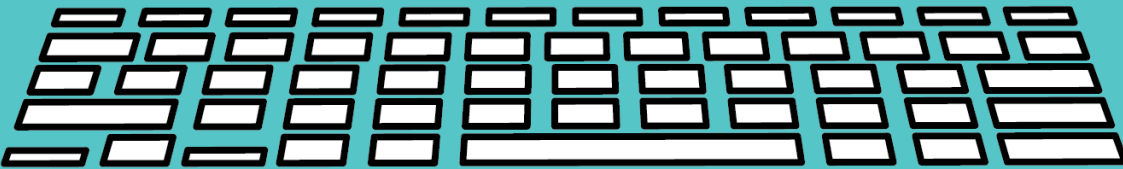


THE AZTECS
DID NOT USE COIN
OR PAPER.
INSTEAD THEY
WOULD BARTER
OR EXCHANGE
THEIR GOODS.

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What country were the Aztecs located in?	
2. What year did Hernán Cortés arrive in Mexico?	
3. What year was the city of Tenochtitlan founded?	
4. What was the Great Temple also called?	
5. How many men arrived with Hernán Cortés?	
6. How many bad omens did they see with Montezuma II?	
7. What year was the Aztec Empire destroyed?	
8. Who was the god of rain and water?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What country were the Aztecs located in?		9. Aztecs believed their rulers were appointed by the ____.	
2. What year did Hernán Cortés arrive in Mexico?		10. Aztecs played a game called ____.	
3. What year was the city of Tenochtitlan founded?		11. Tenochtitlan was an island-city located in ____.	
4. What was the Great Temple also called?		12. The ____ Huastlin were considered the ____ class.	
5. How many men arrived with Hernán Cortés?		13. The name Huitzilopochtli means "____" and "____".	
6. How many bad omens did they see with Montezuma II?		14. The Aztecs were known as the people of the ____.	
7. What year was the Aztec Empire destroyed?		15. Aztecs used the ____ language.	
8. Who was the god of rain and water?		16. Quetzalcoatl was the god of the ____.	



AZTEC EMPIRE

The Aztec Empire was known as the Mexica. They were an empire in central Mexico when Spanish conquistadors arrived in America. The Aztec civilization was a powerful society that dominated central Mexico from 1428 to 1521.

Aztec refers to the Nahuatl word for Mexica. Tenochtitlan was an island-city located in the middle of Lake Texcoco. The Aztec civilization was founded in 1325. The location of the city was picked by Aztec priests because they saw an eagle holding a snake while standing on a cactus. This was seen as a sign to settle. The first ruler of the Aztec Empire was Acamotli from 1378 to 1396. The Aztecs called their ruler the "Huey Tlatoque" which means "great speaker". They believed their rulers were appointed by the gods and held the divine right to rule the land.

In 1428, the Aztec Empire formed a triple alliance between the Aztec, Texcocans and Tacubans. Aztecs called the Nahua language Nahuatl, which is still spoken in parts of Mexico today.

Montezuma I, a popular ruler, ruled from 1440 to 1469 and greatly expanded the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs were a militaristic empire centered in Central Mexico.

The highly advanced Aztec society included farmers and craftsmen who excelled in trade and commerce. The Aztec loved art, poetry and music. The common people, or middle class, of the Aztec society were called the macehuallin. There were many different social classes. A common way to advance to the next highest social class was through priesthood or the military.

Items were bought and sold with cacao beans and a cotton cloth called quachtli. The Aztec diet was mostly maize which is similar to corn. The maize was used to make tortillas. Other foods included beans, fish, squash, insects, honey and snakes. The word chocolate comes from the Aztec word "chocolatl".

Aztecs played a game called tlachtli. The players knocked a rubber ball back and forth on a stone court. The losers of the game were often killed. The Aztec culture believed in practicing human sacrifice.

The Aztecs believed the blood from human sacrifices would help the sun rise each day. They performed thousands of human sacrifices. The priests had to ensure the gods were given the human sacrifices. They performed ceremonies in the temples. Priests went through long, extensive training. Priests were powerful in the Aztec society.

The largest Aztec festival was called Xiuhtlamilpilli, or new fire. © Think Spark

The Aztecs worshipped many different gods. Each god represented a part of the natural world. Aztec religion was centered around the sun. The Aztecs were known as "People of the Sun". Huitzilopochtli was the god of the sun and war.

Quetzalcoatl was the god of the sky. Quetzalcoatl means "feathered serpent" and was usually drawn as a flying serpent, like a dragon. Tlaloc was the god of rain and water.

The Aztecs believed the gods sacrificed themselves to create the universe. In order to repay the gods, the Aztecs had to offer human lives. Most human sacrifice victims were prisoners captured from war.

The Templo Mayor, or Great Temple, was built to honor Huitzilopochtli and Tlaloc. Both gods had a shrine at the top of the pyramid. The name Huitzilopochtli means "left-handed hummingbird". He was often shown with feathers and holding a royal wand made from a snake.

Tonatiuh was the Aztec sun god. He provided warmth to the people and was also the patron of warriors. Xochiquetzal was the goddess of beauty, arts and crafts. Her name means "The Precious Feather Flower".

In 1492, the Spanish explorer named Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico. He had 11 ships and 550 men. He sunk his own fleet of ships so his soldiers could not leave him. The ruler of the time was Montezuma II.

During the time of Montezuma II, the Aztecs saw eight bad omens. They believed something bad was about to happen. Some of the omens included a fire in the sky, lightning strikes, a boiling lake, the sound of a woman crying and a tree that had many dead branches.

First, Montezuma II welcomed Cortés, believing he was possibly a god in human form. Montezuma II sent gifts of gold and chocolate to welcome Cortés. Montezuma II believed that Cortés might be the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl. Aztecs believed that Quetzalcoatl would come to Earth in human form. When Cortés arrived on the celebration of Quetzalcoatl's birthday.

Cortés formed alliances with local tribes who were enemies of the Aztec. In 1521, they were able to defeat the Aztec Empire. Although the Spanish eventually conquered the Aztec Empire, the Aztecs and other Europeans wiped them out completely.

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