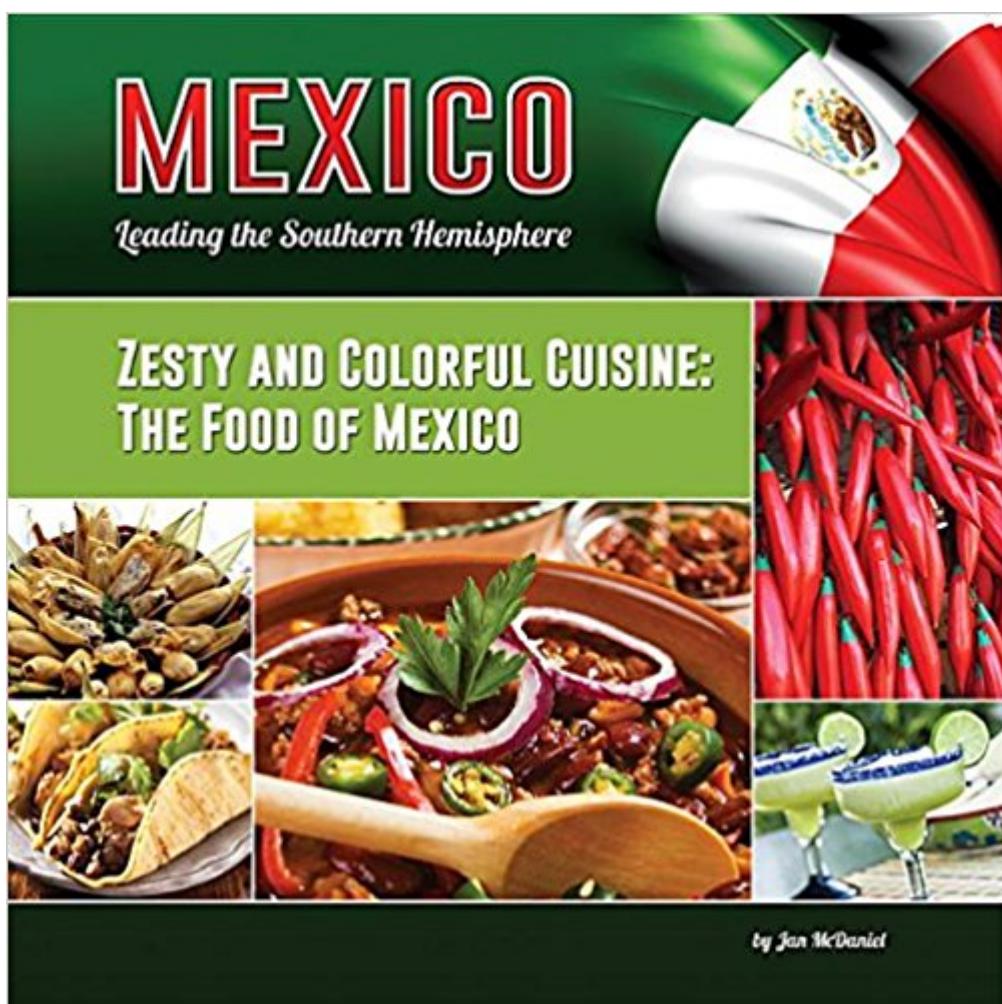


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# Zesty And Colorful Cuisine: The Food Of Mexico (Mexico: Leading The Southern Hemisphere)



## **Synopsis**

The Mexican cuisine of today originated thousands of years ago. The ancient Olmec and Mayan civilizations domesticated maize, beans, and chili peppers and developed the flatbread cakes known as tortillas. The Aztecs expanded the Mexican diet with other meats, fruits, and vegetables. As Spanish explorers conquered and colonized Mexico, European cooks introduced new ingredients, such as rice, wheat flour, and the meat of domestic animals like pigs, chickens, and cows. They also brought previously unknown methods of preparing food, such as frying. Today, Mexican cuisine is extremely popular far beyond the borders of the nation, and in 2010, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Mexican cuisine to be an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 5-8-Quality in this attractive set is uneven. People, History, Cuisine and Sports are the best of the group, with clear prose and enough details to help readers understand their subjects. Others attempt to cover too many topics, resulting in dry, superficial paragraphs that are often little more than lists of places and events. Only the titles on the Mexican states have (inadequately detailed) maps, a serious flaw when all books discuss numerous locations and geographical features. These volumes have numerous colorful photos, but some look like stock images, and their subjects don't

always correspond with accompanying text. Sidebars, glossaries, and reading comprehension questions and research suggestions supplement the texts. These books are better suited to support extensive units on Mexico rather than run-of-the-mill country reports, and even for those programs, superficial coverage and map and illustration weaknesses make them additional selections. (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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