 94% of the homes are built with good materials so it's a pretty nice area. The home we visited was incredible! It was a huge well built house, well more of a mansion if you ask me. The family that lives there are "haves". The "haves" are people who have large amounts of land and have a luxurious standard of living. This section of Mexico City is also well protected, it has about 1,300 working police officers. But this area was also packed full of people with about 34,000 people per square mile.

Over this trip I learned a lot about Mexico City like how some people live in such harsh conditions but others live in great conditions. But I also learned that I have a great life. I really had a good time, but I'm glad to be home in Saline.

Stefanie F.  
Mr. Foster  
Social Studies  
January 19, 2014

## Mexico City Reflection

This year in college I took a trip to Mexico City. While I was there I visited four neighborhoods. I learned about their standard of living and also gave them short interviews to learn about their lifestyle. **Standard of living** is the level of comfort and well-being in a group or town.

The first neighborhood visit that I made in Mexico City was in Magdalena Contreras. It was a small town next to an airport that was made out of tarps. Farmers in Rural areas moved to the Urban area because only 15% of the land was suitable for farming. That is called **Urbanization**.

I did visit many other neighborhoods but the last one I want to share with you is Iztacalco. Their houses were mainly made out of cardboard and cement. About 78% of houses were made out of good material. They lived in slums on the edge of the city.

Overall it was a really good trip, I learned so many different things about their **Standard of Living** and their lifestyle. My favorite part was meeting so many nice, friendly, and caring people. After taking this trip I realized that I should be thankful for what I have. Other people aren't lucky enough to have their own room or even a house. It was a great trip and if I had the chance, I would go back to Mexico city again.

Jake W.

Hola. My name is Jake and I have just returned from a "trip" to Mexico city. I had a lot of fun, and learned some fascinating, but very sad things. For example, you're walking around Mexico city. At one point, you are at the beautiful homes of the wealthy. Walk one mile down the road, and you are at literal cardboard boxes. But as more people move to the city from the countryside, do to economic activity(also called rural decline) the living space, and job opportunities are shrinking noticeably.

While I was at Mexico city, I visited a family in Azcapotzalco. The man we talked to said, the streets are flooding with crime do to the 800 police officers in the district. He also said he sends his two beautiful daughters to a private school, although the cost is very high. This man believes in education, although not many others in his neighborhood do. Only 66% of them send their kids past primary school, even though their are more than 34,000 people living per square mile!

I also visited a family in Benito Ju'arez. They were the most wealthy people I met on this trip. Unlike other neighborhoods, their house was built with very good material, as well as 94% of his neighbors. This neighborhood, along with a few others, have the good side of spatial inequality. They are wealthy, have good resources, and live in a good area. There is little crime, do to the great in home security systems, and the 1400 police officers.

When I "went" to Mexico city, I realized how lucky I am to have what I have. I now resolute to stop complaining when I don't get something, and think about those who really need it. I sleep on a bed, with a roof over my head, while others sleep on the ground, with a tarp over theirs. Feeling sorry for myself because I don't get this is stupid compared to, being grateful because I have a tarp over my head. From this trip, I think I have changed my ways for the better.

Ben W. #32

I just got back from Mexico City. While I was there, there was a translator to help us understand what the people were saying. There are a lot of people moving into Mexico City because of rural decline. Rural decline is when people move to the city because there are no jobs in the country. Some of the neighborhoods are rich and some are poor.

The first neighborhood we visited was very poor. It was located near the airport and a lot of the houses were cardboard boxes with no water. There is only 22% of green space per person, which is not a lot of room. The people who live there have jobs as maids, cooks, and gardeners for people who live in richer neighborhoods.

The next neighborhood that I visited had much nicer houses. Ninety-four percent of the homes were made with good materials. The homes have nice gardens and there is a lot more space for the people. There are also 1300 police officers who watch the area.

I couldn't believe the standard of living was so different in the two neighborhoods that I visited. Standard of living means the overall level of comfort and well being of a group of people. I learned that some people in Mexico City have a much easier life than others. I feel lucky to have a nice home to live in and water wherever I need it.

Emily E.

