

Questions about the Aztec Civilization
7th Grade Social Studies

1. Aztecs believed God would send them a **sign** telling them where to build their great city. What was the **sign** they were awaiting?
 - a. a storm of lightning and thunder, over the breaking waves of the ocean
 - b. an eagle, with wings stretched out, sitting upon a cactus, holding a snake in its beak
 - c. a sunlit mountain, in the shape of a triangle, with flooding waters pouring down its sides
 - d. a jaguar, hunting in the moonlight, with its green eyes glowing, staring down upon them

2. Upon whose **legacy** did the Aztecs build their empire?
 - a. the Greeks' and the Romans'
 - b. the Chinese and Koreans'
 - c. the Teotihuacáns' and Toltecs'
 - d. the Muslims' and Christians'

3. Which was the **capital city** of the Aztec empire?
 - a. Tenochtitlan
 - b. Ghana
 - c. Huitzilopochtli
 - d. Quetzalcoatl

4. Which was a **feature** of the Aztec capital?
 - a. advanced water systems for farming, transportation, and drinking
 - b. a marketplace where 60,000 people came daily to buy and sell food, clothing, pottery, jewels, and more
 - c. a shrine where human sacrifices were performed in public
 - d. all of the above

5. Why did the Aztecs **take so many prisoners** during the battles they fought to expand their empire?
 - a. prisoners could be used in human sacrifice
 - b. because the Aztecs did not believe in killing the enemy
 - c. prisoners could serve as leaders in the new lands they would control
 - d. prisoners could provide the secrets to making tools and weapons made of iron

6. Which was **not true** about the class structure in Aztec society?
 - a. nobles and priests were in the class just below the ruler and his family
 - b. the emperor's son automatically became ruler
 - c. slaves could own property, including other slaves
 - d. people born into one class of society could move up or down, depending on their actions in life

Questions about the Aztec Civilization
7th Grade Social Studies

7. In what way could an Aztec slave gain his or her **freedom**?
- when their master died
 - completing the length of punishment for a crime he or she had committed
 - by working off a debt owed to the master
 - all of the above
8. Aztec men were permitted (allowed) to practice **polygamy**. What does **polygamy** mean?
- to be able to participate in more than one war battle in the same year
 - to have more than five children
 - to have more than one wife
 - to travel to far-off lands to trade with other groups of people
9. The most important food in the Aztec diet was **maize** (corn). How was **maize** used by the Aztecs?
- it could be ground up into flour and made into tortillas
 - it could be used to make a breakfast porridge
 - it could be used to make tamales
 - all of the above
10. What was a type of **sacrifice** ancient priests made to please their gods?
- hundreds of birds were killed each morning
 - priests drew their own blood, using cactus spikes, as an offering
 - the beating human heart was cut and pulled from a victim's body at Huitzilopochtli's Temple
 - all of the above