

El Tren Maya Debate

The *Tren Maya* is a railway infrastructure project in the southeast of Mexico aimed at connecting important tourist destinations and many cities in the states of Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatán and Quintana Roo. The construction of the Tren Maya officially began in 2020 and was completed this past December 2024.

Over the years, however, the project has been a controversial topic and is still being debated in Mexico today. Many support the initiative, believing it will bring economic and social benefits. While others raise many concerns, including its potential environmental impact on the region, particularly in areas rich in jungle and biodiversity.

Instructions

For this activity, your teacher will assign you (or your group) to either the affirmative side, in support of the Tren Maya project, or the negative side, in opposition to the Tren Maya project. You will then:

1. Read and analyze the articles and videos found on the **resource list**.
2. Identify 3-4 key arguments for your assigned position and add them to the **graphic organizer** (see page 2)
2. Prepare evidence and examples to support your argument and add them to the graphic organizer
3. Present your side in a class debate.

Resource List :

1. Abi-Habib, Maria. (2022, August 28). *Tren Maya en México: expertos y científicos advierten de riesgos*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/es/2022/08/28/espanol/mexico-tren-maya-amlo.html>
2. (2024, August 5). *El Tren Maya es la vía hacia la Justicia Social y la Prosperidad Compartida para nuestras comunidades excluidas del éxito turístico: Mara Lezama*. Gobierno del Estado Quintana Roo. <https://cgc.groo.gob.mx/el-tren-maya-es-la-via-hacia-la-justicia-social-y-la-prosperidad-compartida-para-nuestras-comunidades-excluidas-del-exito-turistico-mara-lezama/>
Alt link: <https://bit.ly/economistatrenmaya>
3. (2023, September 5). *¿Por qué las comunidades no quieren el "mal llamado Tren Maya"?*. Ibero Ciudad de Mexico. <https://ibero.mx/prensa/por-que-las-comunidades-no-quieren-el-mal-llamado-tren-maya>
4. Espinosa, Nazly Tenopala. (2024, February 29). *Tren Maya, ventajas y desventajas*. <https://www.uic.mx/tren-maya-ventajas-y-desventajas/>
5. Video: [Tren Maya ¿Ecocidio o progreso? Lo bueno y lo malo](#)
6. Video: [¡Es el nuevo Maya train! En México | ¿Realmente vale la pena?](#)
7. Video: [Tren Maya avanza la infraestructura eléctrica para la operación de los trenes híbridos](#)

Graphic Organizer

Thesis:.....

Argument 1	
Examples	
Argument 2	
Examples	
Argument 3	
Examples	
Argument 4	
Examples	