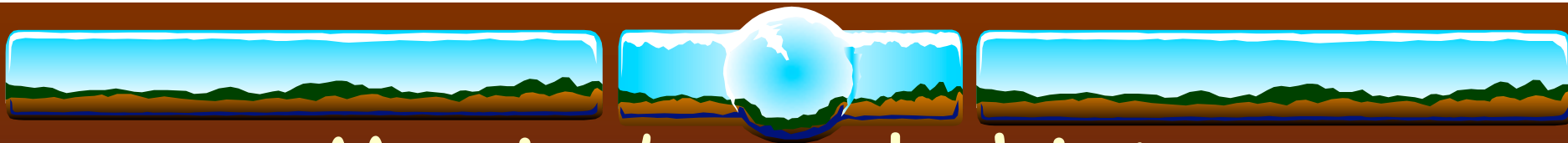


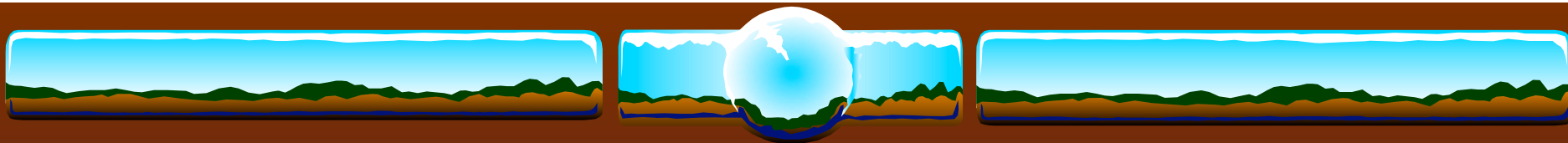
# History and Culture of Mexico

Chapter 10 Section Two



# Mexico's early history

- ❖ Mexico's early people belonged to many cultures each with its own language
- ❖ Some were hunter-gatherers others were farmers.
- ❖ Main crops for farmers included, beans, corn, peppers, squash
- ❖ Farmers grew their crops in the same plot using a system called milpa
- ❖ **Milpa**- beans grow up the corn stalks and peppers and squash grow between the corn plants
- ❖ The system maintained soil fertility and provided a healthy varied diet for the native Indians
- ❖ Milpa is still used by farmers in Mexico today



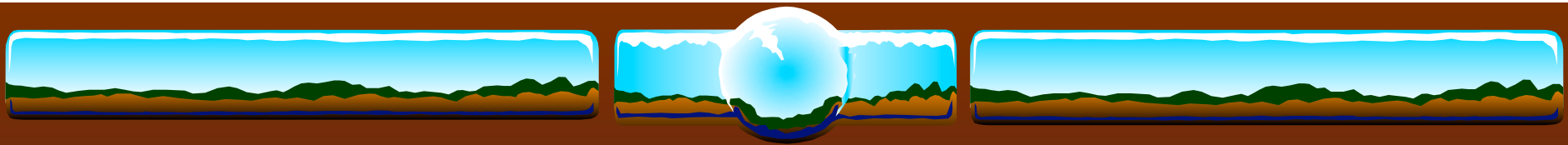
# Early Civilizations

- ❖ Some of the American Indian people of Mexico and Central America developed complex and accomplished civilizations
- ❖ The Maya, Olmec, Toltec, and Zapotec were a few
- ❖ Many of these Native American groups had large cities with pyramids, and central plazas.
- ❖ One of the last of the great Native American cultures in Mexico were the Aztecs



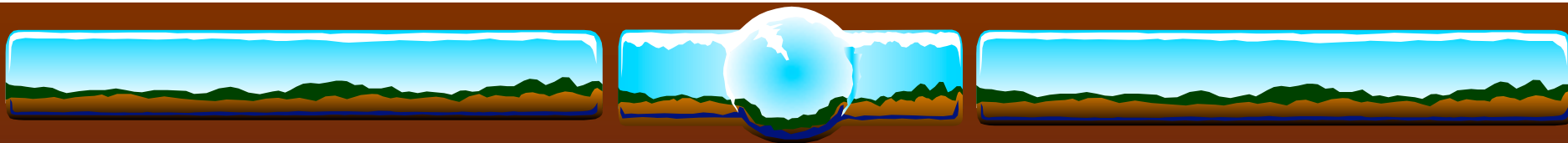
# Aztecs

- ❖ The Aztecs were skilled in warfare
- ❖ The Aztec Empire spread across what is now southern Mexico and part of Central America
- ❖ The Aztec capital city, Tenochtitlan was one of the largest cities in the world at the time.
- ❖ Tenochtitlan was built on an island in the middle of a lake in the Valley of Mexico
- ❖ The Aztec Empire was weakened by a high death rate brought on by Spanish invasion
- ❖ a small band of conquistadores were able to seize the capital city of Tenochtitlan and the Empire fell.



