



# Aztecs

By Ava, Joseph and Jac

# Time Period

- 6th century first Nahuatl speaking people began to settle in Mexico
- In 600 C.E., the people who spoke Nahuatl were the first settlers who came
- People called the Mexicas arrived in 1100 C.E. (they were part of the Aztecs)
- The Mexicas tried to settle near Lake Texcoco ,soon they were run out by native people
- They finally settled in Tizapan in 1299



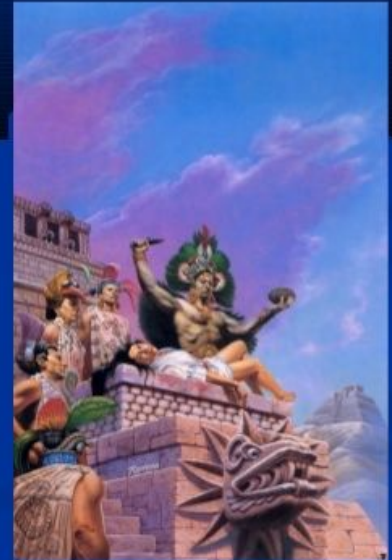
# Religion and Beliefs

- Aztecs are believed to come from a nomadic tribe in northern Mexico
- They prayed to their gods and were told if they saw an eagle on a cactus that was where they would build their city
- Captured people were sacrificed to the gods
- The Aztecs had priests and many gods

## Aztec Religion

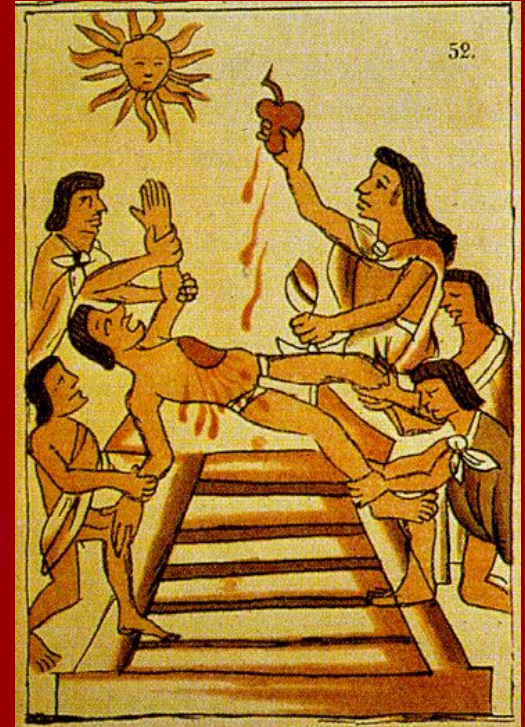
The Aztec religion worshipped over 1000 gods especially the god of war and the sun and the god of rain. They performed human sacrifices to appease their gods some believe that the Aztecs started wars just to capture enemy soldiers for sacrifices.

image source: [travelersdigest.com](http://travelersdigest.com)



# Religion and Human Sacrifice

- According to their own legend Aztecs originated from a place called Aztlan
- Most victims of sacrifice were captives of war
- They sacrificed by cutting out the heart of the prisoner squeezing it and the heart was an offering to the gods while it was still beating
- Four priests hold the person down and a 5th priest makes the cut
- This is probably what it looked like



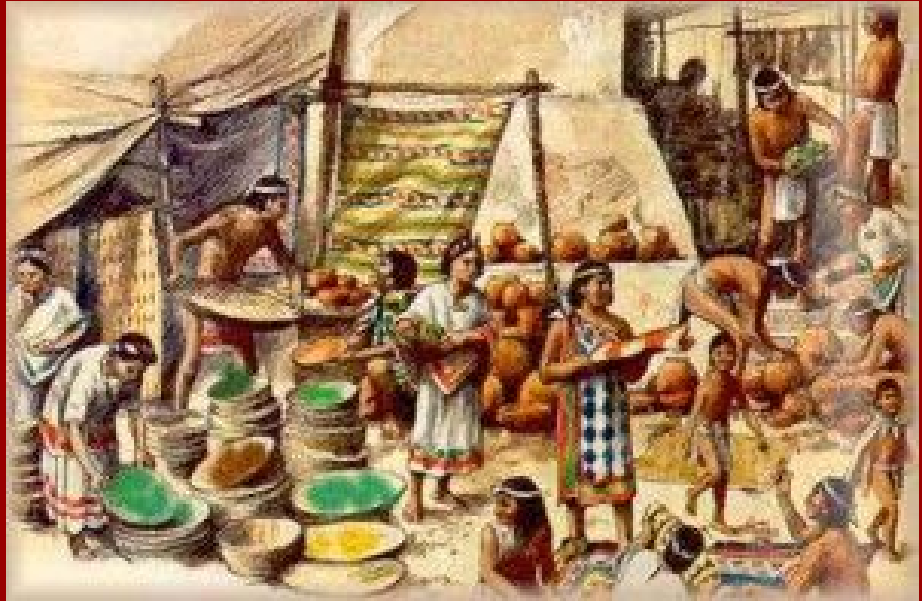
# Geography

- Aztecs lived in Mesoamerica
- Mesoamerica is Mexico today
- Tenochtitlan is the capital city of the Aztecs
- The Aztecs were located in the middle of the Mexico Valley in the middle of Lake Texco
- The land was unwanted & solid ground was needed
- Aztecs started sinking large trees covering them with mud ,boulders to create a more solid surface