I just got back from Mexico City, and although it was a very fun and exciting trip, it was also very depressing. With the help of our tour guides/translators, we got to interview some of the people there. I was shocked and disgusted to see how some people were living in mansion-like houses, while others have nothing but a few cardboard boxes and some tarps. Mexico City has lots of spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is the unequal amounts of qualities or resources in an area. Some houses were as big as two regular houses mashed together, and other houses would have six people living in a house as small as my bedroom! It broke my heart to see the tiny little houses that some poor, poor people were living in.

The first neighborhood we visited was the very sad one. I wanted to do something to help them. The families lived in tarps, with only about 18 square feet of green space per person. It's really hard for them to get jobs, too. I would definitely want to get out of there as soon as I could if I were them. Because of rural decline, many people move to Mexico City. Rural decline is worsening economic conditions in the country-side, including rising unemployment and growing poverty. Rural decline drives migration to cities. That's part of the reason why people go there in the first place. They may not want to, but sometimes they just need to.

The fourth neighborhood that we visited was the opposite of the first one. The people lived in mansion-like houses! They had the money to buy food, a nice house, clothes, and some people had enough money to buy security cameras! If I were them, I'd donate some of my money to the less-valuable people, or as they call them, the "have nots". Some... well, actually, most of the "haves" hired the have nots to work for them. The workers would work the whole day and only receive about six dollars back. That's just cruel. The haves have so much more money than the have nots. If I was a have and had a have not working for me for the whole day, I'd pay them more than two-hundred dollars! The haves have a very high standard of living, but the not haves don't.

I learned to be grateful for what I have, for there are others who aren't as lucky as me. I can no longer say that there is anything wrong with my life, because the poor people in Mexico City would die to live like I am. Also, when I get older, I won't be reckless with my money, otherwise I may end up living in a small, cardboard box.

# Mexico City Reflection

By: Jamie K.

During my Mexico City trip i learned tons of information about not just Mexico city but also the areas around it. They have a way different way of life. There is tons of pollution in the city. Some areas have cardboard houses. That just shows the amount of spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is the unequal distribution of money and resources in an area.

In my visit to District 3 I found out a lot about of problems america usually doesn't have. But at the time i didn't know that there was worse to come. Only 66% of kids over 15 have a full education. They have only 800 Police Officers. Also, they have 34,000 people per square mile. That pretty much shows the amount of rapid urbanization. Urbanization is when people move to urban areas from rural areas causing fast growth of cities such as Mexico city.

I also visited District 1. They only have 30 square feet per person. And only 55% of homes have water. This is yet another example of spatial inequality.

Overall, i learned not to take things like video games, cars, tv, and water for granted because all around the world people don't always have these luxuries.



# Mexico City Trip Reflection

By Abbey L.

I had a wonderful time when I went to Mexico City. I learned a lot about the type of neighborhoods there. We had two translators that told us what the people, who we were interviewing, were saying. It is very crowded in Mexico City because of urbanization. Urbanization is the movement of people from rural to urban areas. Some people live with a high standard of living, others live in the slums. Standard of living is a overall level of comfort and well-being of a group or country. Some houses are made of cardboard while others are mansions. Over the years Mexico City has expanded. The reason is because people are moving there and they need space so they make room. People are moving because of rural decline. Rural Decline is worsening economic activity conditions in the countryside.

I am going to describe the first neighborhood. I was named by districts and a name. The districts were 007 & 008. The names are Iztapalapa & Magdalena Contreras. Each person who lives in the neighborhood lives on about 18 square feet of green space. Also only 57% of kids in these neighborhoods over fifteen continue school. Only 55% of the houses have running water. Most people have low-paying jobs. There are big families that live in a one room shack. They have a very hard lifestyle.

I am also going to describe the fourth neighborhood. The districts name was 014. The name of the place is called Benito Juarez. About 94% of the houses are made of good materials. There isn't a lot of crime in this neighborhood because there is 1,300 police officers. There are 34,000 people per square mile. Most of these people live in mansions. They have lots of luxurious items in their houses and are usually the leaders of a business or government. They have a very easy lifestyle.

