Warm up

- In the vocabulary section of your binder write down the following definitions:
  - **rural decline** – worsening economic conditions in the country-side, including rising unemployment and growing poverty
  - **spatial inequality** - an unequal distribution of wealth or resources over a geographic area
Spatial Inequality in Mexico City

From Cardboard to Castles
**Essential Question**

Why does spatial inequality exist in urban areas?

This map shows the Federal District of Mexico. This district is the capital of Mexico. Most of Mexico City is located here. The district is divided into areas called *delegaciones* (shown here in different colors). Some neighborhoods are wealthy. Others are very poor. Keep this spatial inequality in mind as you try to answer the Essential Question.
Definitions

- **rural decline** – worsening economic conditions in the country-side, including rising unemployment and growing poverty

- **spatial inequality** - an unequal distribution of wealth or resources over a geographic area
The Geographic Setting

- Mexico City – one of world’s most populated cities, 7000ft above sea level
- 1325 Aztecs
- Tenochtitlán “A City of Wonders”
- 1521 Spain conquered the Aztecs
Challenges in the Countryside

- Only 15% of land is good for farming.
- Best land owned by a few wealthy owners.
- Small farmers can’t buy seeds, fertilizer, and machinery to compete with large farms.
- Many end up selling their land.
Migration to Cities

- They hope to get jobs, to enjoy a higher standard of living, and to get their children into better schools.
Neighborhood Visit 1
Listen carefully to the interview. Then complete as much of the survey as you can.
Mexico City’s Growth

- Spreading up the Valley of Mexico and filling in the valley’s lakes
Problems

- Not enough land, housing, or clean water
- Traffic
- Air pollution
- Not enough jobs
- Poverty and crime increased
Neighborhood Visit 2
Mexico City’s Recent Migrants

- Live in slums in one-room shacks
- Houses lack electricity and water
- Dirt streets trashed
- Little or no work.
Mexico City’s Working Poor

- Closer to the center of the city than the slums
- Cinder-block homes with metal or tar-covered roofs
- Rundown apartment buildings.
- Have electricity but not always running water.
- The streets are usually paved
Neighborhood Visit 3
Mexico City’s Middle Class

- Work in business, education, or government.
- Live near the center of the city or in modern suburbs farther away.
- They can usually afford some luxuries, such as a telephone.
Mexico City’s Upper Class

- Very wealthy
- Large landowners or business or government leaders
- Luxurious lifestyle.
- Large estates with high walls and security systems.
- They often hire the working poor as maids, gardeners, and drivers.
Neighborhood Visit 4
Answer the following questions:

- What is are some major causes of rural decline in Mexico?
- What are some important “pull factors” that draws farm families to Mexico City?
Neighborhood Visit 1

Itzapalapa, Magdalena Contreras
Neighborhood Visit 2

Azcapotzalco, Coyoacán
Neighborhood Visit 3

Iztacalco
Neighborhood Visit 4

Benito Juárez