

Mexico Challenge Badge

Girlguiding Anglia 2026 International Trip



A challenge badge for all sections to enjoy. This pack has been created by Guides and Rangers from all across Anglia who have been selected to participate in an International Trip to Mexico. Proceeds from the badge will help them raise the funds needed to be able to go

Leaders automatically get a badge for organising all the activities!

Rainbows should complete one activity from each of the five sections

Brownies should complete one activity from each of the five sections **plus** one additional activity

Guides should complete one activity from each of the five sections, **plus** 2 additional activities

Rangers should complete one activity from each of the five sections **plus** 3 additional activities

To order badges or for any queries please email mexicogg2026@gmail.com



Section 1: Animals of Mexico



1. Alebrije Animal Sculptures

- **What:** Alebrijes are colourful, imaginary animals from Mexican folk art, traditionally made from wood or papier mache
- **What to do:** use clay or plasticine to shape wild animals — like a dragon-lizard or bird-tiger — and paint them in bright, crazy colours with lots of dots and patterns.

2. Paper Plate Jaguar Mask

In Mayan mythology, Jaguars are a symbol of power and royalty. They were also seen as protective spirits, sent to watch over villages and the natural world and as spirit guides, sent to escort the souls of the deceased to the next life.

- **What to do:**
- Paint a paper plate orange with black spots.
- Cut eye holes and add a nose and whiskers with paper or markers.
- Attach a lolly stick or string to wear the mask!

3. Felt or Paper Turtles (Caguamas)

- Mexico's coast line is valuable habitat for 6 out of the 7 species of Turtles. In the Los Cabos region of Mexico Turtles symbolized endurance, protection, good fortune, hope, and happiness the Mayan Culture
- **What to do:**
- Cut turtle shapes from green felt or cardstock. Link for a printable is available in resource section
- Decorate the shell with colourful paper squares or sequins.

4. Cardboard Llamas or Donkeys (Burros)

Donkey's are a symbol of rural life, resilience and hard work. Donkeys were traditionally used to transport heavy goods and building materials after their introduction to the country in the 16th Century. Today their contributions are celebrated in the annual National Donkey Festival

- **What to do:**
- Cut a simple llama or donkey shape from cardboard. Link for a printable is available in resource section
- glue on yarn, pom-poms, and colourful paper "blankets."

5. God's Eye Turtle

"God's eye" most commonly refers to the Ojo de Dios, a spiritual and decorative woven object from Mexican and Latin American cultures, made by wrapping yarn around crossed sticks. The crossed sticks represent the elements and the five directions, while the weaving itself is a spiritual symbol for protection, prayer for children, and connection to the divine.

- **How:**
- Hot glue gun 3 lolly sticks together to form the turtle body.
- Wrap wool over and round each of the sticks.
- Colour the remaining sticks in green, and add face and toes.



6 Quetzal Bird Craft

The Quetzal bird symbolized freedom in Mayan culture (due to the difficulty of keeping them in captivity) and wealth, as its feathers were used as money. Even today, the currency of Guatemala is called the quetzal.

- **How:**

- Make long, flowing tail feathers from green and red tissue paper.
- Glue onto a paper bird body and add a sparkly eye.

7. Golden eagles

Golden eagles are the national bird of Mexico

What to do: Colour in golden eagles, make puppets of golden eagles, make sculptures out of recycling or clay/plasticine

Section 2: Culture and Celebrations



1. **Create a string of traditional Papel Picado, a Mexican folk art.** Papel Picado means to punch or perforate paper. It is believed that the holes in the paper allow wind to flow through them, which symbolizes a soul's journey to the living.

What to do: cut colourful card into shapes and patterns and hang on string to create beautiful banners.