I learned that a mile away from a family living in a mansion could be a family living in a cardboard house. The lesson I can take away from this trip is everybody is working hard to have a better life.

CJ K.  
Mr. Foster  
Social Studies  
January 15, 2014

## **Mexico City Reflection**

I had the opportunity to travel to Mexico City recently. I saw some cool things, but I also saw some sad things. Mexico City suffers from poverty, crime, and pollution. It has lots of spatial inequality also. Spatial inequality is the unfair distribution of wealth and resources in a geographic area, causing some areas to be richer than others. I got to visit 4 neighborhoods, and I would like to share my visits to 2 of them.

The first neighborhood I visited is called Itzapalapa. The standard of living is very low. Urbanization, which is the movement of people from rural to urban areas, has caused it to be extremely crowded. Each person gets only 18 square feet of space. People's homes are made of tarps. Only 55% of homes have running water. Also, only 57% of people who are over the age of 15 have an education beyond primary school. It is not a very good place to live.

The last neighborhood I visited is called Benito Juárez. People who live there have a high standard of living, and can afford many luxuries. 94% of homes there are built with good materials. Most people who live there are big landowners, or are leaders in business or government. There are over 1,300 police officers there, which makes people feel safe. There are 34,000 people per square mile. It is a great place to live.

I learned that Mexico City has lots of spatial inequality, and it suffers from rural decline. While there are only a handful of wealthy people living there, most people are struggling to survive.

Emma S.

## Mexico City

Hello, my name is Emma S.. I am a college student and I went on a trip to Mexico City with my class. We had two translators that came with us on the trip. While on our trip we went to four neighborhoods and they all have very different standard of livings. Standard of living is the overall level of comfort and well-being of a group or Country.

One of the neighborhoods we visited was in district 006 Iztacalco. The houses in that neighborhood were made out of cinder-blocks and had metal or tar covered roofs. In that neighborhood there was 22 square feet of green space per person. 78% of the homes were built with good material. Also more than 75% of homes in that neighborhood have running water. The people that live in this neighborhood have jobs that are too low-paying to lift them out of poverty. They often work for the richer.

Another neighborhood I visited was in district 014 Benito Juarez. The richer often live in these kinds of neighborhoods and they live in mansions. The population in this neighborhood is 34,000 people per square mile. That's alot of people. Urbanization is causing more and more people to move to Mexico City. Urbanization is the movement of people from rural to urban areas. 94% of the homes in this neighborhood were built with good materials. They also had 1,300 police officers. The people who live in this neighborhood had well-paying jobs and could afford all of the luxuries such as cars and electronics.

In conclusion, going on that trip really made me think different about my life. My parents may not be able to buy me an iPhone or a computer. But they can afford to buy a house and food to put on the table. Some people in Mexico City can't buy things like that. I know I am lucky and that's all I could ever ask for.

Chloe I.  
Mr.Foster  
Social Studies  
1/22/14

## Mexico City

I went on a trip to Mexico City. I have discovered that a lot of people are migrating to the city for jobs because there is not a lot of jobs in the slums. If everyone moves to the city there is not going to be enough jobs for everyone.

When I went to neighborhood number three I saw some what better conditions than other's. Their houses are not in well conditions. Other people live in rundown apartments and houses that are old. When the people go to bed inside their house, they don't have a lot of space to sleep. This is called spatial inequality.

This neighborhood I went to has a high standard of living. The people there can afford some luxuries. Most people have jobs in business, education, or government. They live a very good lifestyle. This is called standard of living.

Kendal R.  
Mr. Foster  
Social Studies  
January 22, 2014

## **Mexico City Report**

I just got back from a trip to Mexico City. I visited 4 neighborhoods while I was there. Visiting these neighborhoods made me realize how much urbanization is going on in Mexico City. Urbanization is when people move to urban areas which ends up in growing population in urban areas.

While I was in Mexico City I visited a neighborhood that I will call Neighborhood #6. People in this neighborhood mostly have electricity but some lack running water. There is room for 22sq.ft. per person in neighborhood #6. I learned that 22% of homes aren't made with good materials and 78% are.

