

What Kinds of  
Crafts Do  
Americans  
Make?

What Kinds of  
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Mexicans  
Make?

# Artesania Mexicana

Mexico is a storehouse of artistic talent and production. Many Mexicans' livelihood depends on their crafts. They do everything from embroidery and crocheting to glass blowing and pottery working.

In the following slides, we will see a sampling of the many different forms of art that the Mexicans have created and perfected.



# String Art



One form of art work that they commonly do is string work.



These items are made of string coiled in different directions to create the desired effect.

# Bead Work

Bead work is another form of art that the Mexicans have learned and perfected through the ages. This mask is only 8 inches long and about 4 inches wide as we can see from the ruler to the right. Notice the great detail and precision that went into this work.



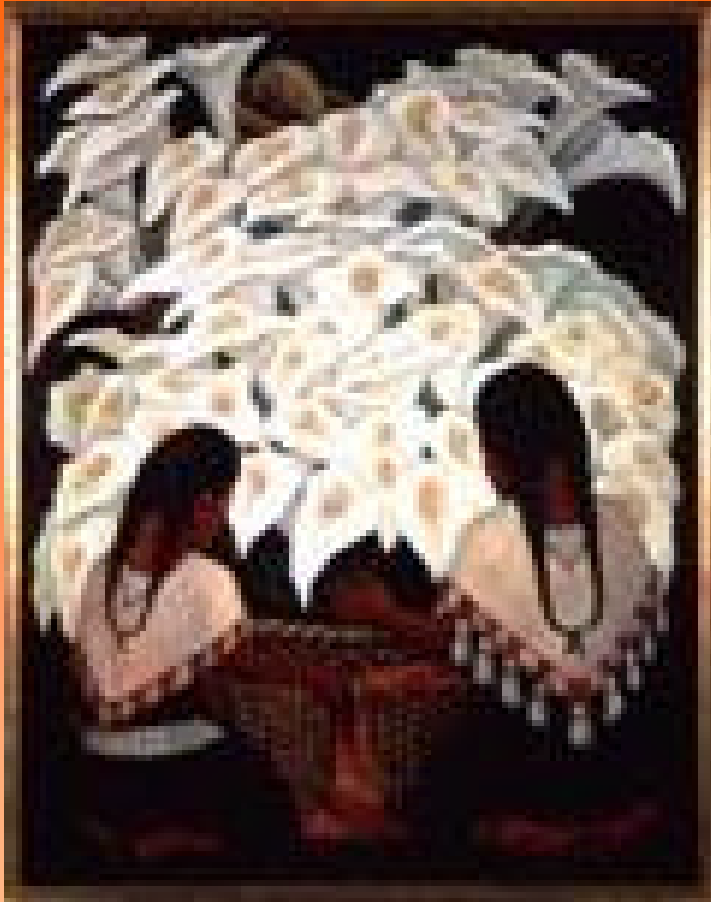






# Wood Work

The Mexicans traditionally work with wood as well. Often, they will carve little objects such as fruit, vegetables, and animals like these fish. They are generally painted in bright colors to attract the eye and beautify the surroundings.



Diego Rivera is one of Mexico's most renowned painters. Calla Lilies are a favorite subject of his.

