



In Mexico, there is a **drought**, and the ruins of a 16th century church, believed to have been built by Spanish colonists, have surfaced from the **receding reservoir** waters.

The first time that the church became visible was in 2002, which was again because of a **drought**. The water levels were so low then the visitors were able to walk around the temple interiors.

The 400-year-old roofless church emerged because of the 24-metre water drop in the Grijalva River. Experts believe that the evangelical Dominican **friars** built the structure in 1564, and it was later **inhabited** by the Zoque people. After the construction of the Malpaso **Dam** in 1966, water flooded the area.

Difficult words: **recede** (to become less), **reservoir** (a manmade lake), **drought** (when there is little rain for a long time), **friar** (a member of a religious group of Catholic men), **inhabit** (to live somewhere), **dam** (a big wall which stops water).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *recede, reservoir, drought, friar, inhabit and dam*
2. What can be seen from the receding reservoir waters in Mexico since the drought occurred?
3. When did people first see the church emerged?
4. Why did the 400-year old church become visible?
5. What was believed to have caused the church to go underwater?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Which parts of your country experience severe flooding?
2. Have there been severe floods in your country recently?
3. Have you heard of any structures in your country that went underwater?
What caused it to go underwater?
4. And have there been any that emerged after many years?