

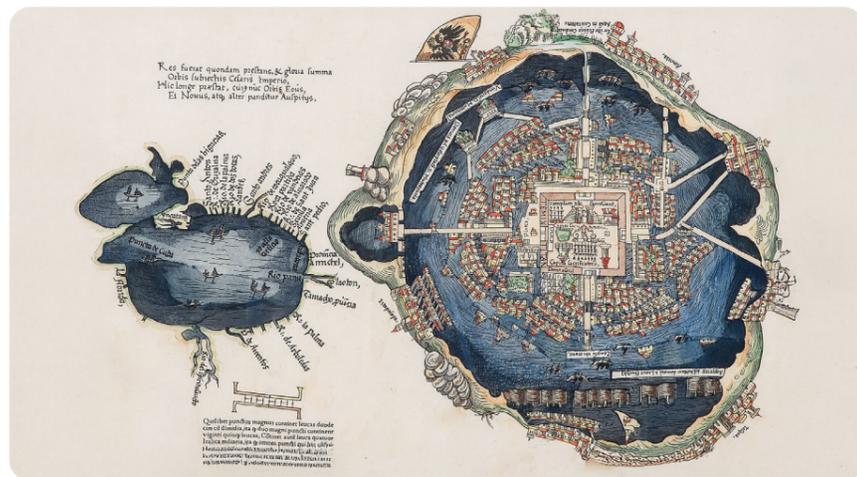
Age of the Aztecs

The Aztecs were people who lived over 500 years ago in Mexico. The Aztecs were ruled by leaders called Speakers. The Speaker made laws and was head of the powerful army that was full of fearsome warriors.



Tenochtitlán

Tenochtitlán was the largest city and capital of the Aztec Empire. It was built on an island in Lake Texcoco, which was a salt lake. The city had a busy marketplace where people traded many things, including food, jewels, medicines, pottery and cloth.



Everyday life

Beliefs

The Aztecs believed in over 200 gods and goddesses, and they held special festivals and ceremonies to worship them.



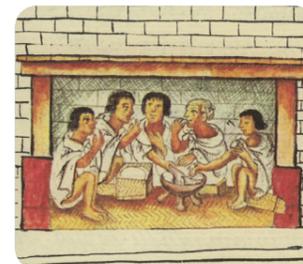
Jobs

Many Aztecs were farmers. Some were stallholders in the marketplace or fishermen. Others were skilled craftspeople, like feather workers and goldsmiths.



Homes

Most Aztec homes were small and were made of wood and mud.



Children

Children were expected to help in the home. When children got older, they went to school.



Food

An Aztec family ate two meals a day. Most families ate maize porridge, dumplings and pancakes.



Drink

The Aztecs drank a special beer called pulque. Rich people drank a bitter chocolate drink made from cacao beans.



How do we know about the Aztecs?

The Aztecs wrote codices about their beliefs and everyday life. Hernán Cortéz, a Spanish soldier and explorer, visited Tenochtitlán and wrote down what he saw. Also, Aztec artefacts and ruins have been found, and people can see them.



Glossary

ceremony A set of things done for a very important and special event.

codices Books written in pictures that the Aztecs used to record information about their beliefs and everyday lives.

empire A group of states or countries united under one ruler.

goldsmith A person whose job is making jewellery and other objects using gold.

maize A crop like corn and the main ingredient of the Aztec diet.

warrior A soldier who is usually skilled and experienced in fighting.