Zapatista Movement

Impact & Political Outcomes in Mexico
Standards

SS6H3 The student will analyze important 20th century issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.
b. Explain the impact and political outcomes of the Zapatista guerrilla movement in Mexico.
Your task: Spend some time analyzing your group's picture, then answer the questions below.

1. What exactly do you see in the photograph?
2. How are the people dressed?
3. What are they doing?
4. Imagine that you are in the picture. What would you hear? What would you smell?
5. Prediction: What happened right before this image?
6. Prediction: What happened right after this image?
1. What are "guerrillas"?

2. What country is region are the Zapadistas located in?

3. Who are the majority of the members of the Zapadista Movement?

4. Who is Emiliano Zapata and how has he impacted the Zapadista Movement?

5. What are some good things that Chaparros is known for?

6. What negative things are happening in Chaparros?

7. How do the Zapadistas feel about NAFTA? Why?

8. What happened with the Zapadistas in 1994?
Zapatista Movement

Impact & Political Outcomes in Mexico
What are Guerillas?

- They are generally small military groups that are made up of non-traditional soldiers.
- These groups do not represent an entire country, but rather a common cause or idea.
- Guerillas use surprise attacks and sabotage (known as “guerilla warfare”) to attack their enemies.
The Zapatistas are a guerrilla group who support improved rights and living conditions for Mexico’s indigenous (native) people. The group consists primarily of poor farmers and workers of indigenous American ancestry.
The Zapatistas get their name from one of the leaders of the Mexican Revolution, Emiliano Zapata.

Zapata is a Mexican symbol for rising up against a government that oppresses the people.

Zapata did not create the Zapatistas, but his lifetime achievements inspired the name of the group.
The Zapatistas are located in the Chiapas region of southern Mexico.

Chiapas is a resource-rich state.
- It produces over half of Mexico’s hydroelectric power.
- It’s the 2nd largest petroleum-producing state.
- It’s the largest coffee exporting state.
Chiapas has the worst rates of poverty in Mexico.

- Three-fourths of its people are malnourished.
- Over half live in dwellings with dirt floors.
- 19% of the population has no income.
- 39% earn less than minimum wage ($3 per day).

Chiapas is a huge contributor to the global economy (water, oil, etc.), but its people are getting very little in return.

- There is a huge division between the rich and the poor in the state.
"The natural wealth that leaves these lands doesn't travel over just these three roads (leading to Chiapas). Chiapas is bled through thousands of veins: through oil ducts and gas ducts, over electric wires, by railroad cars, through bank accounts, by trucks and vans, by ships and planes...And what tribute does this land continue to pay to various empires? Oil, electric energy, cattle, money, bananas, honey, corn, cocoa, tobacco, sugar, soy...and Chiapan blood flows out through a thousand and one fangs sunk into the neck of southeastern Mexico."
The Zapatistas want to eliminate the division between the social classes in Chiapas (wealthy vs. poor).

They feel that the indigenous people of Mexico need more help to improve healthcare, housing, education, and jobs.

They have tried to peacefully negotiate with Mexico’s government, but those agreements have not solved the peoples’ problems...
Chiapas Roadside Sign:

“You are in Zapatista rebel territory. Here the people command and the government obeys.”
NAFTA’s Impact

• In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement came into effect and allowed free trade between US, Canada, and Mexico.

• Some people in Mexico did not like this plan:
  • They believed that NAFTA would allow cheap farm goods to come into Mexico from the US.
  • They felt NAFTA benefitted the wealthy and hurt the poor Native American farmers by lowering prices of crops like coffee and corn.
  • They feared that farmers in Mexico would not be able to compete with the cheaper food.
On the day NAFTA took effect, the Zapatistas used guerilla tactics and took over seven towns in their part of Mexico (state of Chiapas).

The Mexican army was sent in to remove the Zapatistas. Fighting lasted for several weeks until a cease-fire eventually ended it.
Armed Takeover in Chiapas – 1994
Even though the 1994 revolt was put down by the Mexican National Army, the Zapatistas did not go away.

- They received recognition from governments worldwide, and the revolt helped put pressure on the Mexican government to fix the problems in the Chiapas region.

- The Mexican government and the Zapatistas are working constantly to come up with solutions in Chiapas.
  - The Zapatistas want more money and assistance from the government in helping to make the Chiapas region a better place to live.

- It’s taking a long time...
Quick Sketch: The Zapatista Movement

Key Words and Phrases:

Directions: After reviewing the Zapatista PowerPoint, think about specific words or phrases that picture the words you were able to create in your head. After reading over your words, sketch a quick box below (the more words you jot down, the better).
Thousands of villagers, and other civilians, who live in a sophisticated communication network. These Web sites attract thousands of villagers for their support of the Zapatistas. At the same time, the Zapatistas rely on the Internet massed several villages, often spilling over into the streets. In 1997, for example, government forces attacked villages and Zapatistas often spilled into the streets. The conflict between the government and the Zapatistas have stalled. The conflict between the government and the Zapatistas has been renewed with the Mexican government's decision to negotiate with the Zapatistas. In 1999, the Zapatistas have been committed to negotiating with the government, including government soldiers, peasants, and government functionaries. The Zapatistas believe in the Mexican government's decision to negotiate with the Zapatistas.

Mexican government's decision to negotiate with the Zapatistas began in the Mexican government's decision to negotiate with the Zapatistas. The Zapatistas began to negotiate with the Mexican government in 1999, the Zapatistas claimed to be fighting in defense of indigenous rights and the right of indigenous peoples to live in the areas of their traditional lands. In January 1999, the Zapatistas claimed to be fighting in defense of indigenous rights and the right of indigenous peoples to live in the areas of their traditional lands.

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5) What would you recommend that Zapadistas do in order to get their ideas across to the
Mexican government?

4) What is your view of the response of the state (Mexico's government) to the Zapadistas' use of
force?

3) Was the way that the force was used acceptable? Why or why not?

2) Are the Zapadistas terrorists or revolutionaries? Why?

1) Do you believe that the Zapadistas' decision to use force was acceptable and justifiable? Why or
why not?

Questions to Consider:
Zapatistas: For or Against?

Directions: Are you in favor of the Zapatistas or against them? Do you think of them as a group that fights for the rights of poor farmers and second class citizens? Or do you think of them as more of a violent terrorist group who is attempting to overthrow Mexico’s government? Write a paragraph summary of why you feel this way. Be sure to give reasons to support your opinion.
Your task: Congratulations! You have just been hired by a major toy company. Your first project is to design the Zapptastic Action Figure.

Logos: Include these things in your figure box:
- Name:
- Accessories:
- Features:

Appropriately draw your action figure. Have a catchy phrase or motto. What about an action figure’s name (rummy)?

The Zapptastics Movement also includes accessories that come with your figure that are appropriate. Choose at least three special features that your action figure will have. These features should relate to your action figure to represent the Zapptastics. Be sure to dress your action figure in ways that represent the Zapptastics.

Include those things in your figure box:
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