



History Knowledge Organiser

Year: 7
Topic: Aztecs
Half term: Autumn 1

- The Aztecs were from Mexico in Central America.
- The capital city was Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City, built on Lake Texcoco.
- Their empire lasted from 1325-1519.
- Aztecs were very religious.
- They build large temples in the middle of their cities to be as close to the gods as possible.
- They believed that they had to keep their gods happy or they would turn against them! To keep their gods happy, the Aztecs believed that human sacrifice was necessary.
- Aztec children were very well behaved and punishments for misbehaviour were severe.
- Aztecs enjoyed feasts and banquets that centred on the religious calendar.
- Aztecs had 3 schools; 1 for girls, and 2 for boys.
- 1 of the boys schools was for noble children, the other for everyone else.
- In 1519, the first European explorers got to Central America and conquered the Aztecs, causing their entire empire to fall.



- Facts!**
- ❖ When the Spanish arrived, the Aztec leader, Montezuma thought that Cortés, was one of their gods, Quetzacoatl!
 - ❖ The Aztecs had never seen horses before and thought that the Spanish on horses were also gods.
 - ❖ The Aztecs loved chocolate and even had a god of chocolate!
 - ❖ All Aztec children went to school, even children of slaves!
 - ❖ Education was free in the Aztec empire



Homework tasks

1. Learn the key words and their definitions.
2. Research Aztec beliefs and create a story board showing the story.
3. Design your own KO using the knowledge gained in your lessons.
4. Choose one of the topics we have covered in this unit and teach a family member. Ask them to write a review of what you have told them.

Submit your homework to your class teacher for achievement points!

- Suggested Reading**
- **Angry Aztecs - Horrible Histories**
 - **Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia**
 - **The Gold Eaters by Ronald Wright**

Key Terms	
Empire	A group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch
Chinampas	Mand-made islands made by piling up mud and reeds
Sacrifice	The act of killing something as an offering to a deity
Priest	A person who performs religious ceremonies and duties
Temple	A building devoted to the worship of a god or gods
Omens	An event regarded as a portent of good or evil
Conquistadors	A conqueror from Spain.
Appease	To satisfy or placate someone by giving in to their demands
Cures	To relieve someone of symptoms of an illness
Worship	To show adoration and reverence towards a deity