There is a 'how to make' in the useful resources section

2. **Frida Kahlo**, a famous Mexican painter - Research a bit about her art and paint a picture in her style
3. **Piñatas.** A traditional Mexican shape for piñatas is a spherical shape with seven conical points symbolizing the seven deadly sins—greed, gluttony, sloth, pride, envy, wrath, and lust. Inside the piñata, however, were tempting sweets and treats, representing the pleasures of life. **What to do:** Use toilet paper rolls, tissue paper, and glue to create tiny piñatas. Fill with sweets and decorate with bright colours and fringe!
4. **Sombrero Decorating** the Mexican sun hat, or sombrero, is a symbol of national pride and identity. It is worn during festivals, traditional celebrations, and cultural events, like Cinco de Mayo, Día de los Muertos, and different parties. **What to do:**• Use paper bowls, plates, and bright decorations (pom-poms, yarn) to create wearable sombreros. **OR** Provide plain paper or foam hats and let girls decorate them with pom-poms, sequins, and markers.
5. **Maracas** Maracas are much more than simple instruments—they're symbols of culture, joy, and togetherness. Whether shaking in a fiesta, accompanying a mariachi band, or being handed out as party favors, maracas continue to play an integral part in Mexican celebrations. **What to do :** Fill plastic Easter eggs with rice or beans, tape them between two plastic spoons, and wrap with colourful tape or paper. Then shake away!
6. **Cactus Painting** Cacti are fundamentally important to Mexico due to their deep cultural, historical, and economic significance. They are a national symbol, featured on the flag, and are a staple in Mexican cuisine and traditional medicine. **What to do :** Paint and decorate a paper plate cacti with googly eyes, flowers and tiny hats.

Mexico Independence Day

Hold a Mexico Independence Day party, everyone dress up in the colours of the Mexican flag, have some Mexican snacks

Teach them about the flag, colour in the flag, play some traditional Mexican games (wheelbarrow racing)(or more English ones such as pin the tail on the donkey) mini quiz (do they know anything about Mexico?), tell them some interesting facts

Day of the Dead Activities

1. **Paper Marigold Flowers (Cempasúchil)** Marigolds are significant in Mexico primarily for their role as the "flower of the dead" during the Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) festival, where their bright colors and strong scent are believed to guide the spirits of the deceased back to their families. They are used

to decorate altars on Day of the Dead. **What to do:** Teach girls to make marigold flowers using tissue paper and pipe cleaners. There is a 'How to' link in the useful resources section.

2. **Create a Mini Ofrenda (Altar)** An Ofrenda is an altar set up for Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in Mexico to honor and welcome deceased loved ones. Its significance lies in being a vibrant, temporary memorial that celebrates the lives of the departed and facilitates a temporary reunion by offering them food, drinks, and other comforts for their journey in the afterlife. **What to do:** Let girls make a tiny altar honoring a loved one or even a pet. Use a shoebox, small photos, candles (LED ones for safety), paper flowers, and tiny sugar skulls. **Make a unit ofrenda.** Get everyone to either draw or bring in pictures of their loved ones. Make some paper flowers and bunting. Light some candles. Everyone can share their favourite memories. Could do individual ones or a unit ofrenda.
3. **Decorate Paper Sugar Skulls** Cut out skull shapes from cardstock and have a decorating station with sequins, yarn, markers, and buttons. Or colour in black-and-white skull designs to colour. Let them use bright markers, crayons, or glitter for decoration!
4. **Face Painting Station** Simple sugar skull face painting with white face paint and black designs. Add colourful flowers around the eyes and cheeks!
5. **Sugar Skulls on Candles** On thin white tissue paper, draw a design with felt tip pens, then cut the design out and wrap the tissue paper tightly on a pillar candle. Cover it with some grease proof paper, and use a heat gun (under adult supervision) to gently melt the wax and the tissue paper together.
6. **Skeleton Dance Game** Play music and have a "skeleton dance" — girls move around loosely like skeletons! When the music stops, they have to freeze in a funny skeleton pose.
7. **Candle Holder** Decorate a glass candle holder with skulls and other day of the dead themed designs, using appropriate pens (these will need cooking afterwards).
8. **Carnival Mask Making** Decorate masks with glitter, feathers, and paint for a Mexican-style Carnival parade.
9. **PARTY TIME** use as many of the crafts listed above and hold a Dia De Los Muertos party with Mexican music and Mexican foods.

