

Indigenous Groups of Mexico

Group name: Chiapa^D

Major Ethnic Division: Other

Location: Mountains of Chiapas State

Language, language family: not related

History: Originated in Paraguay, where they dominated nearby Charrúas, Guaraníes, and Boanes. In 1390, the subject states revolted. Some Chiapas moved to Nicaragua and then to Chiapas State. There, they dominated nearby Zoques, Mames, Querenes, and Tzeltzales. In 1527, Spaniards set siege to their capital at Nandiumé, population 5000. Rather than surrender, 3000 Chiapas jumped to their deaths from Tepetchi cliff.

Religion: Pagan

Group name: Chol^D

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Chiapas, around Tumbalá

Language, language family: Chol, Maya

History: Lived in the Alta Verapaz area of Guatemala in precolumbian times. In 1620, they moved to the mountains to evade the Spaniards. In 1687, they revolted and moved to the area around Palenque.

Religion: shamanism; unenthusiastic Catholicism

Group name: Chontol^D

Major Ethnic Division: Lowland Maya

Location: Eastern and southern Oaxaca; also, northern Oaxaca, Tabasco, and Guatemala

Language, language family: Chontol, Maya

History: Originated in Nicaragua and moved to Yucatán. Around 400 BC, they moved to Oaxaca. In 84 AD, they were driven into the mountains and to the coast by the Zapotecs. They allied with the Aztecs against the Zapotecs.

Religion: mixed Catholic and pagan

Group name: Cora^D

Major Ethnic Division: Northwest

Location: mountains of Jalisco and Nayarit

Language, language family: Cora, Aztecoidan

History: Stayed independent of the Aztecs and Spaniards until 1722. In 1858, they supported the Church in the War of the Reform. In 1873, they rebelled against the state government.

Religion: pagan/Catholic

Group name: Cuitlatec^D

Major Ethnic Division: Southern Highland

Location: Guerrero, but only scattered remnants remain

Language, language family: not clear; may be related to Mayan

History:

Religion:

Group name: Huastec^D

Major Ethnic Division: Huastec

Location: centered in Northern Veracruz, but spill into the surrounding areas

Language, language family: Huastec, Maya

History: Paid tribute to Texcoco in the 15th Century. Cortés defeated them in 1521 at Tampico and sold 40,000 of them as slaves to the Antilles. Conversion to catholicism began in 1749.