The next neighborhood I visited we will call #14. I'm sure that the people that live in this neighborhood feel safe because there are 1,300 police officers in this neighborhood alone. A lot of the people in this neighborhood are large land owners, leaders in business or government. Which also means that they make a good amount of money and that reminds me of spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is the uneven hand out of money, food, and resources so that some places are richer than others.

I think the big lesson to learn in Mexico City is to not take what you have for granted. A lot of people in Mexico City aren't as fortunate as you and I and we may not notice it.

Well thanks for listening to my review. It was great sharing with you. I hope you learned something!

Alex D. #6  
Social Studies  
Mr.Foster  
1-13-14

# Mexico City Reflection

I just visited Mexico City. I had a tour guide that guided me throughout the neighborhoods. We traveled around the city in a taxi cab. We interviewed four different families that live in different neighborhoods and houses from cardboard to castles.

One of the neighborhoods I visited was called Iztapalapa. This would be an example of cardboard. This family live in tarps and tents right next to an airport. They had 18 square feet of green space per person, 57% of people that continue primary school after the age of 15, and 55% of homes with running water. These people are experiencing spatial inequality. Spatial inequality is an unfair or unequal distribution of wealth and resources.

Another neighborhood we visited was called Benito Juarez. This would be an example of castles or the “haves”. The “haves” are people who have everything they need and most of the stuff that they want. The “have nots” are people who have barely any of the stuff that they need and nothing they want. Some of the “have nots” are called the working poor. The working poor work for the “haves” and earn money to be their maides. Anyway, this neighborhood had 94% of homes built with good materials, 1,300 police officers assigned to the neighborhood, and 34,000 people per square mile of population density. This neighborhood exceeds the standard of living. Standard of living is an average amount of wealth in a group or place.

As a conclusion, I learned to always be grateful of whatever I have. That I have a roof to live under that won't disintegrate because a drop of rain hit it or that I have to work for a rich person and get paid way less than minimum wage in America. Lastly, my life lesson would be to never brag about what you have and to treat everyone equally.

Erik P.  
Foster  
#24  
1/13/14

## **Life In Mexico City Reflection Paper**

Some areas of Mexico City are very poor, while other areas are very rich. Mexico City is the country's largest city. While at Mexico City, we interviewed several people about their kind of life in Mexico City. Mexico City is very populated and continues to expand its current population.

In neighborhood number one, the economic conditions were very poor. Each person living in neighborhood one only got eighteen square feet of green space. A shocking fifty five percent of homes in neighborhood one had running water. Farmers decide to migrate to the city because of rural decline. Rural decline is bad economic conditions that result in poverty and unemployment.

In neighborhood four, many people have a lot of money and live in expensive houses. Most people are employed as an educator, government official, or businessman. Ninety four percent of homes are built with good materials. Many people in neighborhood four have a high standard of living. Standard of living is your well-being.

When I visited Mexico City, I learned the difference in life compared to the United States. I can be thankful for what I have because I could have it worst if I lived in a place that didn't have as much money like Mexico City.

Sophie W. #30

## Mexico City Reflection Paper

I just got back from visiting Mexico City. And let me tell you, there's a clear sign of spatial inequality! I visited four divisions in the Federal District, but two really caught my eye. These two were Division 8: Magdalena Contreras, and Division 14: Benito Juarez. I'm overjoyed that we traveled by cab, or else I would be dying of restlessness! Overall the experience was fabulous. I was honored to meet all of the lovely people too.

In Division 8: Magdalena Contreras, there was a sign of urbanization. Many farmers in Division 8 were forced to move to cities with more opportunities, such as jobs with decent wages and better education. Good education and good jobs are important. Both, if you try hard enough, can lead to high wages. Which is needed in this division. Considering farmers are being counted on.

In Division 14: Benito Juarez, I could tell almost instantly that there was spatial inequality. The reason I realized this so fast is because I could tell by the upper class's houses and their jobs, they have it a lot better than the other divisions. They can also afford workers. Such as maids, drivers, and gardeners! While the middle class and working poor can not.

I learned to be thankful for what I have. Lots of times I take what I have for granted. But now I realize that families who are starving and poor, would do anything to spend a day like I do.