

7th Grade World History

Lesson # 13, April 8th

Learning Target:

Investigate the cultural and scientific achievements of the Aztec people.

Warm-Up

This is an illustration of the Aztec city Tenochtitlan.

Making Observations...

- On a separate sheet of paper make at least 5 observations you see about the Aztec civilization.



Lesson

Read through the following slides and answer the comprehension questions on each slide.

Engineering

- Aztec engineering was very advanced.
- The Aztecs developed a method of creating artificial islands to help grow crops.
- They Aztecs developed complicated irrigation channels to help crop production in their farms.
- **Question:** Why do you think the Aztecs were so focused on making artificial islands to grow crops?



Food and Farming

- The Aztec's major crop was corn which they called *Maize*.
 - To this day corn is one of the most widely used crops in the world.

- The cacao(coco) bean was very popular with the Aztecs.
 - They would use the cacao bean to make chocolate products and even used the beans as a type of currency!

Question: What are some ways we still see Aztec food in our culture today?



Religion

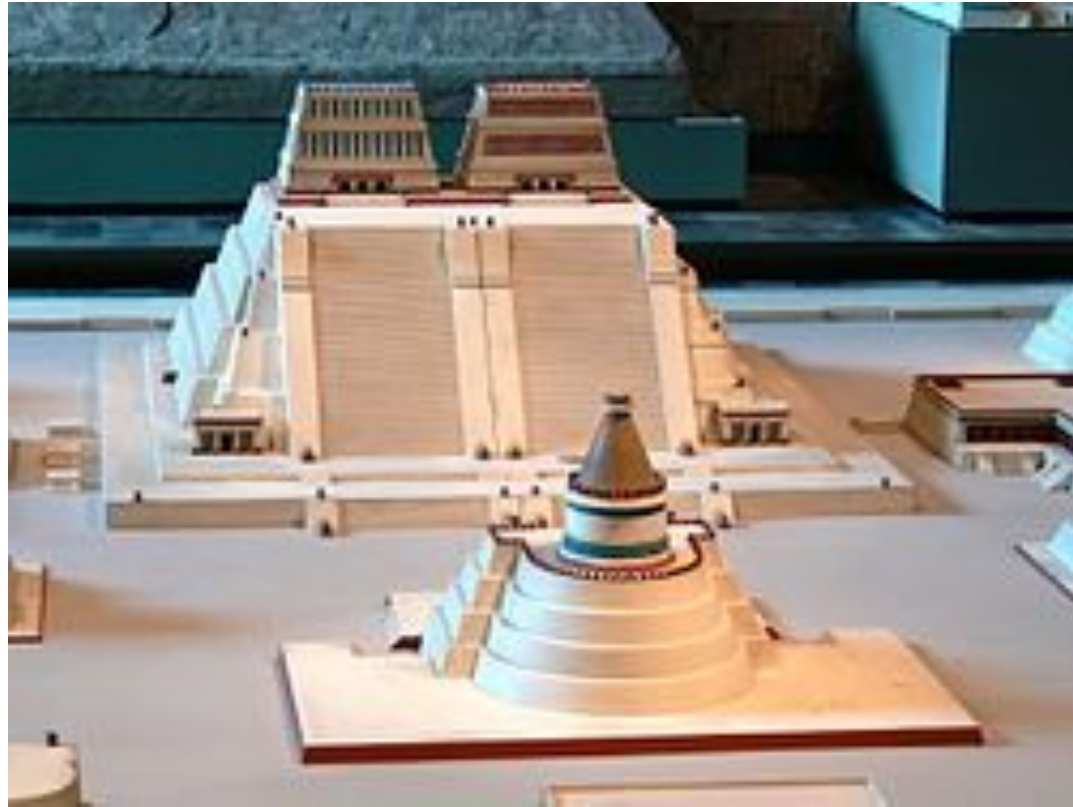
- The Aztecs were polytheistic, this means they worshipped multiple gods.
 - The Aztecs worshipped over 200 gods.

- The Aztec's main god was named Huitzilopochtli.
 - He was the god of war, the sun, human sacrifice and he was also the main god of the Aztec capital city Tenochtitlan.

- One of the most common ways the Aztecs would honor their gods in through human sacrifice.

Religion

- This is a scale model of the *Temple Mayor* that was the major temple of the Aztecs.
- The Aztec religious leaders would conduct human sacrifices at the top of the stairs to be closer to God and so the people can gather and watch.
- Many Aztec people went willingly to get sacrificed the gods!



Religion

Question:

- 1.) Why do you think some people would willingly sacrifice themselves to their gods?
- 2.) What does this tell you about Aztec religion?



Government

- The leader of the Aztec civilization was the emperor or king.
- Under the emperor were the noble class.
 - There were two levels of nobility.
 - 1.) Warriors and Priests
 - 2.) Landowners and judges

- The next class of people were the commoners, these people were the artists and merchants.
- Finally the lowest class of people were the slaves.

Question: What does it say about Aztec society that besides the Emperor a warrior is the highest class person?



Aztec Jaguar
Warrior and
Eagle Warrior.



Government

In this illustration we see the meeting between Aztec leader Montezuma and Spanish Conquistador Hernan Cortes.

- The Spanish eventually conquer Montezuma and the Aztec Empire.

Question: What are the major differences you notice between the Aztec and Spanish?



Summary:

In well-written paragraph (5-6 sentences) explain some of the achievements the Aztec's created and how we can see these achievements in today's world.

Extension:

- The Spanish and the Aztec met as friends but quickly became enemies. Eventually the Spanish completely conquered the Aztec civilization as we knew it.
- Read the following article to see how the descendants of Cortes (Spanish) and Montezuma II(Aztecs) are making peace with each other on the 500th year anniversary of their original meeting.
- [Descendants of Cortes and Montezuma make peace.](#)

Bibliography

<https://sites.google.com/site/theaztecsdbmasr/aztecsstructure>

<https://aztecperspective.weebly.com/aztec-legacy.html>