Section 3: Food



1. **Decorate Calaveras Cookies** Representing both the sweetness of life and a commemorative offering to honor deceased loved ones. They are brightly colored, often decorated with the name of the deceased, and placed on ofrendas (altars) or gravestones to welcome spirits back to the land of the living. **What to do** : Bake or buy plain skull-shaped cookies and set up a decorating table with icing, candies, and sprinkles.
2. **Tortilla chip hat game** - get into groups. Each group has a bag of tortilla chips and a bowl of guacamole. The aim is to use the guacamole to ‘stick’ the chips together in the shape of a sombrero hat. Best hat wins, and then you can eat it.
3. **Taco Build Relay** Set up taco ingredients (paper cutouts or real soft props) and have a relay race where girls must “build” a taco at the finish line.
4. **Hold a Mexican food market:** set up tables as ‘market stalls’ and have different foods on each one.
 - **Mexican street corn** - cook some corn on the cob and attach skewers, have a buffet table with lots of different toppings that are typical of the street food.
 - **Nachos** with different dips, including salsa and Guacamole
 - **Mini Tacos** Set up a taco bar with mini tortillas, seasoned beef or chicken, shredded cheese, lettuce, and salsa. Girls can build their own!
 - **Churro Bites** Serve little pieces of churros dusted in cinnamon sugar. You can even use store-bought ones and cut them small.
 - **Fruit Skewers** Use tropical fruits like mango, pineapple, and watermelon for a bright, fresh DIY snack.
 - **Jarritos or Agua Fresca** Jarritos are Mexican sodas in fun flavors like tamarind, mango, or lime. Or make simple agua fresca (blend fruit, water, and a little sugar).
 - **Mexican Sweet Bread (Pan Dulce)** Offer small pieces of traditional sweet bread — colourful and pretty!
 - **Guess the Type of Chocolate** History of chocolate: chocolate was discovered by the Mayas & the Aztecs of Central America, now Mexico. chocolate fondue, chocolate tasting (different types of choc bars) blindfolded. Get 5 different types of chocolate (Remember to check for allergies), and cut them up until small pieces. Put these pieces into numbered bags and share them out, getting everyone to guess which type of chocolate is in each bag.
 - **Hot chocolate** have some Mayan style hot chocolate

Mexican cucumber cactus : cut cucumber in 2 pieces, 1 longer than other, put small selection of cocktail onions, cheese, raisins, tomatoes, grapes etc onto toothpick, stick into cucumber

Our Cabana and WAGGGS

1. **Learn about Our Cabana** and design your own world centre to incorporate the values of Gilguiding. You can do this as a drawing or making a model out of a shoe box.
2. **Make a dream catcher.** Our Cabana is named 'The City of Eternal springs' - where dreams come true.
3. **World centre window:** A4 picture of Our Cabana, stick to cereal box. Make a frame, mix paint & sand to decorate frame. Colour / decorate picture. Stick frame over picture- you can add a cut out photo of yourself.
4. **Our Cabana game** - facts are printed on paper and put around the room. In groups, girls have to run around and remember as much as they can in 3 minutes. Then they have to write everything they've remembered on a big piece of paper. The group with the most wins, and extra points if a group remembered something that no-one else did.
5. **Make a Mexican Handprint flag** as seen on the right



WAGGGS

WAGGGS stands for World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is the largest voluntary movement for helping to empower young girls and women around the world.

