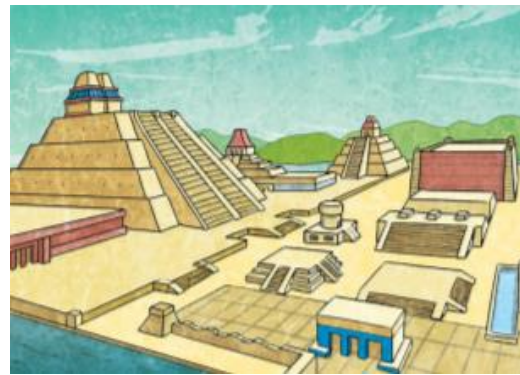


Theme Knowledge Organiser – Ancient Civilisations: Aztecs Team 3

Key Vocabulary

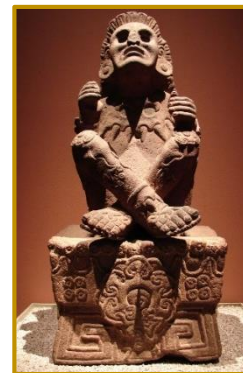
alliance	When two or more groups of people or countries agree to work together and help each other.
empire	A group of people ruled by an emperor
hieroglyphics	A writing system that uses pictures and symbols instead of letters and words.
Mexico	A country in North America.
nomads	A group of people who move from place to place rather than living in one location.
sacrifice	An offering of something as a religious act.
trade	Buying and selling goods and services.
tribe	A group of people including many families.



Who were the Aztecs?

The Aztecs were a nomadic tribe who settled in Mexico around AD 1300. They settled in Tenochtitlán as this had a good supply of water and food with easy access to nearby towns for trade.

Once they settled in Tenochtitlán, the Aztec empire began to grow. It covered 80,000 square miles and included millions of people who were all ruled by an emperor.



Key Dates

AD 1100	The Aztecs are nomads, moving from place to place.
AD 1200-1300	The Aztecs arrive in Mexico.
AD 1325	The city of Tenochtitlán is built as their capital city.
AD 1428	As the Aztecs form an alliance with other tribes, their empire begins to grow.
AD 1521	The Aztec empire is invaded and destroyed by Spain.
AD 1522	Tenochtitlán is rebuilt as Mexico City - the capital of Mexico.

Who did the Aztecs worship?

They believed in many gods and sacrificed human life to keep their gods happy. They built towers and temples for their gods.



Tlaloc	god of rain
Xochipilli	god of creativity, happiness and beauty
Tonatiuh	god of the sun, sacrifice and warriors
Xiuhtecuhtli	god of time and fire
Quetzalcóatl	god of death and the underworld

What was daily life like for the Aztecs?

- Most Aztecs lived in huts made from mud and straw. Rich people could afford palaces or homes made of stone and they bathed in steam rooms and saunas.
- The men were either craftsmen, farmers or warriors who defended the empire.
- The women stayed at home to cook and weave clothes.
- Children had to go to school to learn important skills like hunting or cooking.
- The Aztecs were excellent hunters and farmers and were skilled at fishing.
- They made intricate masks, pottery and jewellery.