



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Aztecs” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Aztecs” unit offers [16 pages](#).

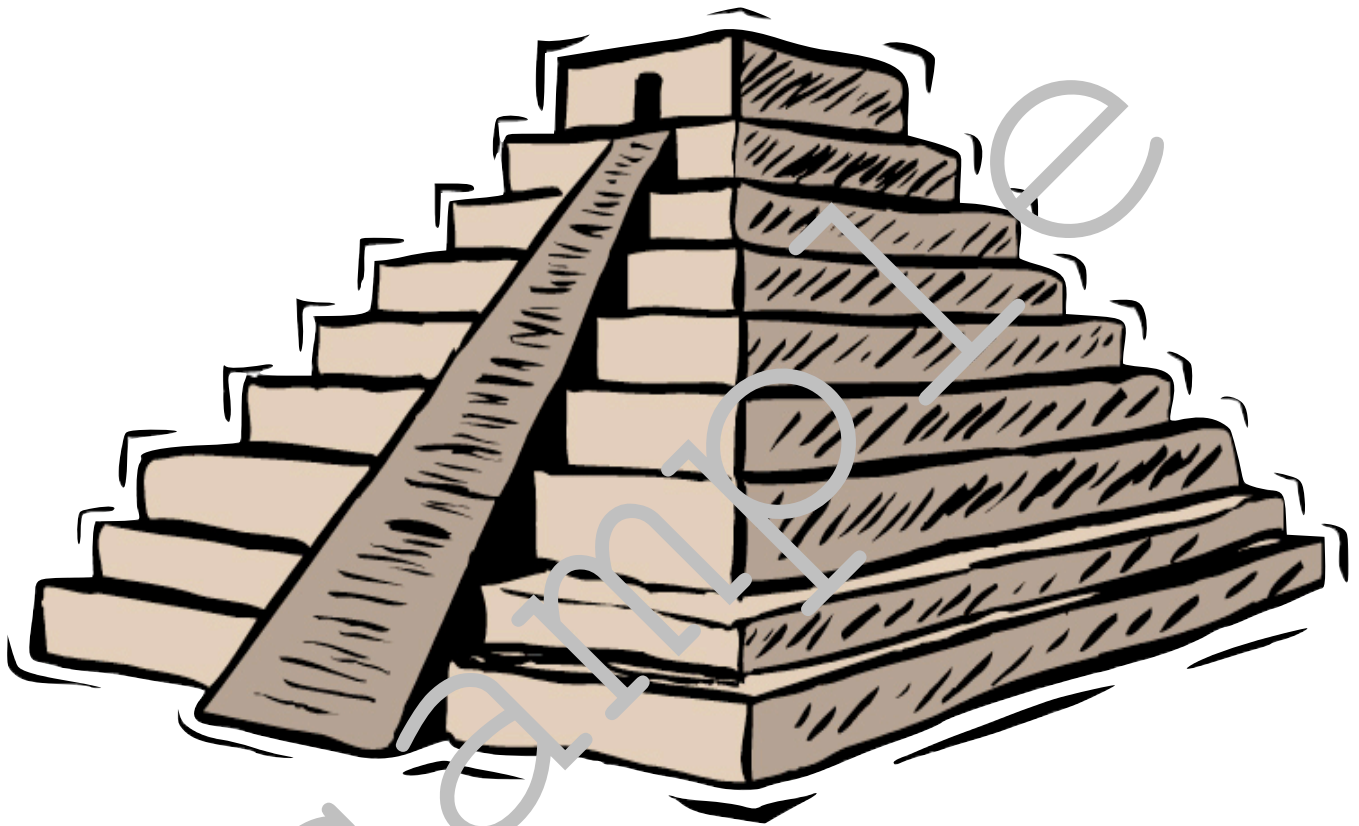
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Aztecs



AZTECS

How the Aztec Empire grew.

The Aztecs were descendants of the Mexica, a hunter-gatherer people. They were forced to take refuge on two islands near Lake Texcoco. The Mexica began farming in the area. They built Tenochtitlán in 1325 and their population continued growing.



As they grew, the Mexica of Tenochtitlán formed alliances with two city-states in the area Texcoco and Tlacopan. They established military and civil organizations and conquered other states and groups. Tenochtitlán became the dominant power.

This Aztec Empire was very structured. It was based on agriculture and religion. Every part of Aztec life was connected to the gods they worshiped. These gods had different powers. They were worshiped for different purposes.



The organization of Aztec society was based on classes. The earliest social classes were groups of families who were descended from a common ancestor. These groups were called *calpulli*. Each calpulli had a council and officers and regulated itself. The land was divided among the families based on each family's needs.

As time went on, the calpulli was no longer organized by family relationships. The new calpulli was based on political divisions around the city. Each calpulli had its own governing council, school, temple and land but the members were not relatives. The number of calpulli grew from fifteen in 1325 to about eighty in the 16th century.

Read each sentence below. Circle true or false.

1. The Aztecs were descendants of the Mexica.

true false

2. The Mexica were a hunter-gathering people.

true false

3. The Aztecs built Tenochtitlan in 1335.

true false



AZTECS

The Aztec Calendars



A farming people, the Aztecs had to keep close track of time. This was why they had two calendars. One was a solar calendar. The other was a sacred calendar.

The solar calendar was 365 days long, like our own. It was based on Earth's yearly trip around the sun. The Aztecs used it to tell them when to plant and harvest their crops.

The sacred calendar was 260 days long. It had two wheels. One had numbers and the other names of animals and things. This calendar helped priests determine the lucky days.

What do you think?

Look up more information about the Aztec calendars. Write about them on the lines below



AZTECS



Criss Cross

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

pyramid
water

art
crops

maize
calendar

marshes
terraces

