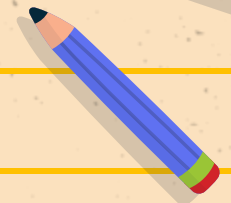
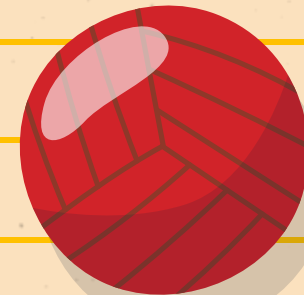
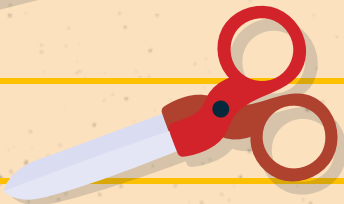
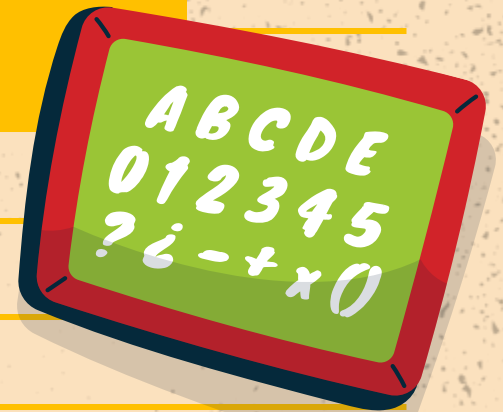






# What Do You Already Know About The Aztecs?

INVESTIGATE



## 2.3

# The Aztecs



**2.3**



# **The Aztecs**

The background is a warm, orange-toned landscape. In the foreground, there are several rolling hills or mountains in shades of light orange and tan. Above the mountains, there are stylized white clouds and several white, five-pointed stars. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border. At the top and bottom, there are horizontal bands with a repeating pattern of blue and white triangles. On the left and right sides, there are vertical gray bars with a repeating pattern of small blue diamonds, each flanked by a thin orange line.

**As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

# Pre-Aztec States

**Agriculture exploded as massive cities began to grown, such as the city of Palenque**

**This allowed new studies in stone architecture, mathematics, & astronomy**

**The first empire in the region was the Toltecs, whose culture would inspire the Mexica or Aztecs**

**Altepetls-** Large territories in Central America controlled by Nahuatl-speaking groups

# The Aztec

**Valley of Mexico-** The highest plateau of central Mexico

1325 Aztecs found the city of **Tenochtitlan**, sought for a sign of an eagle eating a snake on a cactus

Built on a swampy island in Lake Texcoco,  
Mexico city built there today

**Chinampas-** artificial islands made of mud  
piled on reed mats & anchored to the  
lake bed. Used for agriculture

# Tenochtitlan

**Tlatoani-** Aztec rulers who exacted tribute in the form of labor, food, & fine goods

The city stretched for over 5 square miles & was home to 150,000 people

The city had 4 major roads that pointed to the 4 cardinal directions

**Calpulli-** Districts within the city, the elite lived near the center while the poor lived on the perimeters

# Aztec Empire

Using fierce conquest & alliances, Aztec empire ruled across Mexico with 5-6 million people

**Tribute-** Payment from conquered people, helped enrich the Aztec capital

City was made up of floating gardens, zoos, palaces, becoming a city of wonder

Aztec had one ruler & a strong social class system for the empire



# Religion & Mythology

**Aztecs believed in many gods, but patron god was Huitzilopochtli, the hummingbird god of the sun**

**Aztecs also worshiped Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent, who ruled over earth & water**

**Teotihuacan-** Massive city built to worship the gods at the Pyramid of the Sun & Pyramid of the Moon

**Believed the gods created the world multiple times & offered human sacrifices**

**The Aztecs would engage in multiple wars to show dominance & supply sacrifices**

# **Ceremony & Ritual**

**The Aztecs constructed a calendar to plan ritual & Priestly lords explained life, death, crops, & the movement of the stars**

**Toltecs & Aztecs believe that Quetzacoatl took the form of a human & would return to them one day**

**Some stories merge this with the arrival of the Spanish**

# **Aztec Women**

**Boys were gifted weapons upon birth, women were gifted weaving instruments & a small broom**

**Both genders would study in Houses of Youth for an education, but women prided themselves on becoming wives**

**Women worked in the homes & in markets while men trained for war**

# Knowledge & Discontent

**Priests were the keepers of knowledge & used knowledge of astronomy & mathematics to tell the future**

**Built a math system based on 20 & developed a 260 AND 365 calendar systems**

**Believed illness was a punishment from gods, but still developed major medicines**

**The hatred that other tribes had towards the Aztecs would help Spain conquer the region**