# Economy

- The Aztec economy was mainly a barter system with two unofficial currencies
- The currencies were cotton textiles and cacao beans
- Economy relied on agriculture and farming
- Economy depended on high levels of economic support from surrounding areas
- Large number of priests and craftspeople lived in the main part of the city



The presentation will continue after these short commercial messages

Exceptional Aztec Weapons and Co.

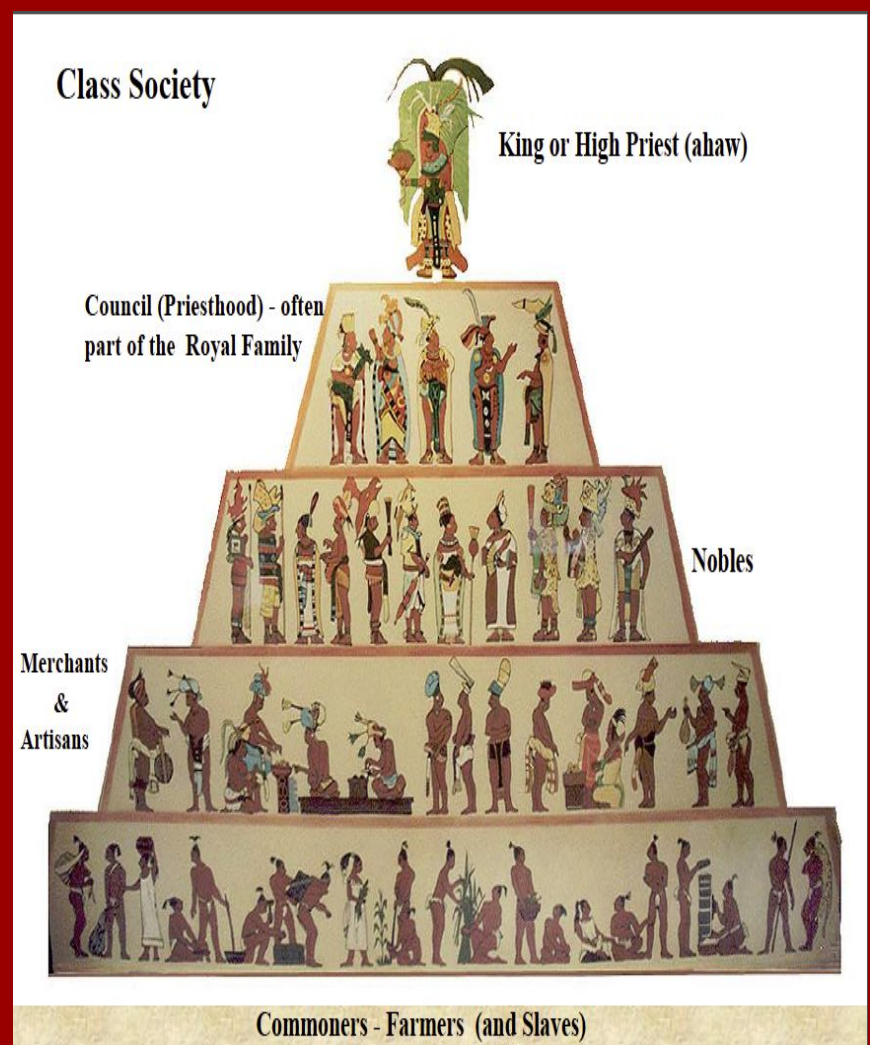


*Premium Arts and Statues*



# Government

- Aztecs were ruled by an emperor
- Nobles were in charge of each city
- The nobles would form the councils in the city
- The councils had a lot of power in the government
- The laws were all written down
- The Aztec government was also a hierarchy





