

## Summary: Mexico City

### The Capital of Mexico

The capital of Mexico is Mexico City. It is high in the mountains. Mexico City is very old. People who lived there slowly changed its environment. Long ago Mexico City was on an island in a lake. Almost 700 years ago, Aztec Indians settled on the lake. They built a city called Tenochtitlán. The Aztecs made many changes to the land and water around it. They dug canals and built gardens. Then, almost 500 years ago, people from Spain came to the area. They built a new city on the island. This became Mexico City. The Spanish wanted land, not water. They began to drain the lake. People used the land for more buildings.

### Mexico City Today

Now Mexico City is one of the biggest cities in the world. Millions of people live and work there. Cars, trucks, and buses fill the streets. When cities grow, they can create pollution. Like other large cities, Mexico City has air pollution from traffic and businesses. The mountains around the city block the wind. The wind cannot blow the dirty air away.

People in Mexico City are working to clean their environment. They closed some businesses that made the air dirty. They made rules about how many cars can drive on some days. Some buses and trains use cleaner fuel. All this has helped make the air cleaner.



#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**capital** *noun*, a city  
where laws are made

**canal** *noun*, a  
waterway made by  
people

**pollution** *noun*,  
anything that dirties  
the air, soil, or water



#### After You Read

**REVIEW** In what  
ways did the Aztecs  
change their  
environment? Highlight  
the sentence that tells  
the answer.

**REVIEW** What is air  
pollution and what are  
people in Mexico City  
doing to clean it up?  
Underline three  
sentences that tell what  
the people of Mexico  
City are doing to clean  
up the air pollution.