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# Aztec Civilization

1300's-1521

- Emerged in 1300's
- Hit their peak in the 16th Century
- Were around for about 221 years
- Fell in 1521



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# Geographic Impact on society

- The Aztec empire was located in *Culhua-Mexica*, which is now modern day *Mexico*.
- There where resources available that helped them develop like rivers and river valleys.
- The Aztecs were not isolated, there were other civilizations near them.



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# Political system and impact on society

- The Aztecs had a rulership similar to a monarchy, they called the primary ruler Huey Tlatoani.
- The Aztec ruler Montezuma, at the time, based Everybody's beliefs on war.
- Courts were very harsh. The courts punishments for crimes could be slavery, destruction to ones home, and even death.
- If the death penalty was put on you, you could be burned, beheaded, strangled, and cut down your chest to remove you heart.



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# Economic systems and impact on society

- The Aztecs had a market in their village.
- Commonly the Aztecs stole from whoever they were fighting in wars.
- They needed food for their growing population so the Aztecs started farming, they then traded it.
- The Aztecs started trading over long distances.
- The Aztec civilization traded cloths, pottery, baskets, jewels, tools, and stone.



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# Beliefs and Religious Impact on Culture

- The Aztec Civilization sacrifices.
- They were Polytheistic, and worshipped 200 gods.
- Tlaloc is the god of rain.
- Quetzalcoatl is the god of learning and wind
- Huitzilopochtli is one of the most famous gods. They are the god of war.



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# Rise of Civilization

- The Aztecs were fierce warriors, and persistence was important while they fought.
- The Tepance were destroyed and taken over by the Aztecs.
- They started to fight the Aztec people because they were afraid of them becoming too powerful.



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# Art and Architecture

- Main forms of Art in the Aztec civilization was music, poetry, and sculptures.
- They use these to respect and honor their Gods.
- Buildings were made with strong materials including volcanic stone.
- The Aztecs would make a big room and split it up into 4 equal sections.



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# Writing System and Written History

- Used pictographic writing to share information and make plans.
- Their language was called Nahuatl.
- It was developed because the Aztecs traded a lot.
- A lot of Mexico at the time used Nahuatl as their language.





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# Major Technological Advances

- Obsidian and Chert were very popular.
- The Aztecs had two calendars they used.
- The Xiuhpohualli was the first calendar and had 365 days, This calendar also has rituals for certain days.
- The other calendar has 260 days on it.

The Aztecs irrigation system consisted of terraces on hillsides.

They built canals to get from place to place.



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# Golden Age



- The Golden Age appeared near the end of the Aztec civilization.
  - During the Golden Age Art especially became very popular.
  - The Golden Age came because the population, and Wealth grew.
  - The Aztecs Golden Age came to an end when the Spanish conquered the civilization.
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# Famous Citizens and their Achievements



- Montezuma II was the ninth emperor of the Aztec Civilization.
  - Montezuma II is known for his dramatic confrontation of a Spanish Conquistador.
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# Slavery



- A person could sell themselves into Slavery to pay back a debt.
  - A slaves children could not be born into Slavery.
  - The Aztecs also used the people they captured during wars as slaves.
  - If you were a slave owner, you can not trade or sell your slaves.
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## Fall of Civilization

- The Aztec empire was conquered by European people.
  - A European man brought around 400 soldiers one day to defeat the Aztec empire.
  - The Europeans also brought over deadly diseases including Smallpox, Mumps, and Measles.
  - The sickness wiped out a lot of people making the Aztecs weak in fighting.
  - Soon enough the Aztecs were being captured, and lost.
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# World Wide Contributions

- The Aztecs were very good at making medicine.
- They could treat Seizures, menopause, hysteria, skin injuries including burns, swelling, and pain using a native plant called the Passion Flower.
- The Aztecs also helped make chocolate. Chocolate was so popular at the time people used it to trade.



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