1. **Friendship knot** learn to tie a friendship knot. There is a link to a 'How to' PDF in the useful resources section of this pack.
2. **Friendship bracelet** Make a friendship bracelet that represents the different parts of the Guiding Trefoil. You will need

- **1 round orange bead** represents the sun. The gold trefoil on a blue background represents the sun shining on all the people of the world.
- **1 heart shaped bead** represents the love of humanity. The stalk of the trefoil represents the flame of the love of humanity.
- **3 large round beads** represent the 3 leaves of the trefoil, which in turn represent the 3 parts of the promise.
- **1 small white bead** represents the compass needle. The vein pointing upwards through the centre of the trefoil= a compass pointing the way.
- **2 star shaped beads** represent the Guiding promise and Law.



3. **Make a friendship stick** use a lolly stick or wooden spoon to wrap the wool around. There is more information in the 'Useful resources' section of this pack.
4. **International connection:** Organize an "International Night" or "Global Treasure Hunt" to learn about different countries, holidays, and cultures through research and games.

Landscape of Mexico (Geography and nature)

Make a Pipe cleaner Poinsettia holds deep significance as a symbol of Christmas, humility, and the Star of Bethlehem. Make a Poinsettia out of pipe cleaners. There is a link to a Youtube video in the 'Useful resources' section of this pack.

Make a 3D map of Mexico and label the cities, states, mountains, rivers, etc. Use different textures for the different types of landscape (water, desert, city etc).



Mayan Pyramids Mexico is famous for its pyramids. The Mayan pyramid temples were architectural marvels that served as religious and political centers. These massive structures required advanced engineering and extensive labor, reflecting the Mayans' architectural prowess and deep spiritual beliefs.
What to do: Build a pyramid using junk modelling OR make a pyramid out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

Landscape jigsaws: Print a landscape picture onto card, laminate and cut into various shapes to create your own jigsaw puzzle.

Cacti represent resilience and endurance, and are a central part of national identity as featured on the Mexican flag. They hold deep historical, cultural, and economic importance, stemming from their role in the founding myth of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan. Cacti also have practical uses as a food and dye source, a building material, and an ecological tool for preventing erosion. **What to do:** Germinate and grow your own cacti, this can be linked to the Brownies grow your own badge, the Rainbow nature badge or possible the Rangers gardening badge. Within this they can also decorate the pot.
Or for younger girls Make Cacti hand prints using paint and other resources you may have.

Games



1. **La Víborita de la Mar** (The Little Sea Snake)

• **How to Play:**

- girls form a line, holding onto each other's waists or shoulders.
- Two players form an arch (the "sea") with their arms.
- The "snake" (the line of girls) weaves under the arch while singing a song.
- When the song ends, the arch "traps" a child under it!
- That child either joins the arch or is "out" — keep playing until one player remains!

2. **Trompo Spinning** (Spinning Top Game)

• **How to Play:**

- Girls use a "trompo" (traditional wooden spinning top) and compete to see whose trompo spins the longest.

3. **Rayuela** (Hopscotch)

• **How to Play:**

- Draw a traditional hopscotch grid with chalk.
- girls throw a small stone and hop through the squares without stepping on the lines.

4. **Canicas** (Marbles)

• **How to Play:**

- Draw a circle on the ground.
- take turns flicking marbles, trying to knock opponents' marbles out of the circle.

5. **La Gallinita Ciega** (The Blind Little Hen)

• **How to Play:**

- One child is blindfolded ("the hen") and spun around.
- They must walk around and try to catch the others, who tease them by calling out but dodging away!

6. **El Luchador** (The Wrestler)

• **How to Play:**

- Inspired by Mexican lucha libre (wrestling)!
- Play non-contact "pose battles" — girls strike funny wrestling poses and try to outdo each other in creativity, not fighting.

7. **Play a game of BEANS!**

The leader explains the different categories of beans and demonstrates the actions for each (choose as many 'bean' categories as you like).

String beans – stretch up as high as you can.

Broad beans – make yourself as wide as you can.

Runner beans – run on the spot.

