



Meet the Aztecs—Teacher Version

- **What modern-day country was home to the Aztecs?**

- **What was the name of their capital city? What was its geographical setting? (In a valley in central Mexico, near Lake Texcoco, swamps.)**

- **Tenochtitlan was built on a site with a number of advantages. Why was it a good site for a city? (It could be defended from enemies; there was abundant food nearby; there were waterways for transportation.)**

- **The Aztecs had advanced farming methods. Name three crops they grew in the fertile soil around their capital. (beans, corn, peppers, avocados, sweet potatoes, onions, tomatoes)**

- **What kinds of animals did the Aztecs raise to eat? (turkeys, dogs, ducks, and geese) Did they have any kind of work animals? (no)**

- **The Aztecs prayed to hundreds of gods and believed that these deities controlled all aspects of life. What kinds of things did they think the gods controlled? (the rising of the sun, the growth of crops, the rainfall)**

- **Religion was important to the Aztecs. How did they try to please their gods? (sacrifices)**

- **The family was also important to the Aztecs. Each person in the family had a role. What did most men do? (farmed or practiced particular trades) Women? (took care of the home) Sons? (trained to be warriors) Daughters (taught household skills, such as weaving)**

- **Describe typical homes in Tenochtitlan (the nobility lived in houses made of plastered brick or stone; the ordinary people had thatched houses with walls of interwoven twigs and mud)**
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- **The Aztecs were ruled over by an emperor. What was his name? (Montezuma) Describe what the emperor looked like.**
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- **Who conquered Tenochtitlan in 1521? In what ways did the newcomers differ from the Aztecs? (religion, language, use of horses, etc.)**
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- **The newcomers built a new city on the site of Tenochtitlan. What was the city called?**
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