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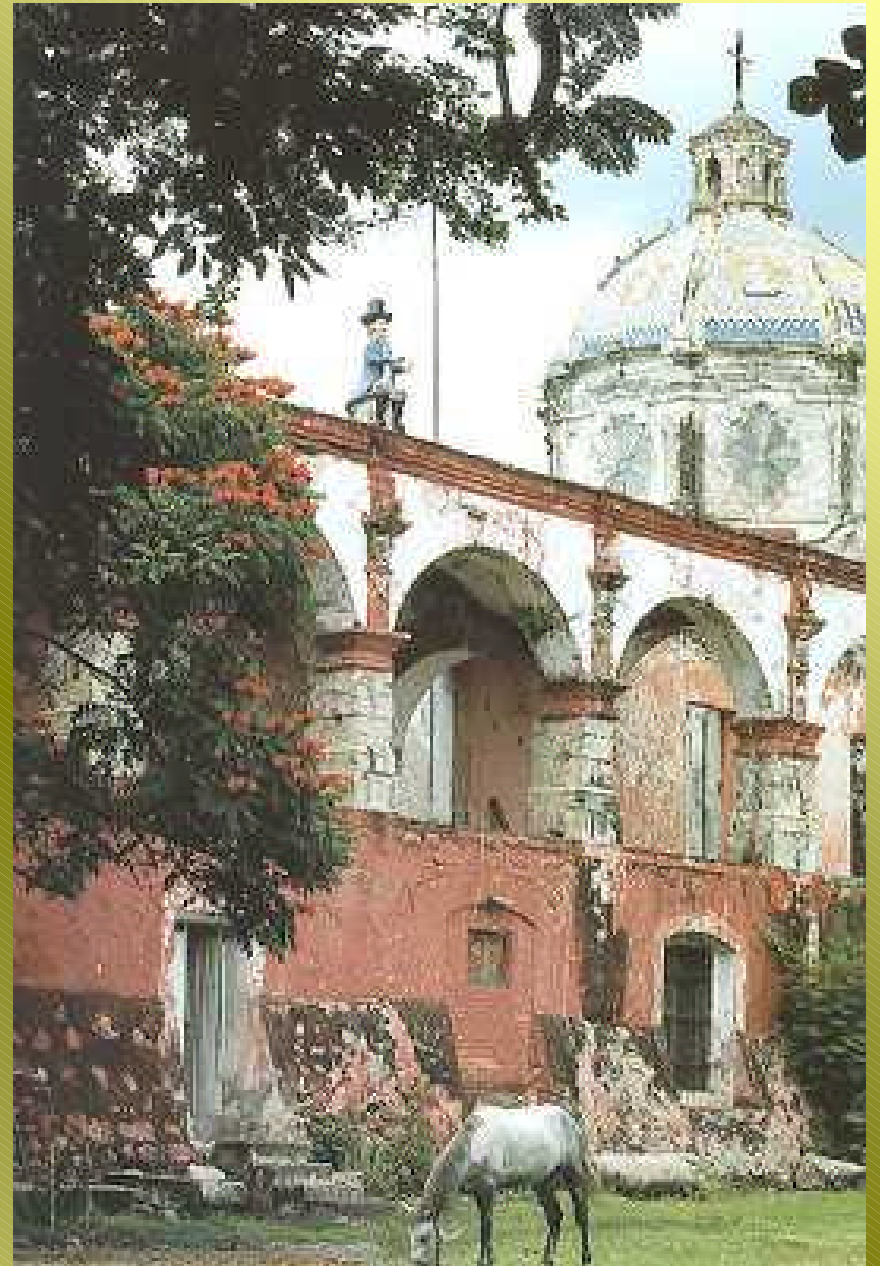
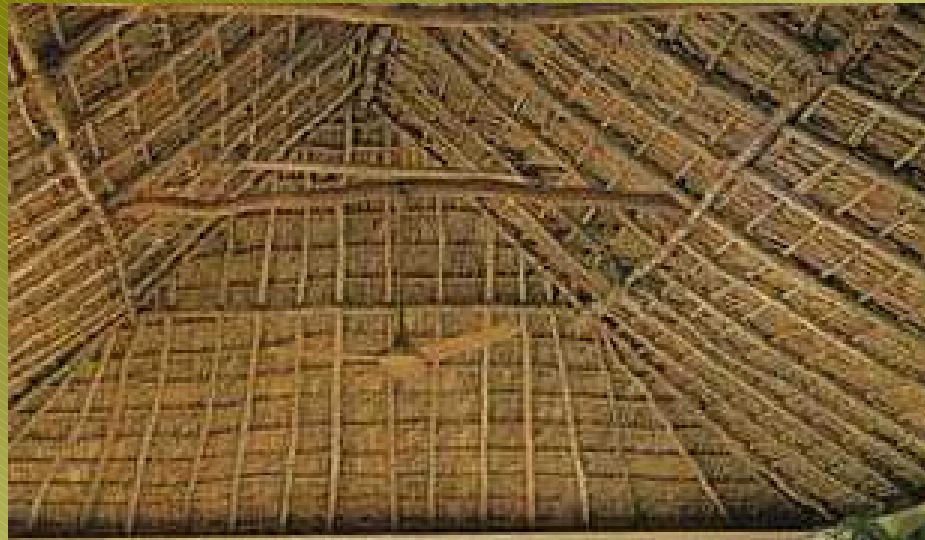
Frida Kahlo—Rivera's wife is also one of Mexico's most famous painters. She often did self-portraits.