Jumping beans – jump on the spot.

Jelly beans – shake your whole body like jelly.

Baked beans – wipe your brow and say, 'Phew!'.

Beans on toast – lie flat on the floor.

Chilli beans – shiver as though you are very cold.

Beanie Baby – suck on your thumb.

Human beans – exclaim, 'To bean or not to bean!'

Bean bags – huddle in a ball on the floor.

Bean Sprouts - Stand as tall & thin as possible.

Butter Beans - Slide around the floor on bottom.

Has Beans - Walk around as id old and frail.

Magic Beans - Wave a wand and cast a spell.

This can be played as a non-competitive game or alternatively competitively with the last child doing the bean action being out. The winner would then be the last person left in.

Useful resources

Free Mexican themed Colouring pages: <https://iheartcraftythings.com/mexican-coloring-pages.html>

Printable Turtle Body: <https://patternuniverse.com/download/sea-turtle-pattern/>

Printable Jaguar Head: <https://patternuniverse.com/download/cat-face-pattern/>

Printable Donkey: <https://patternuniverse.com/download/donkey-pattern/>

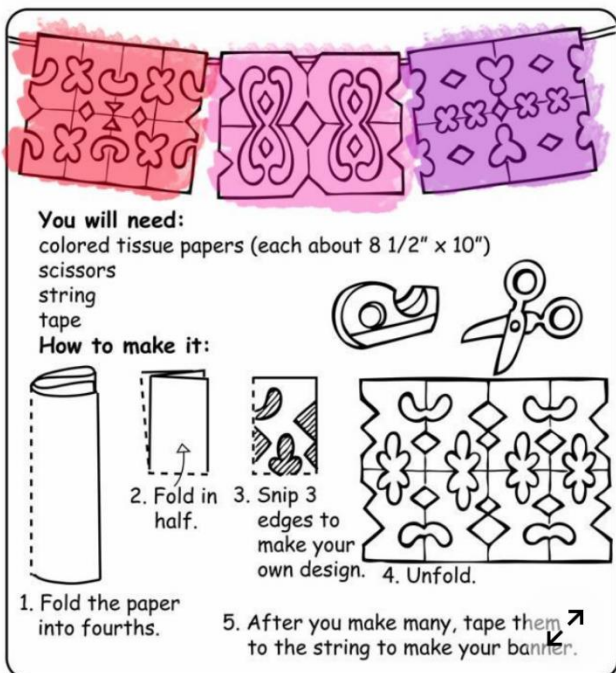
Printable Bird: <https://www.printitfree.net/songbird-bird-cutout-shape-large/>

Mexican Paper Marigolds : <https://www.teachkidsart.net/mexican-paper-marigolds-for-day-of-dead/>

How to Tie a Friendship Knot <https://52ndreadingscoutgroup.org.uk/documents/Friendship%20knot.pdf>

Pipe cleaner Poinsettia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdOfT3uEL1k>

PAPEL PICADO



Paper (papel) picado is a traditional craft in Mexico. The people create paper picado banners of colorful tissue paper to use as decorations to celebrate holidays and festive occasions. The process is like making a paper snowflake.

Friendship Sticks

A friendship stick symbolises the sense of belonging to a group, with no barriers of language, race or culture.
Each part of the friendship stick means something.

The blue band represents the blue sky we all live under.

The blue eye means life.

The black eye means death.

The upwardly curved red lips mean joy.

The smiling face is the sign of a friend.

The green band represents purity in deed, word and thought.

The yellow, red, brown, white and black bands are all of equal size - showing all people are created equal whatever their race or colour.

The red band represents hope.

The brown band at the bottom represents the earth on which we all stand.



