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Level 5 – 3rd February 2025

Mexico opposes renaming of the Gulf of Mexico

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250203-gulf-of-mexico-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250203-gulf-of-mexico-5.html>

US President Donald Trump wants the Gulf of Mexico, which is surrounded by the USA, Mexico, and Cuba, to be renamed the Gulf of America. After his inauguration in January, President Trump said: "America will reclaim its rightful place as the greatest, most powerful, most respected nation on Earth." He added: "We are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America." The U.S. government declared that it "is proud to announce the implementation of name restorations that honor the legacy of American greatness".

The US Board on Geographic Names can use "Gulf of America" on official US maps. However, no international organization has the jurisdiction to mandate the global acceptance of name changes. Mexico's president has opposed the name change. She said the name "Gulf of Mexico" has existed for four centuries. She said the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea stipulates that a country's territory only extends 19 kilometres from its coastline. She joked that if there were to be name changes, the United States should be called "Mexican America," as on a map from 1607.

Sources: <https://theconversation.com/can-trump-just-order-new-names-for-denali-and-the-gulf-of-mexico-a-geographer-explains-who-decides-what-goes-on-the-map-248112>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/30/gulf-of-mexico-or-gulf-of-america-google-maps-and-contentious-geography>
<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/trump-administration-says-gulf-america-name-change-now-official-2025-01-24/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250203-gulf-of-mexico-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. surrounded | a. esteemed |
| 2. inauguration | b. get back |
| 3. reclaim | c. carrying out |
| 4. respected | d. proclaimed |
| 5. declared | e. result |
| 6. proud | f. encircled |
| 7. implementation | g. pleased |
| 8. legacy | h. swearing in |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. official | a. objected to |
| 2. jurisdiction | b. quipped |
| 3. acceptance | c. authority |
| 4. opposed | d. chart |
| 5. existed | e. approved |
| 6. extends | f. prevailed |
| 7. joked | g. endorsement |
| 8. map | h. stretches out |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250203-gulf-of-mexico-5.html>

US President Donald Trump wants the Gulf of Mexico, which is (1) _____ USA, Mexico, and Cuba, to be renamed the Gulf of America. After (2) _____ January, President Trump said: "America will reclaim its rightful place (3) _____, most powerful, most (4) _____ Earth." He added: "We are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America." The U.S. government declared that it "is (5) _____ the implementation of name restorations that (6) _____ of American greatness".

The US Board on Geographic Names can use "Gulf of America" on (7) _____. However, no international organization has the jurisdiction to (8) _____ acceptance of name changes. Mexico's president has opposed the name change. She said the name "Gulf of Mexico" (9) _____ four centuries. She said the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (10) _____ country's territory only extends 19 kilometres from its coastline. She (11) _____ there were to be name changes, the United States should be called "Mexican America," as on (12) _____ 1607.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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MEXICO SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250203-gulf-of-mexico-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Mexico in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

