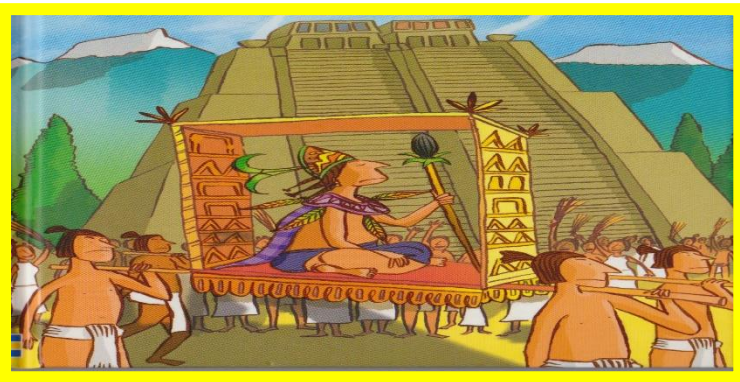


The Aztecs

Key Events

AD 1100	The Aztecs are nomads , moving from place to place.
AD 1200-1300	The Aztecs arrive in Mexico .
AD 1325	The city of Tenochtitlán is built as their capital city.
AD 1428	As the Aztecs form an alliance with other tribes , their empire begins to grow.
AD 1521	The Aztec empire is invaded and destroyed by Spain.
AD 1522	Tenochtitlán is rebuilt as Mexico City - the capital of Mexico.



Key Vocabulary

alliance	When two or more groups of people or countries agree to work together and help each other.
empire	A group of people ruled by an emperor.
hieroglyphics	A writing system that uses pictures and symbols instead of letters and words.
Mexico	A country in North America.
nomads	A group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one location.
sacrifice	An offering of something as a religious act.
trade	Buying and selling goods and services.
tribe	A group of people including many families.

Who Were the Aztecs?

The Aztecs were a **nomadic tribe** who settled in **Mexico** around AD 1300.



They settled in Tenochtitlán as this had a good supply of water and food with easy access to nearby towns for **trade**.

Once they settled in Tenochtitlán, the Aztec **empire** began to grow. It covered 80,000 square miles and included millions of people who were all ruled by an emperor.



What Were the Aztecs Famous For?

- agriculture (farming)
- calendar system
- art
- continuing the Maya tradition of making a chocolate drink using cocoa beans
- architecture (buildings and structures), including pyramids, palaces and temples
- writing in pictograms and **hieroglyphics**



Challenge tasks: You could use the images the Aztec temples to construct your own models. You could make models using plastic construction bricks or build a model from cardboard. Research and draw some Aztec symbols. Create your very own mood board about the Aztecs - use symbols, patterns, colours, words and textures. Write a diary entry about the life of an Aztec family.

Places to visit: Cadbury world

Your local library: Find the history section and look at an Aztec information book.

Visit online: [Aztec Empire | Aztec Facts for Kids \(mysteriesintime.co.uk\)](http://Aztec Empire | Aztec Facts for Kids (mysteriesintime.co.uk))

Visit the interactive Aztec map.

[Aztec Facts For Kids | Aztec History For Kids | DK Find Out](#)



Key Texts: Various non-fiction text on the Aztecs.

Class Reader: The Explorer by Katherine Rundell.



An example of Aztec pottery



Key Questions: Who were the Aztecs? What were the Aztecs famous for?

Where did they live? When did they live? Why did the Aztecs move around?

Why did they choose the site for their city? How are they different from today? Did they have one God or many? What did they believe about their Gods and how they affected their lives?