



Teacher's Notes: Aztec Empire Level 1

Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to recognize the Aztecs and their pyramids .

The students will be able to find Mexico on a map.

The students will be able to point to features of Aztec society

Activities

1. Have students make corn on the cob (recipe in worksheets)
2. Pyramid art activity – Have students draw a large triangle on a piece of construction paper. Have student glue Life Cereal squares inside the triangle to make a pyramid. Students can also decorate the picture by drawing Egyptian people, a camel, the sky, etc.

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

Page 1: The Aztecs were Native Americans who lived in Mexico a long time ago. There are still Aztecs today. This book is about Aztecs a long time ago.

Point: USA, Mexico, Aztec people

WH Questions: Who lived in Mexico? Where did the Aztecs live? Are there Aztecs today? Is this book about Aztecs from long ago?

Yes/No: Are there Aztecs today? Is this book about Aztecs from long ago? Are you an Aztec? Are there Aztecs in Mexico?

Opinion/Experiences: What other Native Americans do you know of? What do you know about Native Americans? Do you know anything about Mexico?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 1, have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group. Have students ask questions to one another about Aztecs.

Page 2: The Aztecs had a calendar. It was a circle and it was very different than our calendar. See our calendar with different months and numbers for days? The Aztec calendar was used with the stars and where they were. Maybe in June the stars are in a different place than in December.

Point: Aztec calendar, Modern calendar

Questions: What is a calendar used for?

Yes/No: Did the Aztecs have a calendar? Do people have calendars now?

Opinion/Experiences: What do people use calendars for?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 2, ask students, to take their main idea card “calendar” and ask each other questions about calendars. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group.

Page 3: The Aztecs had canoes. They were the fastest way to go somewhere. They made rivers. They were called canals. They could take their canoe and go to another place.

Point: canoe, paddle, Aztec, canal?

Questions: How did Aztecs travel? What kind of boat did they have?

Yes/No: Is a canoe a car? Boat? Was it used to travel?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 3, ask students to get their main idea card “canoe” and ask questions about canoes. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group.

Page 4: The Aztecs grew food. One thing that they grew was corn. They also grew other things.

Point: corn, garden, water, birds

Questions: What did they grow? Who grew corn?

Yes/No: Do you like corn? Did the Aztecs grow corn? Did they grow other things?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 4, ask students to get their main idea card “corn” and ask questions about corn. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group.

Page 5: The Aztecs had a big city. It was built in a lake. It was very nice. You can’t see it today, the city has been destroyed. You can see the pyramids in the city. See the pyramid on the map of Mexico? That is where the city was.

Point: City, Aztecs, water, map of Mexico

WH Questions: What did the Aztecs have? Where was the city?

Yes/No: Did the Aztecs have a city?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 5, ask students to get their main idea card “city” Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group. Have them ask questions.

Page 6: The Aztecs had pyramids in their city. That is where the Aztecs had ceremonies.

Point: pyramid, people hanging on to hands

WH Questions: What building did the Aztecs have?

Yes/No: Did the Aztecs have pyramids?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 6, ask students to take out their main idea card “pyramid” and ask questions about pyramids. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group.

Page 7: the Aztecs fought with other Native Americans back then. They were warlike. That means that they were not peaceful, they liked to go to war.

Point: Aztec, hair, knife, weapon

WH Questions: Who liked to fight?

Yes/No: Did the Aztecs fight with other groups? Is fighting dangerous?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 7, ask students to find their main idea card “fights”. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group. Prompt them to ask questions to each other.

Page 8: The Aztecs killed people. They cut their heart out. People were afraid of the Aztecs. Killing people was part of their religion. It was scary.

Point: person getting killed, heart, Aztecs.

WH Questions: What did Aztecs do to people? Why did they do it?

Yes/No: Did the Aztecs kill people? Did they kill people for their religion.

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 8, ask students to get out their main idea card “religion”. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group. Have them ask each other questions.

Page 9: One day the Spanish people landed in Mexico. They had ships. They were from Spain. The Spanish people met the Aztecs. They ended up getting in a fight.

Point: Spanish explorer, ship, ocean, map of Spain, Mexico

WH Questions: Who arrived in Mexico? What happened?

Yes/No: Did the Spanish people come to Mexico? Did the Aztecs and Spanish get along? Were they friends? Did they fight?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 9, ask students to find their main idea card “Spanish explorers”. Have students read/show/point/eye gaze at either the main idea word or picture card to a partner or the entire group. Have them ask questions about the Spanish Explorers.