# Architecture

*Mexican architecture also has its special flavor. On this next slide, we'll see two very different examples. On the left is a beach house. The roof and furniture are made of thatched material. Because the climate is temperate and hot, the buildings are often open and allow air to flow through them.*

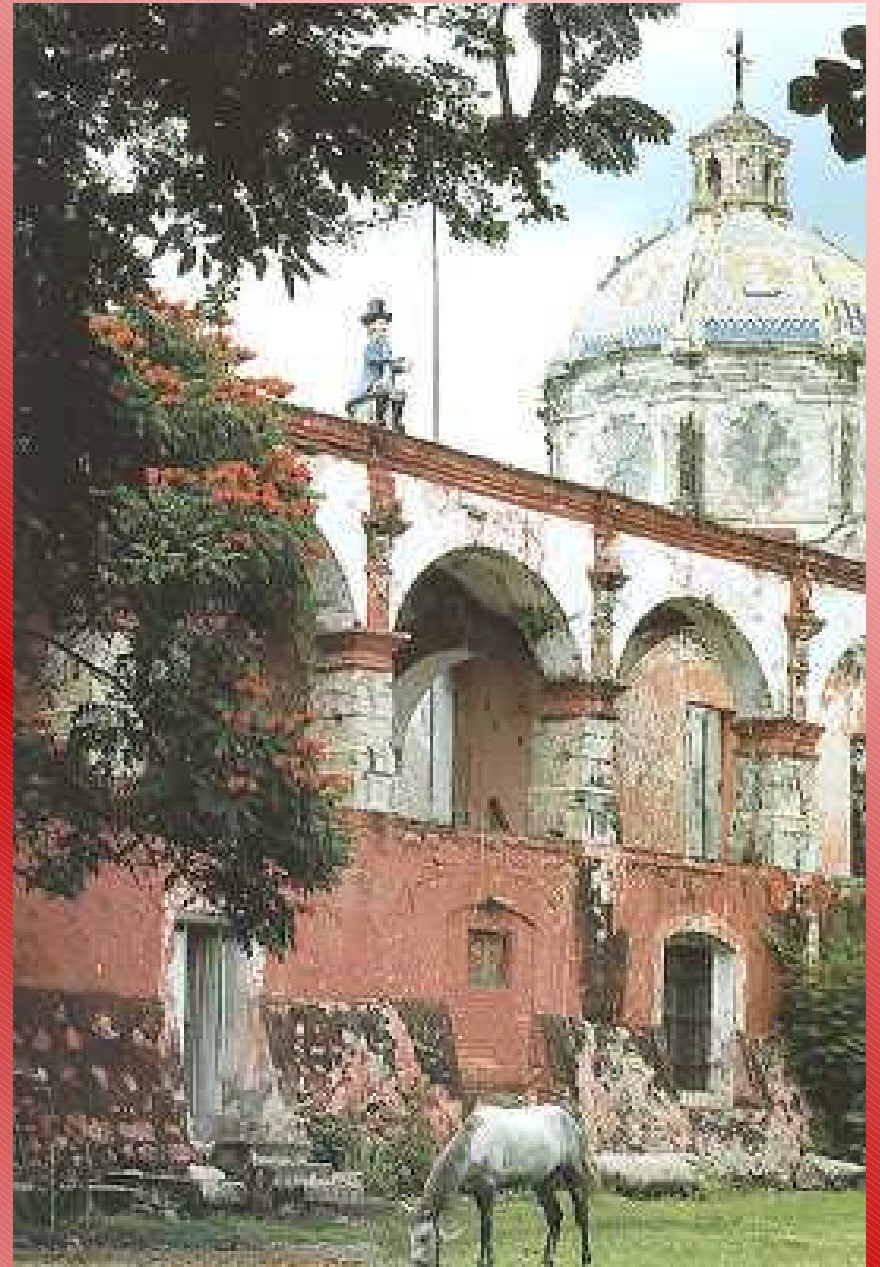
On the right is a traditional Mexican hacienda. It is complete with grounds, domes and Roman arches. You can see its age in the chipping and weathered paint. Most vividly, you can see the grandeur of the age in the magnificent architecture.



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# What did you learn?

- What are different forms of Mexican crafts?
- Describe how Mexican crafts are different from American crafts.
- What are some unique characteristics of Mexican crafts?
- If you had to live from making one of the crafts, which one would it be? And why?
- What would making that craft entail?—list materials, details of creation, time
- How well do you think you could live by making this craft? How well do you think the Mexican craftsmen live?