

Year 7 History Knowledge Organiser Autumn 1- Aztecs

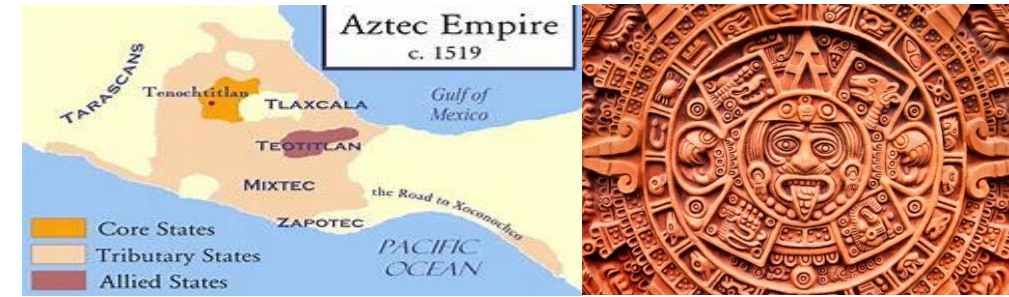
Who were the Aztecs ?

The Aztecs were a group of warriors who lived in Mesoamerica (now Mexico in Central America) between approximately 1250 and 1521.

Although we know them as the Aztecs, the Aztec people used to call themselves the Mexica.

They became some of the most powerful people in Central America. Around 15th Century they built a large and strong empire.

They were known as being particularly fierce and violent people who made human sacrifices to please the Gods. But they were very skilled people, particularly at hunting, fishing and art.



Aztec Daily Life

The Rich	The rich nobles of Aztec society lived in luxury. Most of them had slaves to do most of their work for them. They lived in homes that were built in brick and sometimes stone. Sometimes the houses had a whitewash to make them sparkle. They had separate sections
The Poor	Life was very different for the poor. Most of them worked as farmers and fisherman. They did not have slaves, and lived in small huts with thatched roofs. They would have little furniture, although they did have blankets and pots of cooking. Many wove mats to decorate their floors
Food	The Aztecs did not have any sheep, goats or cows however they did hunt ducks, turkeys and birds. Their food was very spicy, as they grew chilli and put it in almost everything. They ate beans with almost every meal and grew a lot of maize.
Clothing	Noble Aztecs wore beautiful clothes that were made of cotton. Their clothes had bright dye to make an array of colours. These clothes were decorated with feathers and elaborate embroidery. The poor and slaves tended to wear simple clothes, such as loin cloths.
Religion	The Aztecs believe in many different gods. Each of the Gods had a different role e.g. Chicomicoatl was the god who produced food. Quetzacoatl was the God of Civilisation.
Marriage	Aztec men from all different social statues got married when they were about 20 years old. Women were younger- about 14-15. Upper class marriages were arranged and the bride's family gave a feast. Divorce was allowed in Aztec in society.
School and Work	All Aztec children went to school. Most people ended up being farmers, fisherman and hunting. Some were trained to be doctors, teachers and soldiers which were all respectable professions. Merchants helped to trade good in and out of the Empire so that there was a wide range of foods and goods.

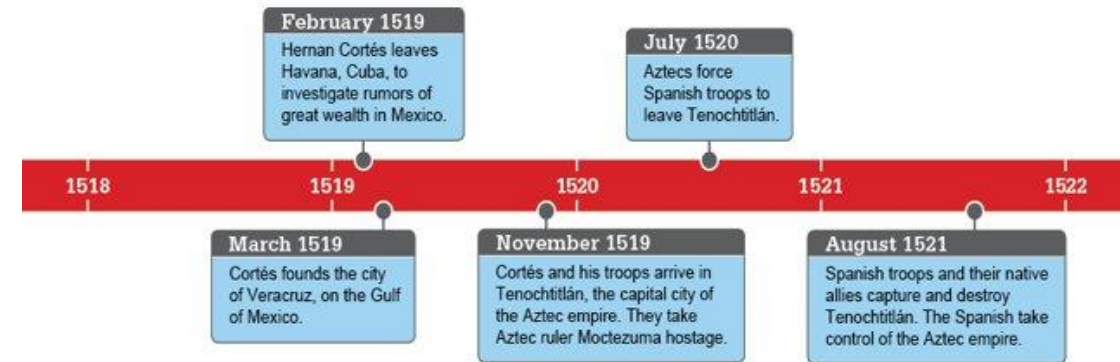
Casuses the Spanish Invaded the Aztec Empire

Religion – The Spanish were Catholics and believed that the Aztecs beliefs were wrong and savage.

Land- The Aztec Empire was large and the Spanish wanted to build their Empire to become a large world power. They wanted to take over this land an make it their own.

Money – The Aztecs had access to lots of Gold as it was a natural resource is Central Empire. The Spanish also believed in the Lost City of El Dorado and thought the Spanish had much more gold to share.

Spanish Conquest of Mexico



Consequences of the Spanish invasion

Montezuma was killed and the Aztecs were conquered by the Spanish completely, Signalling the end of the Aztec Empire. The Spanish discovery of the central America also led to Christopher Columbus discovering America