

# The Legend of the Mexican Flag

The colors of the Mexican flag are **verde** (green), **blanco** (white), and **rojo** (red). Originally, green represented independence; white, religion; and red, union between Europe and the Americas. Later on, the meanings changed to green for hope, white for unity, and red for the blood shed by national heroes.



In the early 1300's, the Aztecs lived in the northern area of Mexico. Their land was very dry and they were looking for a better place to live. The legend tells us that the Aztec god told the ruler to establish a new city where he finds an eagle with a snake in his beak standing on a cactus. After wandering for some time, the Aztecs spotted the eagle with a snake in his beak standing on a cactus in the middle of a huge swamp. Just as told by their god, the Aztecs built their city on a swampy island in the middle of Lake Texcoco. This city was named Tenochtitlán, which is now Mexico City. This legend is represented in the coat of arms on the Mexican flag.