MEXICO CITY

Mexico City is the capital of Mexico. It’s an exciting, noisy and busy place to live, but it’s also vulnerable to natural disasters. It sits on an ancient lake surrounded by mountains and volcanoes and is in constant danger of earthquakes and flooding

With a population of more than 18 million, overcrowding is a major issue in Mexico City and the housing supply is inadequate. As a result, shanty towns, called barrios have appeared. People who are desperate for somewhere to live in the city put up these shanty houses in any spare corner of land. The houses ought to have proper foundations, but they have been built quickly on top of the land and when floods come, water sweeps the houses away.

Disease spreads quickly in megacities like Mexico City – overcrowding could be a reason for this. Sometimes, as many as ten people live in one room, sharing toilets, water and cooking facilities. In the 21st century, we should have the technology to provide toilets and clean drinking water for everyone, but this isn’t the case in shanty towns.

Pollution is another health hazard. Smog covers the city from November to May and tens of thousands of people die from health issues relating to it. The government should have created new systems of public transport many years ago in order to reduce the number of cars in the city, but at least they are doing something now. A programme called *Hoy No Circula* has been introduced and cars must stay off the road for one day a week. The government is also trying to encourage commuters to find a different way to travel to work: there is a new bicycle sharing service called *Ecobici* and Metrobus system.

Despite its problems, Mexico City is vibrant and lively with a rich cultural life, fantastic shopping, amazing restaurants and plenty for its citizens and visitors to do. There are more than two hundred museums and galleries and there is a wonderful zoo. Architecturally, it is very interesting with a wonderful chequerboard layout and splendid religious architecture, which dates from the 16th century.

Santa Muerte is much loved by the people of Mexico City. There is a shrine to her where people leave sweets and food. Poor people pray to her and that gives them hope. People who make their home in megacity live life on the edge. Their lives can be creative, interesting and terrifying!

**Read the text and answer the questions**

What are the natural environmental risks that people living in Mexico City face?

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What do the houses in shanty towns lack?

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When is the air quality especially bad?

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How is the city laid out?

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Why do people visit the shrine of Santa Muerte?

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**Answer the questions based on your opinion**

What do you think the Mexican government ought to do to improve the shanty towns?

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How can they improve the air quality in the city?

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What kind of public transport does a city need?

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Mexico City has problems with kidnapping and crime. How could they reduce both?

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**Match the words in the text writing them down right next to their meaning**

Lleno (1st paragraph)

Rodeado de (1st paragraph)

Terremoto (1st paragraph)

Suministro (2nd paragraph)

Chabola (2nd paragraph)

Inundaciones (2nd paragraph)

WHEN ALL EXERCISES ARE DONE, YOU MUST WRITE A TEXT (200-250) WORDS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN NEW MEXICO

Enfermedades (3rd paragraph)

Aglomeración (3rd paragraph)

Contaminación (4th paragraph)

Problemas (4th paragraph)

Incentivar (4th paragraph)

A pesar de (5th paragraph)

Suficiente (5th paragraph)

Rezar (6th paragraph)

Al límite (6th paragraph)