# The conquistadores

- ❖ In 1519 a band of Spanish adventurers called the conquistadores landed on the east coast of Mexico
- ❖ These conquerors formed military alliances with Native American enemies of the Aztecs
- ❖ The conquistadores had muskets and horses
- ❖ They also introduced diseases like small pox to the Aztec that they had no immunity to so the death rate from the diseases was very high



# Spanish conquest

- ❖ After the conquistadores conquered Tenochtitlan the Aztec Empire fell
- ❖ The conquistadores seized the territory and established a colony for Spain
- ❖ They called the new colony Nueva Espana or New Spain
- ❖ Colonists built Mexico City over the ruins of Tenochtitlan



# New Spain

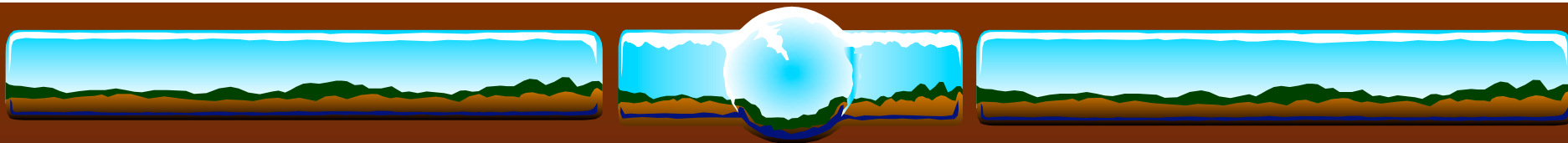
- ❖ Desire for gold and silver had been a major motive for Spain to colonize the Americas
- ❖ The Spainards expanded existing mining operations
- ❖ Eventually agriculture became an important part of the colonial economy
- ❖ The Native Americans had mostly owned and worked the land in groups under the ejido system- a system of farms worked and owned by a community
- ❖ The Spanish reorganized the land into haciendas- large estates owned by wealthy Spainards and worked by poor Mexican peasants mostly Native Americans.

A decorative header featuring a central globe with a blue and white color scheme, set against a background of a stylized landscape with green hills and a blue sky. The globe is flanked by two rectangular panels, each containing a similar landscape scene. The entire header is set against a dark brown background.

# Catholicism in Mexico

- ❖ Roman Catholic missionaries worked to convert the Mexicans to Christianity
- ❖ The missionaries established frontier outposts called missions
- ❖ Towns and cities often grew up around these Catholic missions
- ❖ The open space in front of the church was called the plaza and often became the center for the community market.
- ❖ Most modern Mexicans are Roman Catholic
- ❖ Mexican Catholicism often blends pre-Christian beliefs and holidays with Christian beliefs.





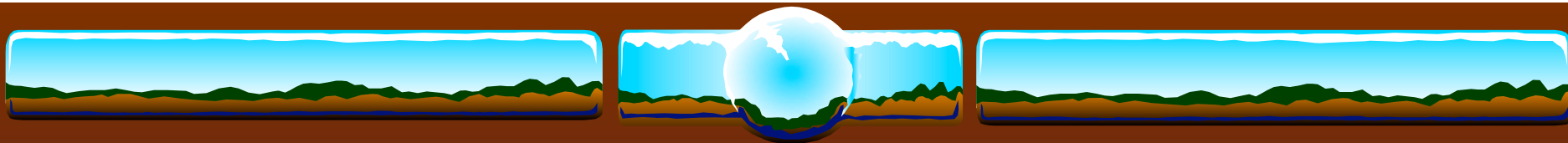
# Blending of Cultures

- ❖ The Spanish and Native American cultures mixed because most of the early colonists were Spanish men and marriage to native women was common
- ❖ Today the majority of Mexicans are **mestizo** or a mix of Spanish and Native American Ancestry



