

# The Aztecs

## *How did the Aztecs rise to power?*

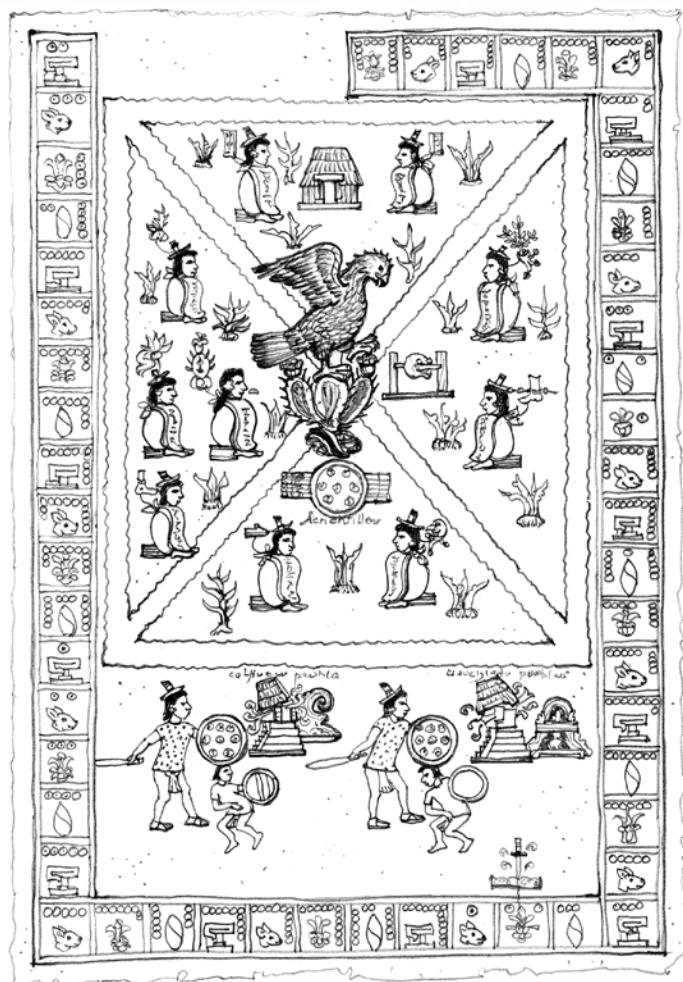
**P R E V I E W**

This Aztec artwork contains clues about these three topics:

- the beginnings of the Aztec Empire
- the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán
- the Aztecs' relations with their neighbors

Follow these steps.

1. Circle three details in the image. Each one should be a clue about each of the three topics above.
2. Near each detail you circled, write a note explaining what it tells about the topic.
3. Draw a line from each detail to its note.



READING NOTES

**Key Content Terms**

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

- |           |              |          |            |
|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|
| Aztecs    | Tenochtitlán | plaza    | conformity |
| mercenary | alliance     | causeway |            |

**Sections 2 to 4**

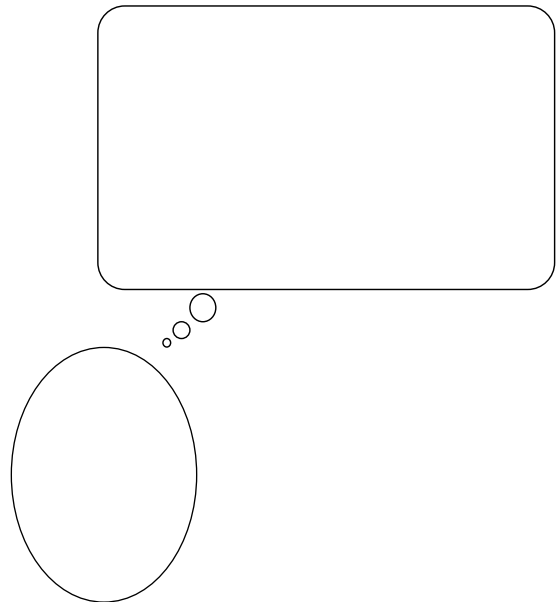
Complete these steps for each section.

- Step 1:** Read the section.
- Step 2:** Record your answers to the questions in the space provided.
- Step 3:** Read the next section.

**Section 2: The Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico**

1. Name two important groups who lived in the Valley of Mexico before the Aztecs. Give an example of how each influenced the Aztecs.

2. Draw the facial expression of a non-Aztec person already living in the Valley of Mexico when the Aztecs arrive. The expression should show how the person feels about the Aztecs. Then complete the thought bubble to explain how the person’s group treated the Aztecs.



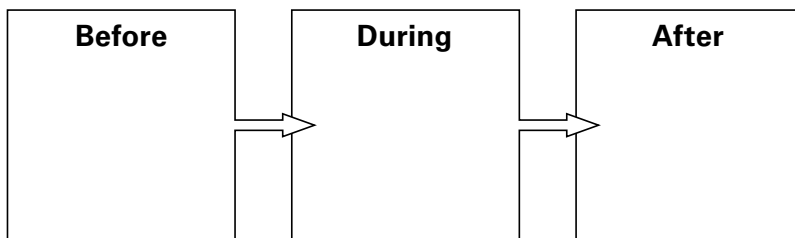
3. According to Aztec history, how did the Aztecs know where to build Tenochtitlán? Why did they think this was a good location?

**Section 3: Tenochtitlán: A City of Wonders**

1. At right, draw two architectural features the Aztecs used to allow them to build their capital in the middle of a lake. Label each feature.
  
2. Name at least one important building in Tenochtitlán, and describe its purpose.
  
3. Describe at least two aspects of Tenochtitlán that allowed so many people to live there comfortably.

**Section 4: The Aztec Empire**

1. What kinds of goods did the Aztecs receive in tribute from conquered peoples? Why was tribute so important to the Aztecs?
  
2. Complete the diagram below to show what happened before, during, and after an Aztec declaration of war.



3. What did the Aztecs demand of the peoples they conquered? Name one advantage and one disadvantage of this Aztec policy.

**P R O C E S S I N G**

In the space below, design a flag for the Aztec Empire. Your flag should include these items.

- at least one symbol that represents something important about the arrival of the Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico
- at least one symbol that represents something important about their capital city of Tenochtitlán
- at least one symbol that represents something important about how they conquered and ruled their neighbors
- a variety of colors
- no more than five words