

AZTEC EXERCISES

A - Exercises

1. Look at a map of the world. Where is Mexico?
2. Where did the Aztecs originally come from? What were the different places where they lived before settling and when did this happen?
3. How did Aztec society come to an end?
4. How did life change for the Aztecs after the Europeans came?
5. Describe briefly how the Aztecs lived. What were the different roles that men and women had?
6. What were the most important aspects of Aztec religion?
7. Why were human beings sacrificed?
8. What things were already there before the earth existed?
9. There are two versions of the creation of Huitzilopochtli (see the pantheon). What are the similarities and what are the differences?
10. What two stories can you find about Coyolxauhqui?
11. Who was responsible for the great flood? Explain your answer.
12. Who is responsible for the fact that the world is no longer a paradise such as it was directly after the humans were created?
13. Find information about Aztec sculptures. Choose a god and make a drawing of this God.
14. What similarities do you see between the Aztec creation myth and those of other cultures?

B - Exercises

Look at a few websites that deal with this culture and choose one or two that have images, sounds or text that you think are useful for preparing your presentation. Before your presentation write a summary or make a sketch of the Aztec creation myth.

Choose one of the following exercises:

1. "There were many similarities between the different Aztec beliefs and Christianity". A Spanish priest attempts to convert a number of Aztecs to Christianity. Create a short play about this.

or

2. Create a short play about a meeting in Montezuma's palace in which his advisors respond to the information that strange ships with white people have arrived on their shores.

C - Exercises

Give examples of the violent character of Aztec religion. What violent aspects can you find in the Aztec creation myth?