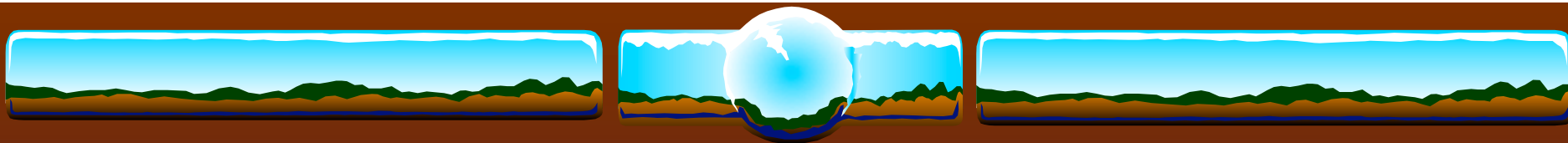
# Mexican History

- ❖ 1810-1821 Mexico revolted against Spanish rule and won their independence
- ❖ A few powerful Mexican families controlled the economy and the government
- ❖ 1848- Mexico lost a war with the United States and gave up its northern territory stretching from Texas to California



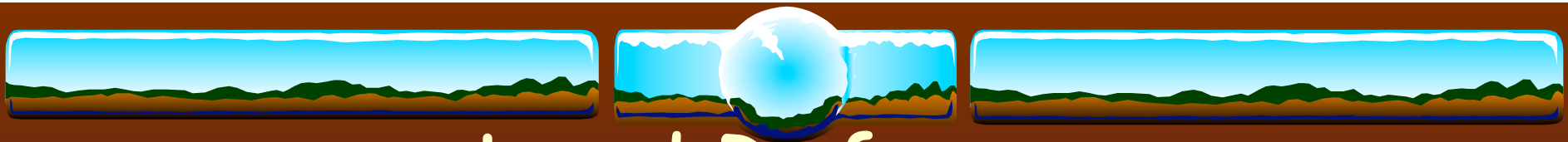
# Mexican Economy

- ❖ American and European investments in Mexico during the late 1800's led to economic growth for Mexico
- ❖ New mines were developed and Railroads were built
- ❖ Modern industries grew in Mexican cities
- ❖ Plantation agriculture expanded along the east coast.
- ❖ Plantations were large estates that were farmed by workers who lived on them
- ❖ Most Mexicans remained poor



# Mexican Revolution

- ❖ Economic inequality led to the Mexican Revolution fought from 1910-1920
- ❖ After the revolution the new government in Mexico took the form of a democracy BUT...
- ❖ The President of Mexico ruled much like a dictator and Mexico's government became much more involved in the national economy
- ❖ The government seized control of some industries especially the oil industry
- ❖ Foreign owned businesses were forced out of Mexico



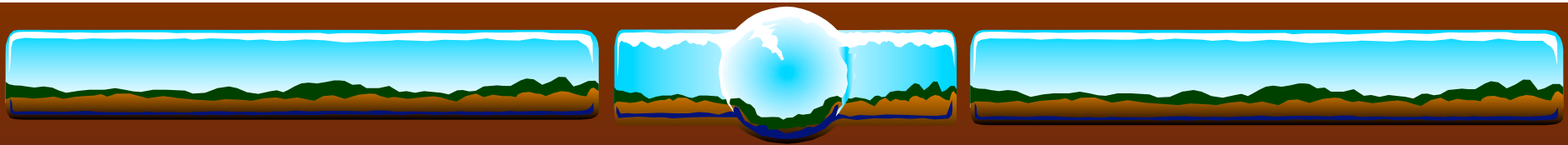
# Land Reform

- ❖ As a result of the revolution land reform happened in Mexico
- ❖ The large haciendas were broken up and given to peasant villages to farm under the old ejido system
- ❖ The new land reform system was popular among the people but not very successful
- ❖ The land given to the peasants was poor and the plots were small
- ❖ Few farmers could afford fertilizers or modern machinery
- ❖ Discouraged farmers moved to the cities
- ❖ In 1992 ejido farmers won the right to sell their land and the land has been combined into large modern commercial farms.

A decorative header featuring a central globe with a blue and white color scheme, flanked by two horizontal panels. Each panel shows a stylized landscape with green hills, a blue sky, and a brown ground line. The title 'Modern Mexico' is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the globe and the panels.

# Modern Mexico

- ❖ Since 1990 Mexico has opened its economy up to foreign businesses
- ❖ Mexican factories now make nearly all the products a country needs.
- ❖ The country is becoming increasingly urban
- ❖ 3/4 of Mexicans now live in cities and towns
- ❖ Many Mexicans work in industrial and service jobs
- ❖ Families are getting smaller and women are working outside the home
- ❖ Many more Mexicans are graduating from Universities
- ❖ Mexican politics are more democratic than before



# NAFTA

- ❖ 1992- Mexico joined the United States and Canada in signing the North American Free Trade Agreement
- ❖ The agreement lowered trade barriers between the three countries
- ❖ As a result manufacturing in Mexico has expanded even more
- ❖ Mexico is becoming a powerful participant in North American affairs.