Name: _____

Creatures of Mexico

S	W	L	B	R	A	T	T	L	E	S	N	A	K	E	V	M	Z
J	P	B	Y	H	U	X	U	V	F	J	A	G	U	A	R	U	R
J	J	I	A	B	M	A	E	X	U	G	T	R	R	U	O	A	O
F	I	N	D	B	O	B	C	A	T	H	W	T	B	W	U	G	G
Q	G	G	L	E	P	I	Q	U	E	T	Z	A	L	Z	J	O	L
O	L	D	U	V	R	R	O	A	D	R	U	N	N	E	R	U	M
G	K	N	D	A	X	M	R	V	L	G	D	B	P	X	F	T	C
D	I	C	X	Z	N	N	O	E	M	X	O	P	W	N	G	I	O
F	T	K	X	R	O	A	A	N	A	X	A	L	O	T	L	A	A
C	H	I	H	U	A	H	U	A	K	D	O	C	E	L	O	T	T
S	B	Y	H	F	G	Y	B	Y	X	E	F	Z	T	L	Z	O	I
I	M	H	Q	R	V	P	U	L	C	G	Y	Z	B	O	I	C	J

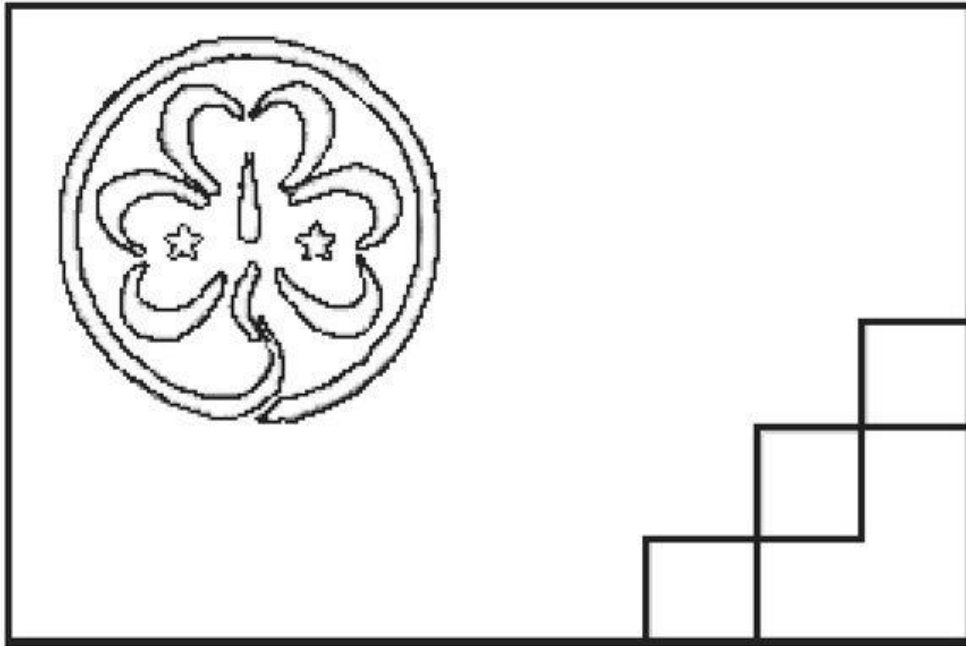
Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → , ↓ , and ↘ .

SPIDER MONKEY
RATTLESNAKE
ROADRUNNER
CHIHUAHUA
AXALOTL

QUETZAL
OCELOT
IGUANA
JAGUAR
BOBCAT

AGOUTI
COATI

WAGGGS WORLD FLAG



- The three leaves are for the 3 parts of the promise
- The flame is for the Flame of the love of humanity
- The vein pointing up is for the compass needle pointing the way
- The two stars are for the promise and law
- The outer circle represents our Worldwide Association
- The golden Yellow trefoil on a blue background represents the sun shining over the children of the world.
- The three blocks are a reinforcement of our three part promise
- The white corner is for our commitment to Peace

"Lee Ann's Girl Guide Notebook" go to: people.stfx.ca/ssmith/web

owl-and-toadstool.blogspot.ca