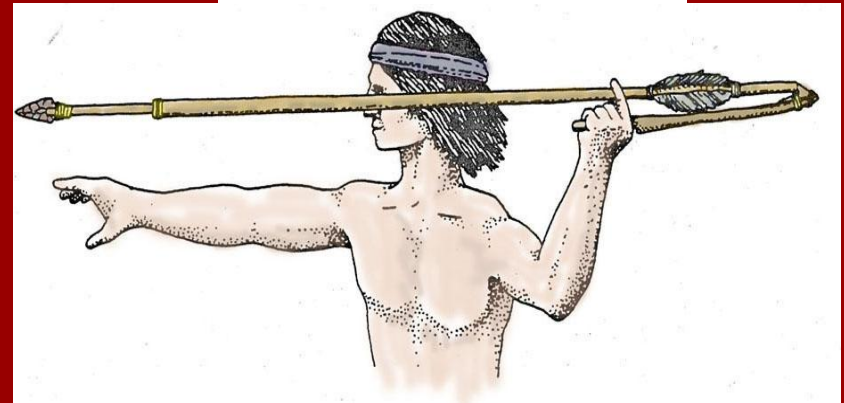
# Technology I

- Specialized Aztec calendar
- Helpful forms of medicine
- Aztecs made tools with obsidian and chert
- Aztec tools were so advanced they even had drills
- Around the time the Spanish landed in South America the Aztecs discovered copper and made axes out of copper or stone



# Technology II

- Atlatl and Macuahuitl were weapons that were commonly used
- Atlatl was a small stick with a notch that you put a meter long spear into and then throw the spear using the stick to add power
- The Macuahuitl was a wooden club with sharpened pieces of obsidian sticking out of it
- They also commonly used the bow and arrow



# Golden Age

- The golden age of the Aztecs was mid 14th century to early 16th century
- They controlled much of current day Mexico
- Their conquest was cut short by the Spanish invasion led by Hernan Cortes in 1519



# Writing

- Aztecs wrote with symbols called glyphs and pictographs
- Aztecs used the pictures to represent things
- Only priests knew how to read and write
- They wrote on long sheets of animal skins and plant fibers
- Most writings were either burned or destroyed

## Aztec Writing



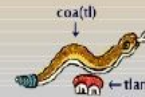
Chilapan



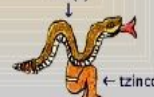
Colhuacan



Ocelotepec



Coatlan



Coatzinco



Ahuacatlan

## Aztec Math



The presentation will continue after a short commercial message

**Aztec Architecture Consulting Firm**



# Slavery I

- Slaves were not captured people
- Slaves were punished criminals
- People could also be sold into slavery to pay family debts
- Slaves could marry other slaves and slaves could marry free women
- Slaves' children were not slaves because they had not done anything bad and they hadn't been sold

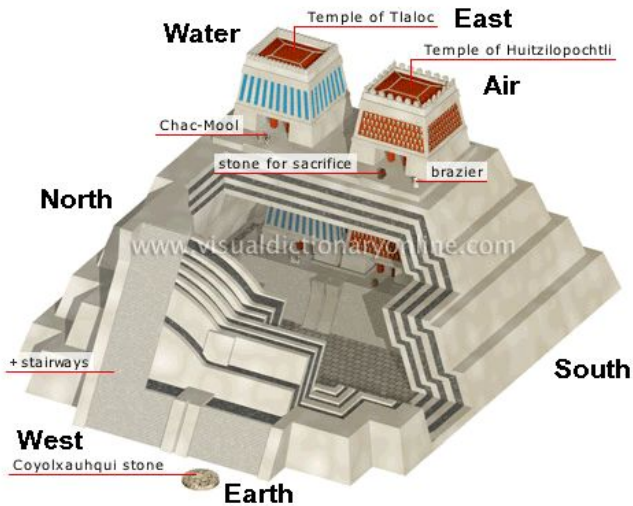


# Slavery II

- Nobles had to treat the slaves kids the same way they would treat their own kids
- The nobles had to take care of them and give them education
- If a slave refused to do something that the noble asked it to, it was dragged to the plaza and had witnesses prove the refusal

# Art and Architecture

- Aztec temples rivaled the Egyptians pyramids
- Aztec art came from their history
- Aztecs liked to make almost everything they had colorful
- The Aztecs word for art was *Toltecatl* (to-lte-katl) a word from the Toltec language
- Aztecs were not usually allowed to own art unless you made and sold it or were a noble
- The Aztecs traded art with other civilizations





# Contributions

- Nahuatl was the dominant language during the Aztecs reign of power
- Nahuatl words were adapted by the Spanish later used in English
- Some of the words adapted were chili, avocado, chocolate, coyote, peyote, guacamole, ocelot and mescal



# Rise and Fall

- In 1519 C.E. Spanish conquistador Francisco Hernández De Córdoba
- The Spanish brought plagues that killed off the Aztecs
- Aztecs, Native American people who dominated Northern Mexico at the time of Spanish conquest lead by Hernan Cortes in the early 16th century
- The rise of the Aztec empire was in 1150 C.E. when Toltec Empire was defeated



*"That's all Folks!"*



*Thanks for watching!!!!!!*