

# 7th Grade World History

Lesson # 15, April 10th

**Essential Question:** How did the Conquistadors change and shape people and places in Latin America?

# Warm-Up

Everyone dislikes a bully. Have you ever had something taken from you from someone who was bigger and stronger than you?

How did you feel about it, what did you try to do about it? Were you successful in your attempt to regain your item?



# Key Terms for Today's Lesson

**Colonization:** The process of settling and taking control of an native people's land.

**Conquistador:** Spanish conquerors came to Latin America to control their land and resources.

**New World:** The Western Hemisphere was unknown to the Europeans so they named it the "New World" North and South America and the Caribbean.



**Aztec:** Native people of southern Mexico.

**Tenochtitlan:** Modern day Mexico City. Was the capital city of the Aztec Empire.

# Lesson

## Background:

When the Spanish arrived to the New World the Aztecs were ruled by a man named Montezuma II. The Spanish Conquistadors were led by Hernan Cortes. The Aztecs first thought the Spanish were gods due to their light skin and dark hair. The Aztecs would pay the Spanish gold and other gifts to celebrate them. The Spanish saw these riches and realized they wanted more but were outnumbered by the Aztecs. The Spanish continued to demand gold from the Aztec and Montezuma and his people grew tired of the Spanish. Eventually Cortes arrests Montezuma to hold him for ransom.



# Lesson

Today you will be reading about the spanish conquest of the Aztecs. The conquistador Hernando Cortes was able to conquer the mighty Aztecs and take what he wanted from them. Use the links to find out what happened...

[Link 1](#)

[Link 2](#)

[Link 3](#)



# Practice

After reading answer the following reading comprehension questions:

## Link 1:

1. What happened to Montezuma when Cortes made him go onto the roof?
2. Who do you think killed Montezuma? Why?

## Link 2:

1. What disease negatively affected the Aztecs? How does this event change the power of the Aztecs?

# Practice

Reading Comprehension Questions:

## Link 3:

1. During the final battle for the Tenochtitlan how many surviving defenders did the Aztecs have? How long were they able to hold out?
2. What did Cortes do to the Aztec leader that was demeaning? Why do you think he did this?

# Reflection

Think back to the warm-up activity...

What do you think the Spanish were thinking and feeling?

What do you think the Aztecs were thinking and feeling?

After reading about The Aztecs and The Spanish who do you think the bully was? Who was the victim?





# Extension

If you are interested in learning more check out these links...

- Francisco Pizarro had conflict with the Incan People.
  - [Pizzaro Fast Facts](#)
- Military: Fall of Incan Empire
  - [Incan Conquest](#)
- Military: Fall of Tenochtitlan (Aztec)
  - [Fall of Tenchtitlan](#)