



Nombre del Alumno: Mauricio Escalante Solís

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Nombre del profesor: Rafael Iván Guillén Alcalá

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TURKEY

Meaning

The name "Turkey" comes from the Latin *Turcia*, which refers to the land of the Turks. In the Middle Ages, this term started to be used to describe the region where Turkish people lived. These people migrated from Central Asia to what is now Anatolia. The Ottoman Turks eventually became powerful in this area, creating the Ottoman Empire, which later became the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923. The country is located between Europe and Asia, which has influenced its history and culture.

Traditions

In Turkey, some of the most popular customs are a big part of daily life and celebrations. Drinking tea is a strong tradition; it is served in small glass cups in almost any social gathering. Turkish baths, called *hamam*, are traditional places for relaxation and cleaning. Bargaining in bazaars, like the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, is a common custom, where prices are negotiated as part of the experience. Turkish coffee is important, and there is a special way to prepare and serve it. Traditional Turkish weddings are big events with music, folk dances like the *halay*, and celebrations that are lasting for days. During Ramadan, many people are fasting, and when it ends, with *Eid al-Fitr*, there are big feasts. These customs are showing the rich mix of old and modern traditions in Turkey.

Climate

The climate in Turkey is varied. On the west and south coasts, like in Istanbul and Antalya, it is Mediterranean, with hot summers and mild winters. In the inland areas, like Ankara, summers are hot and winters are cold with snow. On the Black Sea coast, the climate is wet and rainy all year.

Typical Turkish food includes:

Typical Turkish food includes kebabs, like the popular *döner kebab*, which is meat cooked on a vertical spit. There are also small dishes called *meze*, which include things like *hummus* and *tabbouleh*. For dessert, *baklava* is very famous. It's a sweet pastry with nuts and syrup. *Lahmacun* is sometimes called Turkish pizza, and it's a thin dough with meat and spices on top. *Manti* are small dumplings filled with meat, served with yogurt. *Börek* is a pastry filled with cheese, spinach, or meat. *Menemen* is a breakfast dish made with scrambled eggs, tomatoes, and spices. Turkish people also enjoy different soups, like lentil soup called *çorba*.

The main religion in Turkey

is Islam, with most people being Sunni Muslims. There are also some religious minorities, like Alevis (a branch of Islam), and small Christian and Jewish communities. Turkey is officially a secular state, meaning that the government is separate from religion, but culture and daily life are influenced by religious traditions.

tourist attractions

Turkey has many famous tourist places. One of the most popular is Istanbul, where you can visit the Hagia Sophia, a beautiful building that was once a church and a mosque. Nearby is the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest markets in the world. In central Turkey, there is Cappadocia, known for its unique rock formations and hot air balloon rides. Another famous site is Pamukkale, with its white terraces of mineral-rich water. On the coast, you can visit Ephesus, an ancient city with well-preserved ruins, including the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Finally, Antalya is a popular beach destination with clear blue waters and ancient sites nearby.



