

4 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Background Information

In 1531, Mary made several appearances in Mexico, leading to one of the most popular Marian devotions. Even centuries later, we can be inspired by this special visit Mary made in the Americas.

Objective

To tell the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Directions

- 1 Read the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and look carefully at the image.
- 2 Using the eight spaces on the next page draw pictures of each scene in the story. To help you in drawing the pictures, go back and read the part of the story that describes that scene.

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In 1531 Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was walking through the hills of central Mexico. Mary told Juan that she wanted to have a church built in the place where they were. She told him to go tell the bishop what he had seen and heard.

Juan went to the bishop's palace. After hours of waiting, he met with the bishop, who told him that he would consider the request of our Blessed Mother, Mary. Juan was very disappointed by the bishop's response and returned to the hill where Mary was waiting for him. She told Juan to return to the bishop and repeat the request. After many hours of waiting, the Bishop told Juan to ask the Lady to give him a sign as proof of who she was.

Juan returned to Mary, who told him to meet her the next day. Juan's uncle became very ill and Juan couldn't return the next day. With his uncle dying, Juan went to find a priest and had to pass by Tepeyac Hill on his way. Mary was waiting for him and told Juan that his uncle would be well.

Even though it was freezing cold, Mary told Juan to go to the top of the hill and cut flowers for her. To his great surprise, Juan found roses growing at the top of the hill. He took off his cape/tilma so that he could carry the flowers back to Mary. Mary told him that this was her sign and that he must go back to the bishop and show him the flowers.

On December 12, 1531 Juan did as she asked and opened the tilma so that the bishop and his advisors could see the flowers. They all went down on their knees, not because of the roses but because of the beautiful image of our Blessed Mother, just as Juan had described her.

Within six years of Mary's visit, six million Aztecs had become Catholic. The tilma shows Mary pregnant with her Divine Son. It can be seen today in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City.



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1. Mary appeared to Juan Diego.	2. Juan goes to see the Bishop.
3. Juan returns to see Mary.	4. The bishop asks for a sign.
5. Juan returns to see Mary.	6. Juan's uncle becomes ill.
7. Juan finds roses at the top of the hill.	8. The bishop kneels when he sees the image.